



**2017 Social Determinants of Health Symposium on Baltimore's Youth  
Follow-up Conversation Meeting Notes  
May 15, 2017**

Bob Blum opened the follow-up conversation by welcoming the attendees. The audience predominantly consisted of the attendees of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on the Social Determinants of Health that took place on April 3, 2017. The distributed handout (see p.3) included specific ideas for priority activities and workshop ideas gathered from the attendees after the symposium via a survey.

Bob emphasized that the Symposium was not intended to be a one-off event, but rather an event that looks for concrete steps to build a strategy, approaches, and partnerships. It was noted that even though the youth voices are heard by their parents, family members, their teachers and mentors, community-based organizations who work with adolescents, they are not reaching the policy-makers and those who can make a change. Bob then opened the discussion to the audience.

Koli Tengella, creator of the Positive Social Change Theater/Performing Arts Program at Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts High School spoke about his work:

- His curriculum at the Augusta Fells Savage is approved by Baltimore City Public Schools and can be used as a model
- He highlighted the importance of schools engaging parents
- He would like to evaluate the impact of the program to use it as a teaching tool (show that the program positively affects the educational process, school attendance, and graduation rates, etc.)

The following **workshop ideas** and **priority activities** were discussed:

- Political activism and skills to invoke change
  - Teach youth and parents on youth engagement and advocacy
  - Potlucks help engage families and meet neighbors
  - Uplift the entire family as there might not be a support system from within
  - Active listening skills
- Organizational capacity-building for neighborhood organizations
- Build trust, resilience, and respect
- Offer training to neighborhood organizations on effective organizational functioning:
  - Often times, adults don't hear/ don't understand each other or the youth and as a result have a difficult time working together;
  - If the adults could try to get it together, then children may see it and may be more inclined to engage"
  - Honor creativity, validate pain, develop accountability
- Create a digital platform to magnify youth voice
- Increase awareness of resources

- Educate youth on what is healthy; how to use gadgets, mobile devices, and internet in a safe way
- Fund working and effective programs that are functioning on time-limited grants, help them get “re-funded”
- Focus on relationship and collaboration building
- Evaluate impact of youth engagement activities and services
- Encourage mindfulness and conflict resolution

The following existing programs and trainings were mentioned:

- [The Out-of-School Time](#) (OST) by Family League of Baltimore
- Advancing Youth Development Curriculum, building knowledge and skills around youth development
  - 30-hour and 16-hour trainings on this curriculum are available
- [Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks](#) are expanding one of their facilities and offer a program on conflict resolution
- [Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) (Timonium, MD) – free training is available
- House of Ruth training office is looking to collaborate with others in order to expand their services

### **Ideas for priority activities:**

- **Amplify youth voice**
- **Youth recognition award**
- **Baltimore Youth Research Corps**
- Build the evidence base for investing public resources in parks and recreation for youth. (Partner with businesses like Under Armour.)
- Serve as an information clearinghouse for the many community-based organizations in Baltimore to share what they are doing and to seek input and guidance from others.
- Trauma exposure mitigation (partner with BHSB and City Schools)
- Develop and support programming that better meets the needs of immigrant and undocumented youth
- Offer training to neighborhood organizations on effective organizational functioning
- Develop programs and support organizations that amplify youth voices
- Support mentorship programs
- Develop and support innovative parent skill-building programs
- Support youth voter registration drives
- Support summer and year round youth employment programs

### **Workshop ideas:**

- **Storytelling workshop for youth – planned for June 3**
- **Policy and communication strategies to improve adolescent health**
- Adolescent health and development for CBOs
- Organizational capacity-building for neighborhood organizations
- Youth organizing strategies for youth-led organizations
- Evidence-based whole school mental health programs (Healthy Schools initiatives)
- Trauma-informed approaches for youth service providers
- Effective violence reduction strategies including gender-based violence/ dating violence
- Effective mentorship and mentorship programs
- Positive uses of social media to reach youth
- Adolescent substance abuse
- Building trust/resilience