What is Healing-Centered Engagement?

Healing-centered engagement is a process that aligns institutions with a **perspective**, **approach**, and **strategy** that addresses harm and restores well-being.



It supports systems with shifting from a culture of harm, discipline, punishment, and confinement to restoration and hope.

There are 5 principles of Healing-Centered Engagement: CARMA



Culture

Youth and adults are engaged in learning and developing an awareness of one's own and others' racial and social identities.



Effective Practices:

- Actively engage youth in conversations about identity.
- Share experiences with youth about harm and healing from aspects of your identity.
- Identify and integrate culturally appropriate procedures and practices.

Agency

The individual and collective ability to identify, act on, and change the root causes of personal, social, and community challenges.

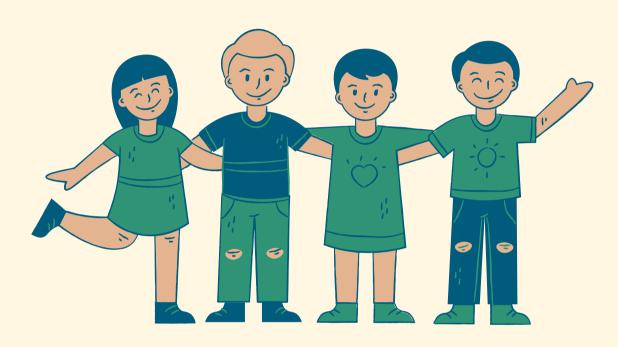


Effective Practices:

- Actively engage with youth in ongoing political education.
- Provide opportunities for civic engagement.
- Engage youth in strength-based approaches to community problem-solving.

Relationships

The capacity to create, sustain, and grow healthy connections with others.



Effective Practices:

- Cultivate relationships with young people beyond the professional title.
- Share your story.
- Practice empathy.
- Recognize the value of inclusivity and belonging in your institution.
- Foster a culture of connectedness.

Meaning

The profound discovery of who we are, where we are going, and what purpose we were born to serve.



- Create opportunities for young people to identify their own assets.
- Explicitly communicate their assets into projects and group interactions.
- Actively seek and incorporate young people's perspectives about social issues.
- Build systems of support for adult social-emotional growth and well-being.

Aspirations

An exploration of the possibilities for our lives and the process of accomplishing goals for personal and collective well-being.



- Regularly engage young people in positive discussions about their future.
- Create opportunities for dreaming and imagination building.
- Build opportunities for goal setting.
- Embed opportunities that reinforce asset-driven language.

Citation

Information from Keynote speech by Dr. Shawn Ginwright:

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=NxTSIlWUeg8&t=1437s