Resident Leaders & Organizational Strength
Organizational Resilience

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#InvestInRural
Title of Workshop: Resident Leaders & Org. Strength

Date: September 10, 2019

Note Taker: Brian Levinson

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Presenters: Juan Leyton (moderator), Nick Mitchell-Bennett, Michelle Martin, Jay Strange

Approx # of Attendees: 20

Workshop Description:

The key difference in rural organizations when the customer has ownership.

Key Discussion Points

How did Alaska’s youth work get started? One person – DR Award winner Michelle Overstreet – who took an interest in one youth and decided to develop her own solutions to at-risk youth issues when she realized no one else was doing so.

How did grassroots engagement start? By identifying and mapping community assets, working to diversify the local economy, and providing tax prep and IDA programs to support economic growth.

Themes/Overall Impressions

Communities are the hearts of these organizations and community input guides their efforts.

Alaska youth at risk develop their own solutions through innovative strategies that grew from CLI participation.

- Local CLIs help residents determine their goals and priorities.
- Having past CLI participants help plan future local CLIs and training new participants strengthens volunteer development efforts.

Grassroots engagement is critical.

Giving people a choice in their lives increases their empowerment.

- At first it was hard convincing clients that they actually could make choices about things that impacted them.
Alaska Youth
Leading Change

Rural Alaska is one of the most dangerous places in America to be young. Millennials in the 9-0-7 are taking matters into their own hands.
Alaska is 586,400 square miles, over twice the size of Texas.

The size of Alaska is equivalent to the entire Eastern Seaboard spanning north to south from Maine to Florida and west to Tennessee.
Suicide is the leading cause of death for Alaska’s 15- to 24-year olds.
One out of every five homeless individuals in Alaska is under the age of 18.
Youth are victims of two out of every three reported sexual assaults in Alaska.
Alaska Youth Action Board

Youth Leadership

Non-Profits

Government

Business Community
Our mission is to end homelessness.

Make a Donation

Thank you for your donation to MyHouse!

We're Connected

We offer a hot supper from 5-6 pm every day for any homeless youth age 16-24 who are hungry. This is available to both clients and non-clients with no strings attached. It is staffed by volunteers who both cook and join clients for a meal, visiting and sharing.
“We all know that recovery is all about relationships and we want to seize this awkward conversation and let you know, if you’re a youth, you’re not alone and you don’t have to go in alone. There are resources out there.”

- Michael Carson, V.P. and recovery specialist
Mat- Su Opioid Task Force
YOUTH HOMELESS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (YHDP)
Residential Leadership

September 2019
Leadership is hard.

- Large Geography
- Scattered services
- Poor public transportation
- Diverse population
- Generational Poverty
Out with the old and in with the new.....

- Local Community Leadership Institute
- Value Chain Evaluation in Food Systems
- Volunteer Development
- Grass Roots Engagement
Nick Mitchell-Bennett, CDC of Brownsville

https://vimeo.com/193778183