

NRCDV-Youth-Centered Approaches to Building Econom (USNRCD2102A - Ai-Live Premium)

BRITTANY:

Welcome. Please turn your attention to our interpretation team.

SPEAKER:

(Speaking Spanish).

Good day everyone. My name is Lars and together with () we are representing the Tilde Language Justice Cooperative. We are providing simultaneous interpretation in English and Spanish today.

(Speaking Spanish)

This panel will be held bilingually. If you understand Spanish and English you don't need to do anything but if you prefer to use English be sure to select the channel for English. If you're using a computer, click on the globe icon that says interpretation. Or if you're using a Zoom app on your phone or tablet, click on the three dots then language interpretation. Then English. Then done. Interpretation is, unfortunately, not available on Chromebooks or on Linux-based devices.

(Speaking Spanish)

A brief reminder that we ask all presenters to speak slowly and clearly. Especially if you are reading. And speak only one language per intervention or sentence.

(Speaking Spanish)

Thanks for helping us create this multilingual space. Back to you.

BRITTANY:

Welcome, everyone. My name is Brittany Eltringham. I am a 30-something Kanaka Maoli with wavy dark hair and wearing an off-white-colored shirt. My pronouns are she/her and I'm the Manager of Safe Housing Initiatives here at the National Resource Center on domestic violence.

We want to review some brief housekeeping notes with you. We are committed to making this an equitable space in which people of all abilities can participate fully and in their preferred language.

This takes everyone's commitment and effort to make a reality. For example, you will see that we have limited use of the chat function. It is difficult to translate the chat in real time and can be inaccessible to assistant devices. Please send questions, comments, or resources directly to us the event hosts and cohosts, and we will read them aloud to be interpreted for everyone.

While we aim to make this a mixed ability and multilingual space. We also recognize that we are learning how to do this well. Please reach out to event staff during the webinar if you are experiencing any accessible issues and we will also ask about accessibility in our post webinar evaluation.

Please let us know your experience and ways we can improve. We know we have much to learn, and we are committed to improving our practice. This event features ASL and Spanish interpretation as well as live captioning. If you need help accessing these features, please



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message us. The Q&A feature provides you an opportunity to enter questions for the panelists to respond to.

We are recording today's webinar and will share it through our website and YouTube channel. Please reach out to staff if you are experiencing ongoing tech issues but please note we might have limited capacity to resolve these issues while the webinar is running.

I will just take a quick moment to introduce the Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium. This is a unique collaboration between several federal agencies, including the Family of Violence Prevention and Services program, the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office on Violence Against Women, and the US Interagency Council on Homelessness. Next slide, please.

So, through this collaboration we work as part of a team of TA providers that includes Collaborative Solutions, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, which is where Jane Moretta-Miller, our wonderful moderator, joins us from. We also work with National Network to End Domestic Violence. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Safe Housing Alliance. And Safety, Training, Technical Assistance, Resources and Support which is the long version of STTARS the Indigenous Safe Housing Center. Next slide, please.

I mentioned I work for NRCDV where we provide a wide range of free comprehensive and individualized TA training and specialized resource materials. Our mission is to strengthen and transform efforts to end domestic violence. Next slide, please.

February is both Teen Dating Violence Awareness month and Black History Month. This year, NRCDV is honored to partner with and amplify the use and voices of Black youth leaders.

Our theme for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month 2023, Health Equity Matters: Making Connections Through Experiences, is inspired by the youth led planning group for our upcoming National Prevention Youth Summit.

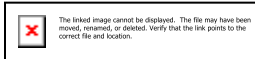
On Monday, February 27 and Tuesday, February 28 at 4 PM Eastern and 1 PM Pacific, our Inaugural Summit will explore how promoting health equity for youth is critical to building healthy relationships and communities. We will put a link to register in the chat and will also link to our health equity matters blog post.

Before I turn things over to Jane, our fantastic moderator, I want to take a moment to frame this conversation especially given NRCDV's explicit commitments to dismantling anti-blackness.

According to a 2018 annual report by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, approximately 30% of people experiencing homelessness are younger than age 24.

4 out of 5 children who are experiencing homelessness have been exposed to at least one serious violent events by age 12. Further, LGBTQ youth are overrepresented among young people experiencing homelessness and housing instability in the United States.

In November 2022, an NPR analysis found that over the past two years, state lawmakers had introduced at least 306 bills targeting trans people which was more than in any previous period



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and most of the legislation, 86% of it focuses on trans youth.

For comparison in the 2023 legislative session, the American Civil Liberties Union is tracking 321 anti-LGBTQ bills in the US.

According to research by Chapin-Hall at the University of Chicago, youth homelessness and housing instability is more pronounced among Black, Indigenous, Youth of Color ages 20 to 25. The intersection of different marginalized identities compounds inequities among Youth of Color with Black youth identifying as LGBTQ experiencing especially high rates of homelessness. And finally, during the pandemic, the ongoing COVID pandemic, Black young adults and single adult households face especially high housing insecurity.

Among respondents in single adult households, Hispanic young adults were twice as likely and Black young adults were three times as likely as White young adults to have little to no confidence in their ability to pay next month's rent.

In a September 2022 study, they found more than 250,000 American children have lost a parent or caregiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic as of May of last year. You can see why this is an absolutely vital conversation and with that I would like to turn this over to Jane Moretta-Miller to introduce herself.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

Thank you, Brittany, for that grounding. Good morning to some and good afternoon to others. My name is Jane Moretta-Miller. I go by she/her pronouns. I am mixed race which means my skin tone is milk with a dash of coffee. I have my hair in short knotless braids curled at the end and I'm wearing a flannel shirt.

I'm excited to be here today and I will pass it to the phenomenal Milo to introduce himself.

MILO EDWARDS:

Hello everyone. Nice to see you all here today. My name is Milo Edwards. I use he/him pronouns. I am white and I have reddish hair and silver wireframe glasses, a silver septum ring, and I am wearing a grey T-shirt. I am a member of Point Source Youth's National Youth Advisory Council and I am also on the Washington State's Balance of State Youth for Youth Board as a founding member. I am happy to be here today.

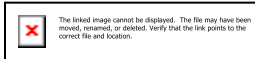
JANE:

DaJonee could you introduce yourself?

DAJONEE HALE:

I am DaJonee Hale. I use she/her pronouns. I am the Programs Manager of Youth Leadership at Point Source Youth. I am also mixed-race as Jane put it, I'm African-American and Alaska Native, specifically Athabaskans. so, I do have a light skin tone and I have curly hair and I have it pulled up in a puffball. I like to call it a bun.

I have a beige flannel on with my nose pierced and also do have – I wear glasses as well. I got involved in this work through the YHDP process which is also known as the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. They launched this youth initiative in Alaska.



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It was round three in 2019. That led me to being part of some youth initiatives nationally. That's how I got introduced to Point Source Youth and started out as a youth consultant and contracted with them through several conferences. As of recent I was hired as a full-time staff member. Thank you for letting me be here and I will pass it back to Jane.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

Thank you to both of our amazing panelist, I forgot to tell you about myself and why I am in this work. I believe that housing is a human right and those most impacted by these systemic issues are going to be the ones that give us the solutions as well. So, I have been working this field for about two and a half years now. I have the immense honor and pleasure of working for YHDP, which DaJonee mentioned, in a number of communities across the country as well as technical assistance initiatives. So, I really view my passion in this work as why I am here. And a lot of that I have found has been pulling up seats at tables of power, like this one right now, so that we can work collaboratively to think about different ways to find solutions to preventing and ending homelessness. And today we are really going to be grounding that in economic stability and how that can be and is a solution to homelessness. That said, we can go ahead and get started into this discussion. My first question for you, Milo and DaJonee, is can you tell us a bit about Point Source Youth?

DAJONEE HALE:

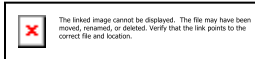
Absolutely we are a national nonprofit based in New York City. Our main focus is to end youth homelessness and we like to focus on young people that have been marginalized specifically People of Color, Indigenous people and people who are part of the community. And when is a part of the community, I mean LGBTQ+. So we implement new innovative programs and projects and we tried to get away from the traditional programs and services that have not been working for these marginalized communities as I mentioned. We like to bring in our YAC, our young people, and help be part of these interventions that we develop.

We currently have four interventions right now. Which is for rapid rehousing, host homes, direct cash transfer, and youth engagement and advocacy. Youth engagement and advocacy is our fourth intervention. It's our newest intervention. So we are currently building that out. And the reason why we implemented this fourth intervention is because we're getting a lot of feedback from our young people that they want to be more involved, they wanted to be more engaged and so Point Source Youth said "OK, let's do it" and that is why we kicked off this last intervention and that is in lieu with them hiring me. So we are in the process of shifting our culture to be a lot more youth driven, not just youth centered but youth driven. So yeah, I will leave it there and pass it to Milo, if he wants to say anything.

MILO EDWARDS:

Thank you DaJonee, I think you got pretty much most of it. I realize that when I introduced myself, I didn't say how I got involved in this work but I will do that real quick because it ties in with Point Source Youth but similar to DaJonee, I got involved by YHDP youth demonstration homelessness program work in the second round which at the time covered the 23 most rural counties in Washington state. I have been doing this work for four years now as part of that board and I have been part of Point Source Youth's Youth Action Council for the past three years.

And I know one of the bigger things that I have been involved with with point source is the symposiums. We put on a lot of, we put on a national symposium and then over the pandemic



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we would have a rural, a southern and western symposium all kind of pertaining to those regions and things and this year will have the national symposium as well as the southern one and those will be in person for the first time since 2019. Which is exciting. So...

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

So exciting when you have everyone in a room together in real life and just the magic that is palpable in that way. I really like what you said, DaJonee, about moving away from youth centered to youth led and I heard a little bit about it that taking place through the advisory council so can you tell us a little bit about the Youth Advisory Council which I believe the acronym is YAC and just what your involvement has been so far?

DAJONEE HALE:

Yes, so, our YAC was established in 2015, if I'm correct. I'm still trying to learn the history of our Youth Advisory Council. Like I said, I was just onboarded in September. During my onboarding my focus is to build more structure and a stronger foundation into our YAC. So right now we are trying to figure out we have this group of young, caliber leaders across all these states representing us. And how do we get them more involved internally with our work and that is kind of what we are in the process of and that is what I mention. We are in the process of shifting our culture, being more inclusive of the young leaders that we have access to. That are helping build out -- that are helping build out these new, innovative programs that we have been involved in.

As I mentioned, we lean in heavily on our YAC. Anytime there is an opportunity for a young person or we are trying to build out a new intervention or be involved with a brand-new community because we do focus on several communities from East Coast to West Coast. We really lean in heavily on our YAC members to be part of that process to help drive this process. A lot of times when we go into new communities, there is often very little contact with the young people. So that is why we reach out to our YAC "hey, take lead on this initiative" and show those youth in that community that they can step into this role and be those young leaders.

So we really focus on building out professional development and our main thing with YAC is that, and this was mentioned recently. Is that all these young people that have been involved in YAC, they get to see each other grow. And they get to see our organization grow and I feel like that is something that is missed. Like, yeah, we don't talk about it enough. You know, I have been working side-by-side with Milo for a couple years now and it is cool to see his growth and where he is at now and what he is doing in his community and that is what kind of our bread and brother of our YAC is.

We get to build on each other, it is like a part of another community. So I feel like that is kind of our special thing about YAC, is... One of our YAC members said this ended was golden to me. They mentioned that they are so used to being kicked out of other systems or so used to being marginalized but here they feel like they are really part of the community. They really understand, they don't feel like they are going to be kicked out ever, it just feels like, we call it the PSY family. Point Source Youth family so that is the best way I can put the YAC, it is absolutely amazing and I'm grateful that I get to meet and work with so many young people and some great ideas, but those meetings.



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I don't want to speak too much, sorry, I will pass it to you my love.

MILO EDWARDS:

Thank you DaJonee. I just want to second everything that you said, and I have been on the YAC for three years now and it has been honestly life-changing because I grew up in a really rural area in a very small town. Of less than 200 people, and then when I saw online years ago the applications to be on the YAC, I applied and I think there were only a few spots opened and I thought this big place based in New York, let's see. And I ended up getting on and it has been kind of, really awesome since then because I have been able to connect with people from around the country that otherwise I probably never would have had an opportunity to speak with, learn with, grow with, learn from.

And it has been really great, being able to see everyone grow and being able to be part of this community and also having an opportunity to have a platform to educate others. One thing that I'm really proud of, when someone asked, what is YAC? It stands for Youth Action Counsel, it is Point Source Youth's National Youth Action Council which is a board of young people with lived experience working on preventing and ending youth homelessness through different interventions.

But one thing that I'm really proud of is that at the time that I joined the board, I was the only one with lived experience in a very rural area and I wanted to be able to highlight that more and so I was able to help get the rural symposiums during the pandemic going and in those virtual symposia we were able to highlight the experiences of lived homelessness in rural areas and have young people from rural areas with lived experience present on those and come up with housing solutions and preventions that pertain, specifically, to those communities and so the YAC is really great because if we see something that does not exist and we feel like it should and there is a need for it, we are able to work together to create that.

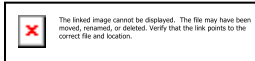
JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

I love that. And the second, I want to dig in on how you work together and collaborate to move the work forward and what that kind of growth looks like as a collective. But just for a little bit more grounding in what Point Source Youth and the YAC, that is the Youth Action Council, does, can you talk about how people, you -- we heard about your own journeys but what does it mean to connect with Point Source Youth and for example if someone in community knows a young person that might want to be involved, what does that process look like?

DAJONEE HALE:

That is a great question, Jane. So right now, we want to focus on getting representation, as Milo mentioned, from all kinds of different communities in all different, when I say communities, also different ethnicities as well. So right now, we are focusing on targeted outreach, specifically in Indigenous communities. The reservations, rural communities, and also some Hispanic representation on our board. Right now, we have a lot of East Coast representation, and as Milo mention, he is the only one on the West Coast. So that has been our focus as of recent.

Like I said, there has not been a dedicated person to help build infrastructure until I was don boarded and hired, that is what I am advocating for. We are not properly representing these communities, we are not understanding what is happening so when a young person does reach out to us, and connects with us, we share that, hey. We are in the process of recruiting and



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want to be very intentional if we bring onto the board and I also want our YAK members to feel comfortable and be part of that process and make sure that the young people that we are on boarding is appropriate, so right now I want to say again it is very targeted specific outreach that we are doing to be inclusive of all communities.

And I think one of our main things is that we, you know, don't turn anyone down if there is not an opportunity to get onto the YAC there is so many different opportunities to be involved in Point Source Youth. We contract with young people all across the states and we consider them Youth Consultants. And so there is multiple different opportunities to be involved with our initiatives, we don't only have the YAC. We also have a group of young people focused on a specific project which is also known as PAFY. We have direct cash transfer young people which we consider youth consultants.

So there is different types of programs and projects that they can get involved, if the YAC may not be appropriate for them at the time. Or maybe we have full capacity, we also have to take in those considerations, right? We don't want to be spread thin, we want to make sure that the young people we bring on, we have the capacity to focus on their professional development and their needs and their community and really tuning in on the trending needs of young people. Milo, I will pass it over to you if you would like to say anything.

MILO EDWARDS:

I forgot exactly what the question was.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

Just thinking about how different people get to be involved. Sorry.

MILO EDWARDS:

OK. For me I will talk about how I joined. I first learned about Point Source Youth through the regional Youth Action Board I was a part of. This was pre-pandemic. It was in 2019.

The advisor for my regional youth action Board asked me if I wanted to come with her to New York to attend the symposium and I did, and it was amazing. First time I ever left the Pacific Northwest.

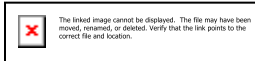
I got to be part of the symposium and as an attendee. I met so many new people. And I stayed in contact with Point Source Youth, and I was able to see when they posted about opening up applications for new YAC members and I was able to apply from there.

I think a great way of being involved is just trying to attend any kind of symposiums or online workshops, everything is on a sliding scale. For young people, it is usually really affordable or free. So, there is a lot of opportunity for young people to be involved even if you are not on the YAC.

There are ways to get in touch and get your feet in the ground with having those connections.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

So, I just want to build off of what you guys were saying for a second because I was thinking about who is in the room and thinking about the different ways to involve young people. Kind of offering the idea of how you can apply the structure that PSY, Point Source Youth, has applied



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for their YAC, Youth Action Council, to your own organizations.

One of the questions that was put in the Q&A as well was just wondering how many seats are on the table you have created at the YAC. What I'm hearing and thinking about that DaJonee was sharing that I want to reinforce is having a dedicated person to doing this work. It is a big lift, right? It is a big lift.

And making sure the Youth Action Council or however you decide to go about incorporating young people with lived experience into your work is representative of multiple identities, regionally diverse, and has different levels of engagement.

Not everyone is able to do all the work all the time. Having those different levels of availability and engagement, and the other thing I was thinking about as DaJonee and Milo were sharing was the idea of having diversity in representation and not tokenizing and what it means to engage with different people with different backgrounds. Without being tokenizing.

My off-the-cuff questions are: how many people are under YAC and what has it meant to engage people without being tokenizing?

DAJONEE HALE:

Right now we have 10 YAC members and as you mentioned, six of them are mostly active. We are looking to add in two new spots, as I mentioned, one representing the Indigenous community and one representing the Hispanic community.

And really, I feel like Milo, I don't want to put you on the spot, it would be interesting for you to talk about how you are not being tokenized or how we are really centering your voice without using your experience – you know, without tokenizing you. I don't want to speak on that experience because I have not been a YAC member. I was a youth consultant.

So, Milo, if you feel comfortable, I will pass it over to you.

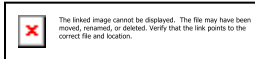
MILO EDWARDS:

Thank you. I've had really good experiences on the YAC and I would definitely say have never felt tokenized. One thing that Point Source Youth has done well in avoiding that is making sure that you're not putting young people into a box.

Saying, "This person has these categories of experiences, they are part of these marginalized groups. OK. They are there for that." You know?

They have done a good job of avoiding that happening. I have mostly lived experiences in rural areas but not only asked to speak about issues that only pertained to rural areas – I'm asked to sometimes talk about national things like this. And other events.

I think it is really great to not tokenize by not putting us in a box and when there are things that do not pertain to YAC member specifically, and like DaJonee mentioned, we have different youth consultants from across the country involved with a lot of things such as panels and the symposiums, and different trainings and knowledge gathering to make sure that we are able to encompass from a wide variety of experiences.



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Without kind of like focusing on making a person their experience. Like, let the young people be their whole selves without us being forced into one thing. If that makes sense.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:
Go ahead.

DAJONEE HALE:
Sorry, Jane. I will also add in that we really listen to the YAC members and most of the time the YAC members are like, "How do we get involved more? We want to do more. We want to be involved more." I don't think the issue is us leaning in and saying, "Can you join this meeting? Can you do this?" It's more like, "We want to be more involved with you guys."

And now our focus is how can we get them involved more. I'm like invite them into our internal meetings and do this and that. I just wanted to throw that out there that it's really awesome to see the engagement and the commitment to the YAC, and the dedication to wanting to be more involved with the interventions and really wanting to help out the young people who have voices that are not at the table. So... thank you for that. I will pass it over to you, Jane.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:
Thank you. I was just going to point out I felt like you were modelling that with how you received the question, restated it, and passed it over to Milo if he wanted to engage.

It is really basic engagement, right? Treating someone like a person. And I think people get stuck on that sometimes. I really appreciated the live demonstration of what not tokenizing looks like.

Let's continue to delve into what youth-centered and what collaboration looks like between young people and Point Source Youth staff.

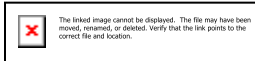
DaJonee you talked away from moving from youth-centered to youth lead, but can you talk about the difference and what that means between those two things as well as the work you engage in?

DAJONEE HALE:
Absolutely, we want to center the voices of young people. The way we are youth centered is having them be more involved in some of the meetings that we have and now as I mentioned, we are shifting to youth driven and youth lead.

This means I came into some of our meetings, and I just joined September of last year and I want to throw that out there. I'm really new and have a new perspective and a new set of eyes. I am the young person coming in. The youth staff as they would call it.

I am like, "Why don't we have the YAC members in these meetings?" I am asking these questions and they're like, "Yes, that's true! That is why we brought you on board," And so, what we are shifting to now is the young people involved from the sunset to sunrise. That is the language we use.

That means there are not any first initial meetings where the young person is involved. They are involved in that first initial meeting when we are talking about launching a new project in this



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community, they are there from the sunset until we finished the whole planning process.

We implement the whole program, and then we close it out until the sunset. That is youth driven to me is having them being involved hands on they're helping in creating the agendas and helping facilitate these meetings, and taking the lead.

We sit back and be there as support when needed. We support them along the way. What we were doing before was inviting them to these meetings a little bit too late and they were not fully prepared. They didn't really not know what happened before.

That is our shift and what we're doing now. So, that is kind of why we just launched our newest fourth intervention is youth engagement and advocacy. This is the process we are building out right now.

We are hoping that all of our work will be from the sunset to sunrise with young people and that we are setting these young people up for success.

MILO EDWARDS:

I will add on to that. Something that has been really great for me to be able to join into and an example of that young people being involved from sunset to sunrise. Is letting the YAC be involved in the hiring process of new employees, new staff, even if they are not directly involved with the YAC. Being able to be on those interview panels.

When creating new interventions, this past year, Point Source Youth was able to create grants and we were able to come up with the criteria for the grant and help create the applications for those grants, and help see who we want to apply for these.

Once we got the applications, we got to be part of the people who scored those RFPs which are request for proposals. We got to be part of a lot of these processes which a lot of boards of young people – I do not see as often being able to do.

I think that is one thing that Point Source has done well is making sure that young people are involved even when it comes into bringing new staff members and starting new projects, implementing those projects, that we have the opportunity to be there on all the different steps.

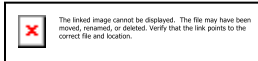
JANE MORETTA-MILLER:
(Indiscernible)

(Multiple speakers)

DAJONEE HALE:

I want to add – thank you Milo for saying that. Those are the types of things again that totally slips. And Milo, I love that you mentioned that. And even now with this panel we are on, it was not supposed to be me and it was supposed to be my supervisor attending this panel.

Instead, he was like, "I trust you, go ahead and take lead on this." I am a younger staff and I was like, "Yes, thank you!" They trust you, they trust that you will represent us in the most respectful way and we love what you do. It is stuff like that that really just amplifies and really lifts up our young leaders.



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And it shows that PSY believes in these young people. You can do whatever you want to do. So... I will pass it back to you, Jane.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

I love that. I love that so much. That part about trust is so hard. Because it's about the work and we're trying to do work. I need you to trust me that I can do this work. I will slow down and speak intentionally. Building off of that – I was wondering if you could speak to about that trust building and what it means to have the trust that young people are experts. And how that works for you in your role, as well as you as young person. How you can build that trust and have that trust in your expertise.

DAJONEE HALE:

That is a good question, I apologize, let me speak slower, too. I am not used to it, and I really do apologize.

When I came on as a youth consultant, my biggest thing is – are you reliable? Can I rely on you and reach out to you any times I have questions? Do I feel comfortable reaching out to you if I have questions? A lot of the times when I was on YABs or YACs, I didn't feel comfortable even asking questions.

That's the problem and part of trusting the adult partners that you are working with. I think one piece that we do not talk about enough at PSY is this unspoken strength that we have is the connectivity piece. I always felt really connected to the staff before I even met them, right?

Before I even got on staff – that's what I meant to say. It's like... it was just this, they humanize with me and often times when I am working with other organizations, they are really bogged down in the systems.

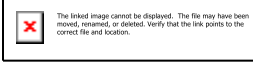
I think it is unintentional when you get into this work, you get into the flow of things and it just happens. So, getting away from that system mindset to connecting with the young person and humanizing with them, and just not having to worry about being super professional in a space and feeling really safe to talk how you talk when you are talking with your friends.

Like, "Hey, girl. How are you?" Stuff like that, that is really important. Show up who you are. Often times, I had to show up and hide this part of me and that's not who I am. I get to show up who I am, how I am, I'm comfortable with people knowing I am part of the community. People know it and I think that's one of the biggest parts about the connectivity piece and I feel like that is why young people feel so- they're always engaged with our work is they feel so connected to us. I will pass it over to Milo if he wants to speak, that's what I have to say about that.

MILO EDWARDS:

Thank you DaJonee. I will say one thing that has helped me gain trust of Point Source and being in the YAC is that they don't have a lot of stipulations placed on us. I've seen a lot of other youth action board say "OK, if you miss more than this many meetings, you will be removed from the board and replaced with someone else. If you don't fit all of these different criteria, then we are going to let you go." Whereas with the YAC that is not the case.

It is that you are able to kind of show up as you are and rather than just seeing you as like



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another young person on the board or as a number or a statistic, they really made sure to kind of, like DaJonee said, get to know us and see us individual people, meet us on an individual level. And that has been really great and in the past with other organizations I have felt like definitely, more tokenized and just kind of like, "Oh -- I was asked to be put on the panel so they could fill the spot of having a trans person or there's some other thing." But like with point source it's not that way.

And like, being able to be part of the all staff at point source like YAC hangouts and things like that in getting to know the rest of the staff and talking to the more "higher up" people in the organization and it is really cool knowing that this like they know my story as well. Even though they have so much going on, they still take the time to listen to me and not just about traumatic things that I have experienced.

I think that a lot of times when working with young people with lived experience, the only part of those young people's stories that organizations want to hear are the things that pertain to their trauma or directly to their lived homelessness or lived experience. Whereas with this group, we are able to talk about, like, things that are happening in our lives that have nothing to do with the stuff we are doing in the YAC.

Which is really great, because that helps them see us as whole people. Like I am able to talk about, oh, I did really great on this final, or I am doing -- going on a trip with my friends and being able to share stuff like that really helps because you're not just there for your trauma to be exploited which a lot of organizations do with young people. So, just to kind of wrap that up. Building trust really means seeing a young person as a whole person and making sure you're putting that into action.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

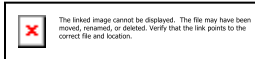
Thank you for speaking to that, I think that's a tendency that the field has, right? You look to people to tell their stories versus looking to them to share their expertise and to really share what their priorities are in this work. And so to just kind of move into the technical little that, we have been talking a lot about relational and how we interact.

I am wondering just kind of organizationally; how does Point Source Youth align what the YAC finds important and what the organization decides to prioritize? How do you work together knowing that the organization is responsive to both the Youth Action Council as well as funders? Have there ever been different priorities and what that looks like and how you come to consensus on priorities.

DAJONEE HALE:

Yes, great question Jane. To be honest, we're in the process of figuring out what that consensus looks like and how we can support the YAC and support the org because the org also has to be financially sustainable and then we also have to listen to these young people, right? And so we are in the process of finding that balance and figuring out how we can really amplify YAC's voice and what we are aiming towards is getting some of the YAC members on the Board of Directors is a start that we are leaning into.

I know other organizations have done this, and we may be behind a little bit. But this is the progress that we are trying to make and as Milo mentioned, another thing that we are doing is having a YAC and staff hang out, so this is where the YAC really gets to amplify, like, this is



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what we are seeing, directly to our staff, our executive team, the Board of Directors. And having that space for them to be involved in lean in on the youth voice and what the YAC members are saying, but I just want to be upfront and honest.

Like we don't exactly know that, so we are just trying to figure out that balance right now. And that was another piece of my hire, is bringing in my voice and I am a huge advocate for the YAC. Sometimes our team doesn't want to listen to me. No, they do. But I just come in and say this is what the YAC members want. So how are we going to do this? How are we going to make this happen? What do we need to do to make this happen and that is kind of where I come into play, is really being a huge advocate for YAC and those YAC needs but also understanding that we have organizational needs and also being the translator back to YAC.

So that is kind of what it is, I would say since I have onboarded, we have made so much progress towards building out that balance, but we are kind of in the middle of it, so that is what it is.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

Do you want to touch on that at all, Milo?

MILO EDWARDS:

I don't really have as much insight on the funders stuff, so I think DaJonee put it all together pretty well.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

I think also, it is this thing where we have a tendency to try to have an answer, right? That we should know, and I really like how you said, DaJonee, we don't know. We are actively figuring it out and that is how we try this out. Just because it hasn't been done before doesn't mean we can't do it. We can figure it out, and it really, I am really sitting with this like young people on Board of Directors thing.

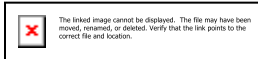
That's it, right? Let's just try it and see what happens and figure out how, because of the relationships that we have, and the connections that we have, can we leverage those and create and foster a space where young people's voices will be as valued as the funders? And I think that is innovative and special.

Going into like the work itself, so Point Source Youth works with youth from different backgrounds such as those who are LGBTQIA+, Black, Brown, and People of Color, and foster youth who are prone to experiencing homelessness and/or economic insecurity earlier in life. How have you made the connections between safety, security, sorry. Safety, economic safety, and housing. So you talked a little about different initiatives you've been working on so can you speak to how those initiatives address those different connections? Please.

DAJONEE HALE:

Yes, absolutely. So all four of our interventions, we focus on what you just said. Making sure that these young people are housed in safe housing, that they are economically stable, and they are secure, right? So some of the things that we are currently doing now is we pay our young people at a living rate, an actual living rate. -- And -- an

And we do our best to work with providers to ensure that the housing that is offered is safe and



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the young people do feel comfortable. think one of our main hiccups as a staff is that we do not provide direct services. So we rely heavily on local providers, local youth services, to really step in and ensure that the services that they are providing are meeting the needs, not only meeting the needs that there is a solution like after this service has been provided, right?

We don't want to focus on the trauma and helping them. We are focusing on a way out, and I think that is where our staff kind of gets in a bunch because there is only so much that we can do to ensure that these young people are being safely housed, right? That they are economically stable.

And I think one of the, one of our hiccups that we recently came about is that we were working with these young people and they were like "Hey, we are in this housing program. And we don't even have proper electricity or proper running water. We don't have proper heating, proper cooling." So we are like, "What the heck?" There's only so much we can do so we can go in and try to be that intervention and speak with the case managers and talk about different ways for landlord engagement, how do we hold the landlords accountable, right? Because if we are offering these housing to young people, we have to ask ourselves as case managers or as service providers, would we live here?

We have to treat young people with respect, and they deserve quality housing and that is kind of one of the things that we are pushing for, is the young people, they don't deserve to live wherever just because they were, they just came off the streets and wherever they just came from, right? They deserve quality housing. They deserve running water, proper electricity. They deserve to feel safe and comfortable.

So we often do run into stuff like this, and we do try to offer our best interventions but that is where it lands back on the community as those direct service providers, you know to ensure that the housing is nice. Ask yourself, what I live in this housing? Would I be OK with all these rules? You know you just have to kind of humanize with these young people and so, again it just goes back to feeling a little flustered for us not being able to be able to do more and so that is kind of one of our holdbacks that they staff but we still do whatever we can to ensure that these young people are you know, economically stable, right?

If I know someone needs more hours, they are trying to get more hours and we pay them at this rate, then hey, let's figure it out. I'm like hey, and I will do my best to figure out how they can get more hours or how they can get more involved to be more self-sustainable. So they won't have to always rely on those services that I have no idea how they are being served.

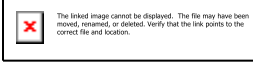
So that is why often, we really lean in on our local youth experts. They know what is happening on the ground, they are going to give us honest feedback and that is how we kind of come up with our intervention. Each community is different, so each intervention that we have or our training that we offer is also different as well.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

Any reflections on the intersection between economic security and housing, Milo?

MILO EDWARDS:

I definitely highlight everything that DaJonee said as well as the living rate. Is really really important, especially when I first got involved with, like, YAB or youth action board or YAC type



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work. Back in 2018, one of the things that I initially joined that I am no longer on, their payment was, OK. All of these young people in this room, we will put you in a raffle and you might win a gift card to get some fast food.

And that is not paying young people, that is not helping young people, especially when you gather a group of young people who are marginalized, who have lived experience, who definitely are not off very well economically and you ask them to do strong emotional labor and take time out of their day and then you pay them basically nothing.

So I think that doing the opposite of that and making sure that, like you have people on the YAC and you have people who consult with PSY or do any work with Point Source, are adequately paid is really important because if you are paid you are able to actually participate and not have to worry about, "oh, I can't do these meetings because I have to go to work." If I miss anything else I cannot participate if you are actually paid adequately, you are able to not have to worry about all of the outside survival factors that you typically would have to worry about financially.

And so, I think just the biggest thing is just pay young people so that they are able to participate in a way that feels safe and comfortable without them having to worry about outside factors.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

I love that and I love what DaJonee you said about when it comes to housing and the young people who were in that dangerous situation. That unsafe situation. And this really refreshing question of would I live there? Would I accept this pay rate? Would I want to have pizza as a form of payment for my emotional labour? And doing that self-reflection for yourself and your organization is such a strength. During that work in system change, as well.

We have about 10 minutes left and I have two more questions for you all. We were talking a little bit about being paid for your work, as well. What about the direct cash transfer initiative that you all have going on? What is that about? What is the relationship between direct cash assistance and safety?

DAJONEE HALE:

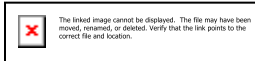
Yeah, our direct cash transfers, one of our most awesome programs. I love this one the most. What we want to do, PSY wants to put the resources in these young people's hands. Right?

With other programs, you have to maybe enter that program. You have to be clean and sober. And then you have to also be actively looking for employment and do all these other things in order to get assistance that is not directly to you.

We are really emphasizing this putting the resources into these young people's hands.

That is where direct cash transfer came in. The trust that we have in these young people. That you decide where you want to live, not that we have a program with all these parameters. We truly believe that with this new initiative, if we pay these young people \$1200 per month, they have the ability to go out and find their own choice of housing. And make a living on themselves, with the support of some wraparound services.

We do not just say, "Here is \$1200 per month. You go out and find housing." There is also support that comes along with it and that is where the case managers come in and help with



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landlord engagement, and help search for houses and whatever the young person needs, you know? Besides the \$1200.

It is not just about putting those resources in their hands; it is also about their support system. The direct cash transfer is just one part of a long-term, sustainable solution. So, again, that is where we come into a new community, we implement this new program.

We have these young people and putting the resources. That is where we also lean and on those local youth providers to fill in the other piece and provide those wraparound services to ensure this program will work.

And part of that safety piece mentioned is linked to the case management of those organizations or whoever we decide to partner with.

That's what I can say about it. We are getting ready to launch two new DC programs, DCT programs in Baltimore and Vermont. And out of that, where I see it being highlighted is that we are getting ready in Baltimore to hire six youth consultants to help drive this process.

And the process will be, there is a whole local planning process involved. And then there's the implementation process involved. They are still supporting after the program has been implemented. That is my biggest highlight is that we get to hire six young people, right?

We get to put these – beyond the actual program of us putting resources in about 40 young people's hands. On top of that, we get to hire six other young people to be part of that process.

When we hire these young people, this is a living rate where they do not have to depend on, you know, like Milo said, worry about missing other meetings or worry about other things. During this whole planning process, we want to ensure they are set up for success and not worried about their housing programs.

That they can be focused on implementing this program for all the other young people in need in the community. That is what I can say about that. This will be my first time leading a DCT community which is in Baltimore. Alongside with the direct cash transfer directors.

I am on the youth leadership side and I will be making sure we are setting those young people up for success. So, yeah. That's what I can say about it.

MILO EDWARDS:

I don't really have anything to add as much. I don't have direct experience with direct cash transfers. I just know that it is something I want to see happen more. In certain areas of the country, it is harder to do.

I know we tried to get that up and running in Washington state but there was too much red tape to really be able to do it. We were kind of shut down from even really trying and it seems exciting to see more of it across the country.

Once those examples work, which it does that more areas will get to do that.

DAJONEE HALE:



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I'm glad you brought that up. That is where we come in, too. We like to take down the red tape. I like to call us disruptors. (Laughs) Coming into communities and often times there are so many barriers to get this implemented.

Again, that is where we come in full force and disrupt all these red tapes and say like, your community needs this.

We have had to do that before, and we have done it. That is the cool part about it. Thank you for bringing that up, Milo.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

Love that. I'm going to ask one more question before we hop into our Q&A section. I want to invite all of our attendees to drop some questions into that Q&A box.

DaJonee made a lot of really amazing suggestions. I am curious – what are some red tapes coming up in your communities if you want to drop those in the Q&A and brainstorm that together. If you have any questions for the panelists, please go ahead and drop those into the Q&A box.

Before we get to that, I want to ask you all as a closeout question, what do older adults need to unlearn about young people and money?

DAJONEE HALE:

Milo, I would love to hear what you have to say before I share.

MILO EDWARDS:

Thank you. I think it's really important for them to realize like I feel like a lot of adults think that young adults with money is like we are running around with monopoly money and have no idea how it works. That is not the case.

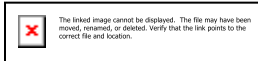
Especially when it comes to youth with lived experience, I feel like collectively we often have a lot more experience of handling money and needing to make money. Of having to survive and hustle, essentially, to make that money.

I think that when you grow up in situations like that, you are a lot more financially responsible, and you know how to save and buy essentials. I think that is really important for them to keep in mind when it comes to who is getting this money.

But also, we will probably need some help with stuff. I still have a hard time figuring out taxes. I don't know how that works! But that doesn't mean I do not know how to save or spend my money.

I think it's also really important that they understand that we... we know what we are doing a lot of the time. We might need some supports, still, and I think unlearning that, "They are going to spend it on video games and vapes. (Laughs)" No, I'm going to buy groceries and pay rent.

Having to unlearn adultism and unlearning any bias or stigma overall is really important because in a capitalist society money is tied to everything. A lot of adults will have preconceived notions of why young people might be spending their money on and a lot of those times those notions



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are filled with bias.

It is important to unlearn adultism and put themselves in the shoes of the young people who will be using that money and how they might actually use it, which is often times for essentials. Yeah.

DAJONEE HALE:

I love that you said that Milo. You know, as a young person with the lived experience, I learned the value of money real quick. And getting that street savvy experience, yes, it definitely carries over to, "How do I use this and take care of myself in an effective way?"

I want to add in some of the feedback I hear in these meetings are like, "How do we monitor what they are spending their money on? How do we monitor the hours and make sure they are not lying about how many hours they are submitting?"

And I'm like, "Do we ask you those questions or do we ask what you are spending your money on?" No! Nobody asks you that and that's not the stuff you have to think about. We don't ask you if you are spending money on alcohol, and if you are – we are not going to shame you for it.

The other piece is the monitoring hours and ensuring these young people are really completing their hours and doing all this. It's like, does someone monitor your hours every time? You have to ask yourself these questions.

When you are getting ready to speak about how this other young person who you don't even know is going to spend their money. That is why we like to put the resources directly into the young people's hands. There is no third-party questioning, "What are you doing? Can you submit receipts?" And stuff like that. Thanks for asking that question, Jane.

JANE MORETTA-MILLER:

Thank you for the opportunity to think about going about things differently. I think that's really special, and I feel fortunate to engage with you all in this conversation. I will pass it to Marlena to facilitate the Q&A section.

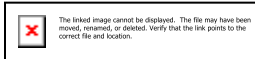
MARLENA MOORE:

I cannot tell if you can see me or not. OK. Hello, everybody, my name is Marlena. I am a Black person and I use they/them pronouns I am wearing glasses and a lot of black on me. I have curly kind of dyed red hair and I will be doing your Q&A for today.

I have a couple of questions that I have geared up for you all. Let's get started! Thinking about something that popped up earlier. Milo you identified that you came from a rural area and I guess you can focus on housing if that is an experience you have had. How has your experience with rural systems impacted your ability to get services?

MILO EDWARDS:

Thank you, that is a really great question. It is definitely made it way too difficult to receive services. I first experienced homelessness, I grew up mainly in the state of Idaho but I lived on the border of Idaho and Washington state and in Idaho they were very very few resources. One of the only resources available in the entire area that I lived was a domestic violence focused organization but they were very faith-based. And would only serve women and children.



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And when you're trans, they're like oh, OK, we're either going to force you to identify as a woman in order to receive services and also you have to attend church meetings and these things to receive services and put a lot of stipulations on it so I was like, "OK, that is not a safe option for me."

And I actually ended up, since I was not stable in my housing anyway, I was like "OK, I am just going to go to the other side of the border where there at least are some kind of resources." And once I was in Washington state it was a bit better because there is more state funding for nonprofits and there was a drop-in center called Youth Emergency Services that I was able to get a lot of support from.

But even then, -- even then, it was supportive services only and there were no housing services available. So I was unstably housed until I came to college because I'm able to be in a dorm now. So it definitely makes it really hard to access services living in a rural area and I have disabilities that prevent me from being able to drive and until I lived in this college town there was no public transportation. And so gaining employment, gaining resources for myself was extra difficult because if I could not walk somewhere which often I could not, I just could not do that thing.

And I lived 5 miles out of town, so it was really difficult to receive services and we often, I often see a lot of young people who grew up in the same area of me -- as me, having to move 2 to 5 hours away from where we lived in order to even receive services and so a lot of times young people from rural areas are kind of forced to leave the communities that they grew up in in order to receive services because there aren't really any options there. Available for them to stay.

MARLENA MOORE:

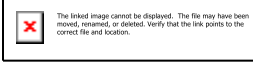
Thank you for that, especially recognizing that not many people actually think about those things that infrastructures that are not available to people or are very limited so I appreciate that and recognition that these are things that people should be thinking about when they design programs.

Alright, and there have been a couple of questions that have come into the Q and A. I am going to ask the first one, and it says first, thank you all for sharing so many insights. What are some of the major factors in policies or how meetings are set up that you think contribute to avoiding re-traumatizing for participating youth? And that can go to either of you if you have thoughts.

MILO EDWARDS:

I think it is really important to make sure that young people kind of have an out and they are not really required to answer questions that make them uncomfortable or sit through trainings or panels that make them uncomfortable. I know in meetings that I have been, especially, things like LGBT equity trainings. Sometimes there are people in those that are really homophobic or transphobic and I have to step out or I have friends who are youth of color and sitting through racial equity trainings where they are expected to do so much emotional labor to share from their experience when they didn't sign up for that.

I think making sure that young people are not required to do that. That people aren't really being like volun-told, to do things. Because a lot of times being put in situations where you can't just get up and take a break is really re-traumatizing and I think expecting young people to like I said



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before, share their stories and be expected to have their trauma exploited is obviously re-traumatizing and so making sure that young people are able to set their own boundaries with what they feel like sharing and what they feel like experiencing and making sure that they can take a break for themselves when they need to is the biggest thing.

DAJONEE HALE:

Thank you for that Milo, and from my experience, I think when I was in a meeting with multi-generational people, the language that you guys are speaking, is so important. Like all the acronyms, you get into these meetings with adult partners, they are speaking this like it is a whole completely other language, without it being another language, right? Talking all this federal terminology, all these acronyms and they are expecting the young people to understand and give their feedback, right?

Just have a conversation and humanize again. That is what I meant where we get really bogged down in these systems and we forget that we are just working with humans and so there have been multiple meetings where I've been in with young people, and they just don't understand what is happening. So, if you are sharing spaces with young people, make sure that everyone understands the language that you guys are speaking. That you guys are all on the same page, and another piece is letting the young person shop up how they want to show up.

If they don't want to be on camera, let that be. If they don't feel comfortable in that meeting, OK, let them know ahead of time that they don't need to be here; you can go ahead and quietly leave. So just providing that reassurance and the other piece to the policy, I just want to talk a little bit about if you consider hiring young people and how traumatizing the interview process can be. I think all of us feel this anxious sort of feeling when we are going through some type of interview process.

So, I'm not saying that you guys are really interested in hiring young people but really ensuring that there is transparency along the way that we are not leading these young people on to thinking they are for sure going to get the job or whatever. So, if a young person does pursue something higher, that there is the transparency between the wait periods like "I have been waiting three weeks, am I still qualified enough or whatever like that" so I also wanted to throw that in there.

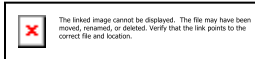
MARLENA MOORE:

Alright, I thank both of you for your responses. I am going to put one of our last questions into the chat for both of you to see and I'm going to read it out too. We got a comment that said "I agree with all the commentary about respecting the autonomy of youth and young adults." Which, snaps to that. And in considering the best way to get funds to younger adults is it preferred for there to be an option like Cash App to receive funds or are there other preferred methods to get these funds to youth?

DAJONEE HALE:

Absolutely, we want to offer an array of methods to get these young people. We offer PayPal, mailed check, and direct deposit. We are getting ready to hopefully, fingers crossed, implemented Venmo.

We haven't gotten to Cash App yet. But if your organization can offer that, please offer different methods to pay out the young person. And kind of how we do it is we just implemented a new



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payment process where the young people will keep track of their hours and they submit it to us on a biweekly basis so they get paid out every other Friday and that is just how our system is set up.

We trust that these young people will write their hours and be honest with their hours, that they submit to us, and we go ahead and pay that out with their preferred method. So, they get to choose if they want the check mailed, if they want to use PayPal, or if they would like it to be direct deposit.

MILO EDWARDS:

I would like to add onto that. Just saying that it is really important to talk to youth individually sometimes about payment. I know that for some young people, if they are undocumented and don't have a Social Security number you might need to find different ways to pay them in a way that they can actually be paid. For young people who might not have IDs, or might not have bank accounts, sometimes a prepaid Visa gift card is the best way to pay them because they are able to actually access those funds without needing a bank account or ID.

So I think that finding ways that are accessible for most is setting that is the foundation but also being flexible enough to work with young people on an individual level if they need extra assistance with being able to be paid in making sure that you pay them even if they do have more barriers in place.

MARLENA MOORE:

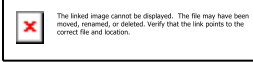
I appreciate both of your responses, especially thinking about the fact that different types of people have different needs and the first thing that popped into my head was the fact that not everybody knows that for some of these systems, there might be a fee charged dependent on how quickly it is that you try to pull the resources out. And what does that actually mean for a person who is being charged 3.25 which for some people may not be a lot but for some people may be a lot. And then...

There is one last question that has popped in that I think we have time for. We are going to make it work. What is something that you as a young person, this is directed to you Milo, would do differently regarding this webinar and what is a good way and a good time to engage more young people to attend these types of webinars or information sharing?

MILO EDWARDS:

Yeah, thank you. I think that is a really great question. I know in my personal experience, I am also a full-time college student so sometimes it is really difficult to attend things like webinar if I have class right after this meeting, I have class at one and it is 1230 so I will have to get going and one thing we have done with our regional YAB and I know for most people in the working world it is between 9 to 5 Monday to Friday but a lot of times that is not available for young people so sometimes having webinars on weekends or having YAC or YAB meetings on weekends is assessable for young people and having meetings after 4 or 5 PM or later is really good as well because again a lot of young people have to work or are going to school during the day.

And so kind of being flexible with that and then I also think in terms of longer meetings, having breaks. Anytime something is over an hour long, I want a five-minute break in the middle, I need some kind of intermission most of the time. And so just being creative and being willing to be



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flexible with planning, and I think I really like, as an attendee, webinars where people can kind of be more creative and yeah, like DaJonee said, check in questions and getting it to be where there is part of the webinar that is kind of exciting for everyone there.

And being able to share or just like type something or even use the little emojis. So I think there's a lot of ways but I think the biggest thing that I would think would make it easier for more young people to attend things is being flexible with timing and having stuff outside of the typical work week hours as well.

MARLENA MOORE:

Alright, thank you both so much. I realized that it is 3:28 so I am going to quickly pass this back over to Brittany.

BRITTANY ELTRINGHAM:

I just want to say thank you so so so much to everybody, this was such an engaging panel. I laughed a lot, with my camera off, just at some of the funny but necessary truths that you folks were sharing so thank you so so much and Jane, your facilitation was fantastic so thank you. Can we move to the next slide?

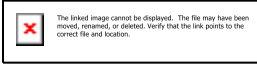
I'm just going to wrap this up really quickly and let you folks know that if you would like to get in touch with the Domestic Violence and Housing TA Consortium that we mentioned at the beginning of this webinar, please visit safehousingpartnerships.org, you can find a bunch of resources there. But you can also find contact information to speak with us further, ask any questions that you might have and so on. So, next slide.

I just want to make one more plug for NRCDDV's Health Equity Matters: Making Connections through Experiences 2023 National Prevention Youth Summit. We put that link in the chat earlier, we will drop into the chat again and then next slide.

This is how you can connect with NRCDDV further. Marlena also put or is going to put the registration link for the Point Source Youth 2023 Symposium as well. And then you can get in touch with us these ways. And then finally, we just wanted to thank the Department of Health and Human Services for funding this webinar. Its contents are solely the responsibility of us and our presenters and do not necessarily represent the official views of the US Department of Health and Human Services.

But we thank them for funding this awesome, awesome panel. So, we have an evaluation, please complete that. Big thank you to our NRCDDV staff, our Training Institute for supporting this webinar. And a big thank you to our ASL interpreters, our captioners, our Spanish language interpreters, and everyone for working to make the space a little more accessible. Wishing everyone a great day, take care.

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