November 21, 2013

Dear Webinar Attendees:

Thank you so much for taking the time to learn more about incorporating “Youth Voice” into the work of social justice and juvenile justice. It was our pleasure to serve you today. For more information about ROYAL or for questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us. We created this “information sheet” to provide you with some additional information about the model.

**Information About Us:**

**Core Purpose:** To help our young people, our future leaders accomplish their personal, professional, and educational goals toward success and self-sufficiency. Our youth become strong socially conscious members of society. We teach youth “how” to think = how to engage their mind.

**Vision:** ROYAL is a national leader in creating world-class programs that reduce recidivism as it relates to youth of color.

**Current Success:** ROYAL has a 75% success rate at keeping youth out of the criminal justice system. This success is consistent over a 13-year period. In 2012, the success rate increased to 87.8%. In 2008, ROYAL received the *Promising Program* designation.

**Raising Our Youth As Leaders Core Values:**

- **Integrity:** We uphold the highest standards for ourselves, and the organization. We are the ‘Messengers’ that live the message.

- **Leadership, Inspiration, and Growth** - We are an organization with the knowledge to lead in the industry. We have the creativity to inspire thought, growth, and positive change both individually and within the communities we serve.

- **Imagination, In-joyment, and Design** – An organization who allows for social justice workers and design artists to have the freedom to imagine, create, and facilitate the work in a supportive environment. We work in joy.

- **Professionalism and Compassion** – an organization whose guiding principals include: Excellence and organizational professionalism, along with compassion for all human beings.

- **A People Restored** – Our youth are persons restored to wholeness within, first. These individuals then embrace their intelligence, their culture; give back to their community, and our constituents become leaders in the land.

**Design Features Include:** Life coaches, case strategists, and design engineers. We create programs that work. Other components/initiatives include: Boys Groups (The Young Gent’s Society), Girls Groups (Girlz), and our Leadership Academy (Genius Unchained – Youth Leadership Academy) just to name some of our innovations. **We also provide training in youth related work and subjects.**
**SPECIAL NOTE:** In 2014, ROYAL is broadening its proven service model to include a component that reaches beyond the criminal justice system. If you are a youth service organization or program seeking effective programs or program design for youth, please feel free to contact us – we can serve you whether your youth are juvenile justice involved or not.

**Measured Outcomes - 2008**
ROYAL regularly assesses its program effectiveness to ensure that our services are successful in achieving the desired goals and outcomes – both **internally** (using specially-developed evaluation checklists to track progress as we go) and **externally** (by engaging in independent evaluations that track our impact on clients over time). The following are the results (outcomes) we are looking for and that we achieve:

**Evaluation results:**
1. **The program has a higher than 75%** - average of reducing the number of times a young person is involved in the court system. **75% of our clientele do not reoffend.**
2. Additionally **72% of ROYAL’s clients avoid the adult criminal justice system.** Which means there is more of a cost savings for the government and taxpayers when this is taken into account (see bottom of page 2).
3. **92% of the youth rated the quality of service since enrollment as being “Good” to “Excellent”.**
4. **92% of parents felt the program met “Most” to “Almost all” of their child’s needs.**
5. **68% of youth reported an improvement in school attendance – going to school “5 times a week”.
6. **100% of youth report being “Mostly” to “Very Satisfied” with the amount of help they received.**
7. **R.O.Y.A.L is an effective intervention for gang involved youth.** The Program demonstrates success in dealing with this population. The program demonstrates a clear ability to engage these youth, learn key elements regarding the culture, and earn their trust, which is key for working with this population.

**Reinvesting In Youth Evaluation Report.**

**SHORT TERM OUTCOMES:** Positive attitude changes, Reduction in anger, Compliance with program protocols, Increased pro-social engagement by clients with their community (family, school, church).

**INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES:** Decreased risk factors among clients, Decreased gang involvement, Increased protective factors among clients, Increased employment among clients, Decreased recidivism, Retention in program beyond immediate term, Decreased involvement in juvenile justice system.

**LONG TERM OUTCOMES:** Decreased criminal activity, Increased high school/GED completion rate, Increased college entrance rates, Increased job retention, Reduced rate of entry into adult correctional system, Reduced racial disproportionality in the King County juvenile justice system.

**ROYAL is proven to be an effective strategy in preventing/reducing violence and criminal activity in at-risk youth.** April 2011, R.O.Y.A.L received an evaluation of recidivism rates by the King County Performance Measurement and Evaluation Department of the King County Community Services Division. It was found that out of the 20 youth who had received enough service for evaluation, 16 of the youth showed a dramatic improvement or did not recidivate at all.

**“ROYAL should be supported strongly as a promising practice”. RIY –March 2008.**

**External Measurement/Evaluation Methods:** Reinvesting in Youth (RIY), a City of Seattle program, recently included ROYAL (a King County program) in its 2008 Promising Program Evaluation, ROYAL’s outcomes and effectiveness were assessed in comparison with four other City of Seattle youth development programs (including Safe Futures, YMCA Street Soldiers, Renton Area Youth Services, and Learning Disabilities of Washington). The evaluators reported: "Although all of the programs received positive feedback, the ROYAL
program was consistently positive throughout most of the qualitative data collection methods. ROYAL also has the added advantage of comparatively higher level of intensity within their program structure as well as a high frequency of contacts. Based on both program impact and costs, ROYAL comes out ahead in terms of reducing risk and increasing protective factors. Overall ROYAL was rated #1 in all three categories evaluating program impact: Reducing Risk, Increasing Protective Factors, and Overall Program Strength. The RIY evaluation concluded that ROYAL "is a program model that clearly demonstrates a difference and offers a model using life coaching that should be supported strongly as a promising practice."
Ivis M. – Graduated ROYAL participant – Youth Voice.

To everyone who maybe out there and who is searching for a life changing experience, my personal testimony will be a wake up call for you. To be able to touch that one person who is willing to give themselves a chance and take a step forward to a balanced life will mean the world to me. I would like everyone to give ROYAL, an amazing program, a chance to see how it can change your life for the better, as it did for me.

My name is Ivis M*** M****, born in Honduras and raised in Seattle, WA. Coming to the United States was a challenging experience for me.

For me, the downfall all started in middle school. Skipping school, girls, homework, parents, home boys, pressure, money, work, time, energy – I was a continuous disappointment to myself and others that loved me and wanted me to succeed.

I just couldn't balance all the pressure in my life, and my tipping point hit me hard when my parents divorced. It struck me so hard that I quickly had to grow up and take responsibility for something that I mentally wasn't ready for. Because my father left, so I ended up being the father figure to my two younger brothers and sister.

Eventually harder times crept up slowly when my mother lost her home and we became homeless. For me, homelessness was never a concern and it was my first time with such a terrifying experience. I felt isolated from the world. I had no one to talk to besides my homeboys which pulled me closer to the streets, drugs, theft, lies, confusion, but most importantly, my focus to achieve my goals were shot.

I just didn't give a ****! Eventually, I got involved with crime. I found myself in a cold room, four walls, no freedom, lost my right to do as I please. White folks controlling my life telling me when to sleep, eat, and piss. Everyone around me told me I will never accomplish my hopes and dreams. I believed them and lost my own hope. What do I do? Where do I go? Who can help?

These questions were always on my mind. Is this really the lifestyle I want to live? Finally, one–day help came when a special lady arrived to come see me. I didn't know it at the time, but her arrival changed my life forever.

This special lady introduced a special program to me called ROYAL, where the main focus was on me. I had no choice but to take the opportunity because she was the only person who was willing to help me. She got me out of jail, and introduced me to my life coach.

Working with my life coach was a chance for me to answer questions that no one cared to know about. I expressed my goals, focus, inspiration, where I wanted to be in five years and all the important things he needed to know to get me on that track. With that information the ROYAL program designed a structure especially for me where I had support with the court, home, helped me find a job, good people, stable environment, trust, relationships, health, managing money, education, advancement, scholarships, helped me graduate, helped me beat my court cases, and tools and resources to utilize in the real world to help me succeed on my own.

You, the readers, can easily see the ROYAL program constructed my life in a way that helped
me to grow up and be a real successful man who is always continuing to succeed and advance. Let me tell you all, it feels BOMB to be in my twenties and established with a clear focus of where I am heading. "Failing to plan is planning to fail." This quote has always stuck with me and I want to be able to share it with all of you. This is the real deal!

I am 23 years old now. I live on my own, drive an Audi, have great credit, helped my mom get out of poverty and earn $60,000 a year. I have a great hobby in sales and I love for community.

I find myself where I am because this program cared and reached me when no one else did. I can never say enough good things about what they have done for me.

—Ivis M. 2010

As of 2013, ROYAL is still in contact with Ivis. He remains a success as he continues to thrive as an employee (making $45k per year), productive citizen, he is a homeowner, and now very much a man.

Interested in having ROYAL come to you? Or for other Questions
Contact:

Debra Robinson Baker, Project Director
The Raising Our Youth As Leaders Project
1-800-275-1445 x3196
www.theroyalproject.com

Note: The website is under construction. However, it does capture some of the work.