Designing Culturally Relevant Services for Asian & Pacific Islander Youth

Presented by:

Judith Clark

Executive Director

Hawaii Youth Services Network
Culture and language may influence:

- Youth and their families:
  - Health practices
  - Education
  - Seeking help
  - Drug use and abuse
  - Beliefs about laws and crime
  - Parenting practices
  - Marriage and cohabitating
  - Household dynamics

The delivery of services by the provider who looks at the world through his or her own limited set of values, which can compromise access for youth from other cultures.
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- Recognize that you will never understand everything about every culture you encounter. And show that you are willing to learn about other cultures.

- Recognize the ways in which your own culture and values influence the way you work with youth.
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- Don’t generalize about culture – All Caucasians are not alike; neither are Asian and Pacific Islander youth. What works in one cultural group may not be effective with another group.

- Encourage young people to share their culture with others.
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- Seek staff and volunteers that are representative of your community's ethnic and cultural diversity.
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- Look at your facilities and décor. Are they welcoming to Asian and Pacific youth?
  - For example:
    - Do posters/pictures portray API youth?
    - Do refreshments include familiar foods and utensils?

Avoid stereotypes.

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- Staff and volunteer training
- Teach people how to learn about cultures in an open, accepting manner.
- Culture is multi-sensory. Include tastes, smells, sights, sounds, touch.

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Josie, a Chuukese woman, interrupts her traditional craft-making demo to answer her cell phone.

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- Find out what’s okay/what’s offensive.

Examples

- Showing soles
- Wearing wrong type of shoes
- Wearing inappropriate clothing

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Adaptation for API Youth and Families

Mental illness = disease

Mental illness = witchcraft or curse

Make sure that the concepts as well as the words are translated.

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HIV risks from sharing needles among Pacific Islanders:
Low levels of IV drug use...
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- Consider literacy levels/reading difficulty.

Caleb reads to Suzi, the reading therapy dog, from Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs.
Contact Information

Judith Clark, Hawaii Youth Services Network
jclark@hysn.org
808-531-2198 ext. 1