



# Meaningful Engagement:

*Assessing youth and young adult voice at the  
organizational level*

National Wraparound Implementation Academy

Presented By:

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# Who Is In The Room?

- Brief introduction to include:
  - Name, Organizational Role and State
- Where is your organization at in the process of engaging youth in decision making?
  - We engage them in their treatment
  - We have youth who sit on boards, committees and advise the organization
  - We have a structured young adult leadership/ advisory that advises the organization and programs we offer.
  - We hire young adults with lived experience to support other's receiving services.

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# Overview

- Understanding the value of young adult participation in decision making at the organizational level
- Discuss the development of the Youth and Youth and Young Adult Assessment Tool
- Understand & Build Consensus of key indicators of meaningful Youth and young adult voice at the organizational level
- Ways the tool can assess an organizational Strengths and challenges associated with meaningful voice in decision making.

# Why?

- Youth MOVE National's Best Practice Committee has been working to support the field with understanding:
  - What it means to be youth guided and young adult driven
  - What youth and young adults leaders contribute to the field through meaningful engagement and what youth organizations offer for supports and services for the field
  - What are indicators of success related to
    - Youth and Young adult peer support
    - Meaningful youth and young adult engagement
    - Quality health & wellness for those with MH challenges

# Why Assess?

- Nationally we are seeing many organization seeking to engage youth and young adults in meaningful ways.
  - Practice level engagement
  - Organization level engagement
  - Systems level engagement
- Assist the field to define what we mean by meaningful engagement of Y&YA and key indicators of success
- Better understand where agencies are at in their process of engagement.
- Support a framework to identify strengths and needs associated to improving and sustaining engagement.

# Table activity

- At your small group please identify barriers that organizations face when trying to meaningfully engage youth?
- Select your top 3, and narrow it down based on consensus what one is the biggest barrier.
- Select a Champion from your table- who will move and see solutions from others.
- Report out large group

# Responding to a Need

- Communities want to know if they are doing it right!
- Communities want to better understand how Y&YA can be integrated into decision making.
- Youth and Young adults want to be engage in ways that support their participation, that make them feel valued, heard and meaningful contributors to organization, system change efforts.
- They want a seat at the table, they understand first hand what Y&YA want and need to be successful



# Developing the assessment

- Literature review
  - Formal research on youth participation
  - Assessment tools from systems of care and related efforts
- Initial item development (PSU/YMN teams)
- Initial stakeholder feedback
- Review by YMN Best Practices Committee
- Formal feedback from stakeholders, N=23

# Review version

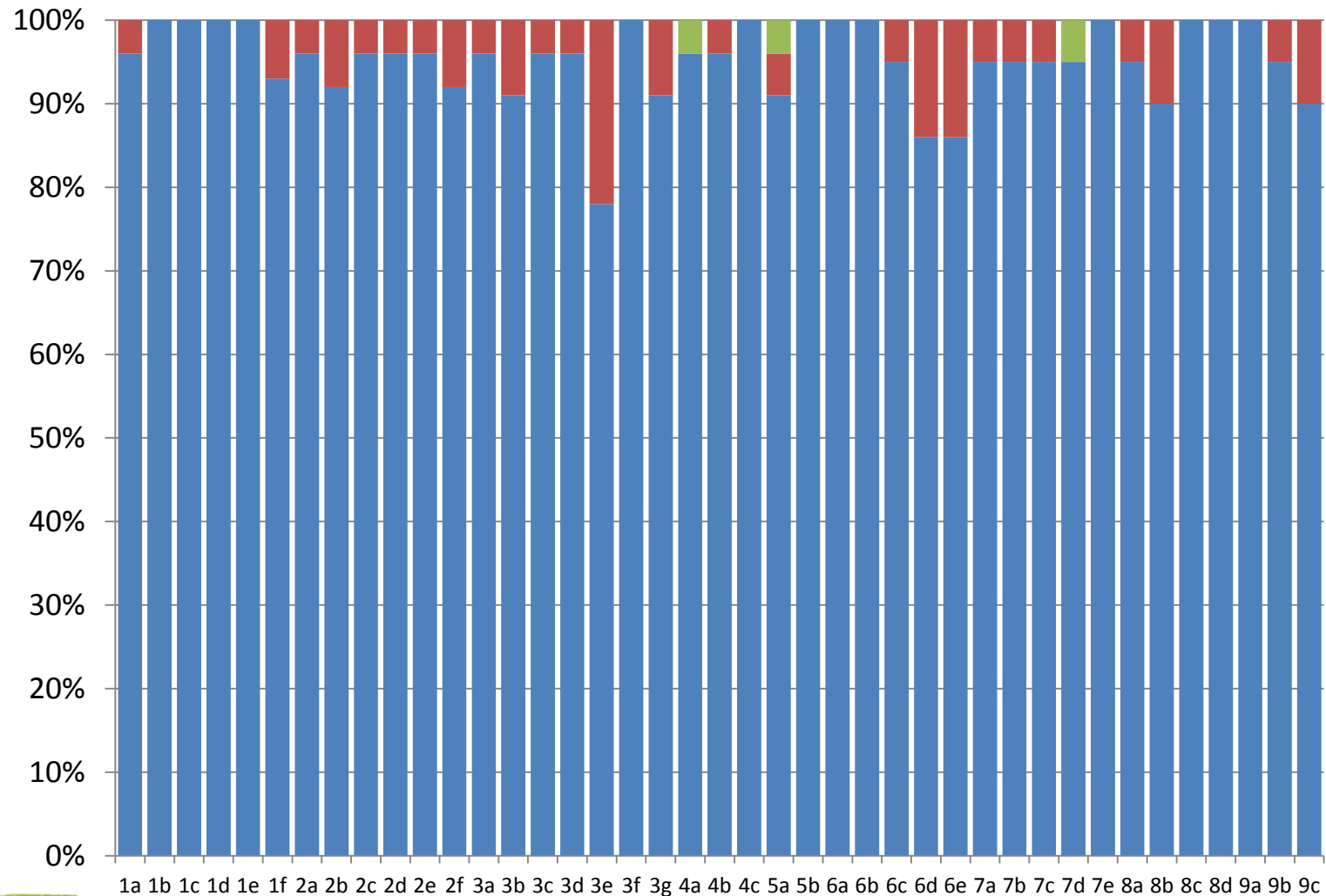
1. Overall vision and commitment (6 items)
2. Collaborative approach (6 items)
3. Empowered representatives (7 items)
4. Commitment to facilitation and support of Y/YA participation (3 items)
5. Organizational self-reflection and assessment (2 items)
6. Workforce development (5 items)
7. Participation in developing programming/program policies (5 items)
8. Participation in evaluation (4 items)
9. Leading initiatives and projects (3 items)

# Sample item...

- **1a. Commitment to meaningful participation.** The organization has created a formal statement affirming its commitment to promoting Y/YA leadership and meaningful participation in advising and decision making within the organization. The organization and its leaders assertively communicate this vision to stakeholders—including young people, management and staff.

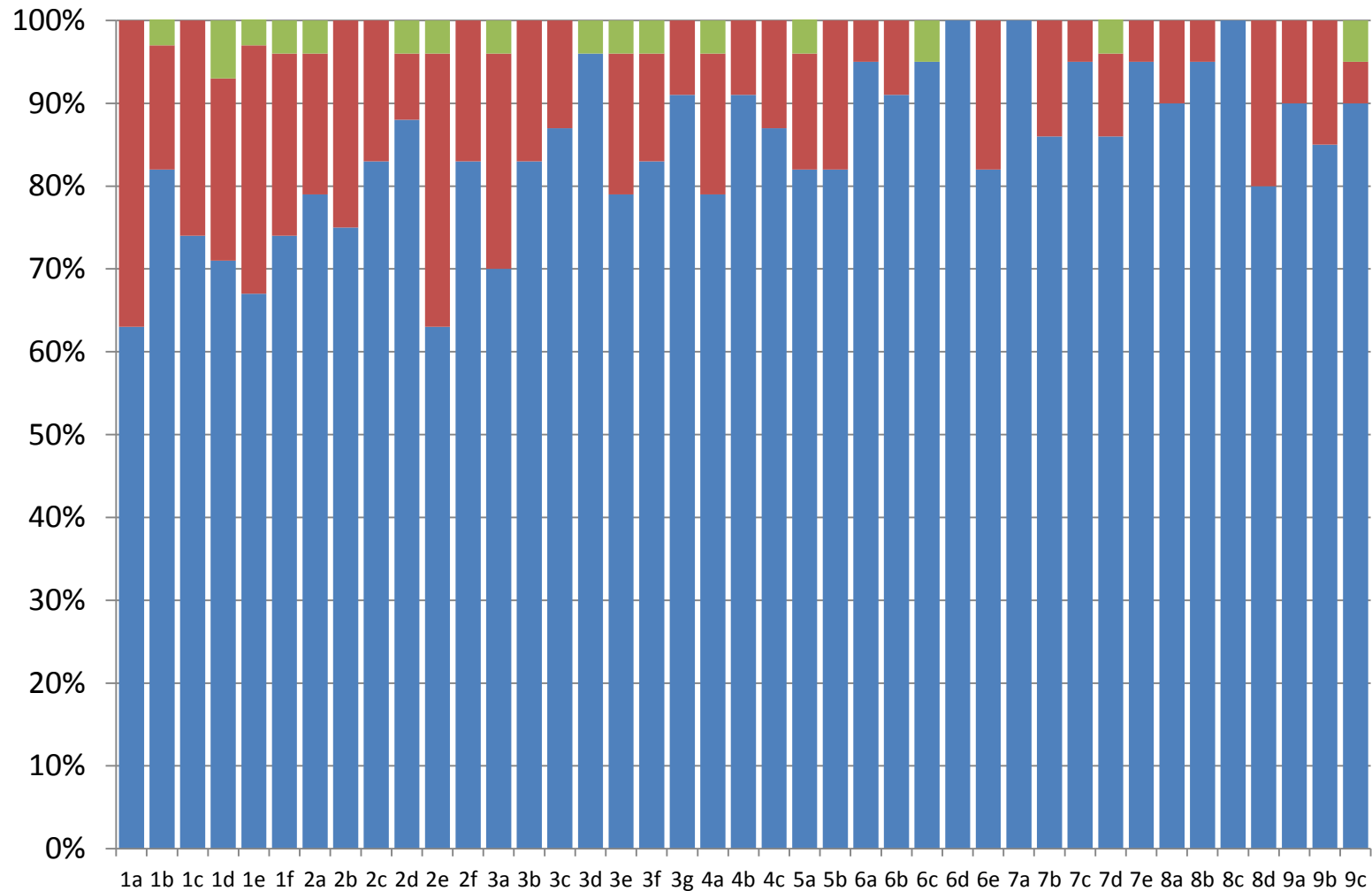
N/A	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Does not apply, or I do not know about this</i>	<b>LEAST DEVELOPED</b>	<b>MIDWAY</b>		<b>FULLY DEVELOPED</b>	
	<i>none of the aspects in place/ not true for our organization</i>			<i>all aspects consistently in place/ completely true for our organization</i>	

# Essential, Optional, Inadvisable



# Wording:

## OK as is, minor/major revision



# New version

1. Overall vision and commitment (8 items)
2. Collaborative approach (5 items)
3. Empowered representatives (5 items)
4. Commitment to facilitation and support of Y/YA participation (3 items)
5. Workforce development (4 items)
6. Participation in developing programming/program policies (5 items)
7. Participation in evaluation (4 items)
8. Leading initiatives and projects (3 items)

# Activity: Group Reflection

- Consider your agency and how young adults are actively engaged and how their voice has shaped organizational practice.
  - **Looking Back:** Why did your organization want to engage youth/young adults? In what ways did your organization engage Y/YA's at the organizational level? What steps supported with engagement?
  - **Current Engagement:** How has your organization expanded upon meaningfully engaging Y/YA's? What roles do Y/YA have within your organization currently? What types of activities and decision do Y/YA participate in?
  - **Looking Forward:** How do you think your organization could expand upon in cooperating Y/YA voice at the organizational level? What supports may your organization or Y/YA need to expand Youth voice activities ?



Research & Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures, Portland State University





# Wrap up

- Continued development on the tool will be underway and pilot testing of the tool with local organization
- Upcoming webinar will be offered when tool is available for use and be accompanied by technical assistance resources
- Let us know if you want to be part of the pilot test
- For more information contact
  - Brie Masselli: [bmasselli@youthmovenational.org](mailto:bmasselli@youthmovenational.org) or
  - Janet Walker: [janetw@pdx.edu](mailto:janetw@pdx.edu)

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