



Video Transcript: Ask Me Anything: Adolescent Friendly Support Services (Katrina)

Katrina (00:00): If our network of partners had a theme song, it would be from High School Musical, "We're All in this Together." [laughs] Ask Me Anything: Adolescent Friendly Support Services. Hi I'm Katrina James with Fact Forward, and today, I'm going to let the RHNTC ask me anything about adolescent friendly support services.

Katrina (00:22): What are you most proud of related to your work advancing health equity for youth? Our team's creativity and innovation regarding youth and youth projects. We make sure that we center our youth, we make sure that we find out what their wants and needs are, and then we tailor that to what we want to do for the remainder of the project. We work with schools, we work with community-based organizations, we work with departments of juvenile justice, houses of worship, and college campuses. We take all of those sectors and we combine them and make sure that they get services from our health centers, and we connect all of that together to make sure that they're getting medically accurate information and the support that they need from health centers.

Katrina (01:02): Why are adolescent sexual and reproductive health programs and services essential community resources in your community? Youth need access to education and resources available to them in these topic areas. Generally, youth will receive this information in schools and that simply just isn't quite happening anymore. We want to make sure that youth are not just searching online for things, we want to make sure that we are providing that accurate information for them. The research shows that youth want to talk about this topic with parents and trusted adults. That is our duty to make sure that they get that information.

Katrina (01:37): How do you understand what young people want and need? You have to hear from them. In order to hear from them, we do that through surveys, and we ask them, what is it that you want to learn about? What is it that we can provide for you, and what is it that you need in order for us to do our work in the community?

Katrina (01:53): What keeps you committed to positive youth development? Knowing that we are making a difference in the lives of youth, allowing them to have the space to ask questions and learn about different topics really makes a difference in creating a brighter future for these youth.

Katrina (02:09): What is the first impression you want young people to have when they walk into an adolescent friendly space? To let them know that this is a safe space and that they are welcome to share their confidential information and have that person there not judge them for it. So just to know that the space is welcoming, and that they can come with any questions that they have and just to feel welcome.

Katrina (02:31): What was one moment in the last year that you were most proud of, related to building a network of partners who provide adolescent friendly services? Working with health centers that provide adolescent friendly services, they were able to collaborate with some of our community-based organizations. The community-based organization was providing a curriculum lesson, regarding to health services. And one of my health centers were able to go in and talk about their services, where they were located, so youth receiving the curriculum lesson would be able to know where to go in the event they needed testing or anything that they needed. So I'm really, really excited that they were able to kind of make the connection with each other after we built that relationship. So super, super proud of that moment.

Katrina (03:17): What is your favorite part of helping youth and families advocate for adolescent friendly care? My favorite part is seeing the excitement these partners have with this topic. Knowing that that we do this every day and seeing them learn about all of the different topics that we talk about, regarding adolescent health, and seeing them be empowered to go in the community and talk about it themselves is probably one of my favorite parts of this work.

Katrina (03:45): What is your favorite part of helping youth and families access and navigate adolescent friendly care? Youth and families get to learn about all of the services that are in the community that they didn't know about, so I love that they are able to get those services and then tell someone else about them as well.

Katrina (04:02): What tips do you have for other projects looking to build or expand their network of partners? I have one tip if you're looking to build or expand: don't overlook the smaller organizations. These smaller organizations are doing the work just as much as the larger organizations, so they also need a chance to work with youth and families in the community, and they may be reaching some community members that the larger organizations aren't. So don't overlook our smaller organizations.

Katrina (04:31): What is the best part of working on your project? One of the best parts of working on this project is getting to collaborate with our partners, really working with some of our grassroots organizations who normally don't get the opportunity to participate in larger projects. So allowing them to participate and get the resources that they need to support our youth is one of the best things we can do on this project. This video was created by the Reproductive Health National Training Center, RHNTC.