Appendix 15X

Guidelines for Transformation

The guidelines and suggestions listed below can help inform a discussion about changes in beliefs and practices towards young people and elders that facilitate the transformation of society. Share these ideas as participants brainstorm a list of strategies that help to facilitate the transformation of society.

1. View and treat young people and elders as growing, developing humans and not as problems to be solved, and develop policies, programs, and practices that aim at developing "a sense of competence: being able to do something well; a sense of usefulness: having something to contribute; a sense of belonging: being part of a community; and, a sense of power: having control over one's future." (National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth, Youth Development, 2004).

2. Avoid patronizing, tokenizing, or otherwise marginalizing young people and elders.

3. Involve the entire communities, including young people and elders, in creating a continuum of services and opportunities that supports the life needs of young people and elders.

4. Involve young people and elders in meaningful decision-making about institutional practices and policies that affect their lives, such as designing their health care environments and their learning environments.

5. Understand and act on the fact that young people and elders have the capacity to play meaningful roles in their communities.

6. Work to ensure an equitable distribution of resources, such as health care, retirement resources, resources for educational development, and so on.

7. Value people of all ages for their experience and wisdom.

References

National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth, Youth Development, *Fact sheet on youth development*, (Last updated Nov. 2004) retrieved on June 20, 2006, from http://www.ncfy.com/ydfactsh.htm.