Safety & Belonging Work Group Meeting #8

October 22, 2026

A Children & Youth
Community Plan Initiative





Agenda

Welcome & where we are	**10 min**
Review & Validate Action Plans	
• **Plan for strengthening adults' capacity to be trusted, caring, informed, and accountable to youth**	**30 min**
• **Plan for expanding meaningful and equitable youth leadership**	**30 min**
Next steps, Announcements, & Close	**20 min**



Where are we?

Meeting #1 (March)
Launched Work Group

Meeting #2 (March)
Developed Shared Understanding

Meeting #3 (April)
Mapped our Efforts

Meeting #4 (May)
Synthesized Map

Meeting #5 (July)
Identified Strategic Directions

Meeting #6 (August)
Action Planning
Strategic Direction #1

Meeting #7 (September)
Action Planning
Strategic Direction #2

Meeting #8 (October)
Finalize & Commit

Implementation!

How we will review each plan



Review & Confirm Big Picture

Do the Year-One actions reflect what the Work Group prioritized?

Review & Confirm Steps

Are steps, timelines, partners, and deliverables realistic?

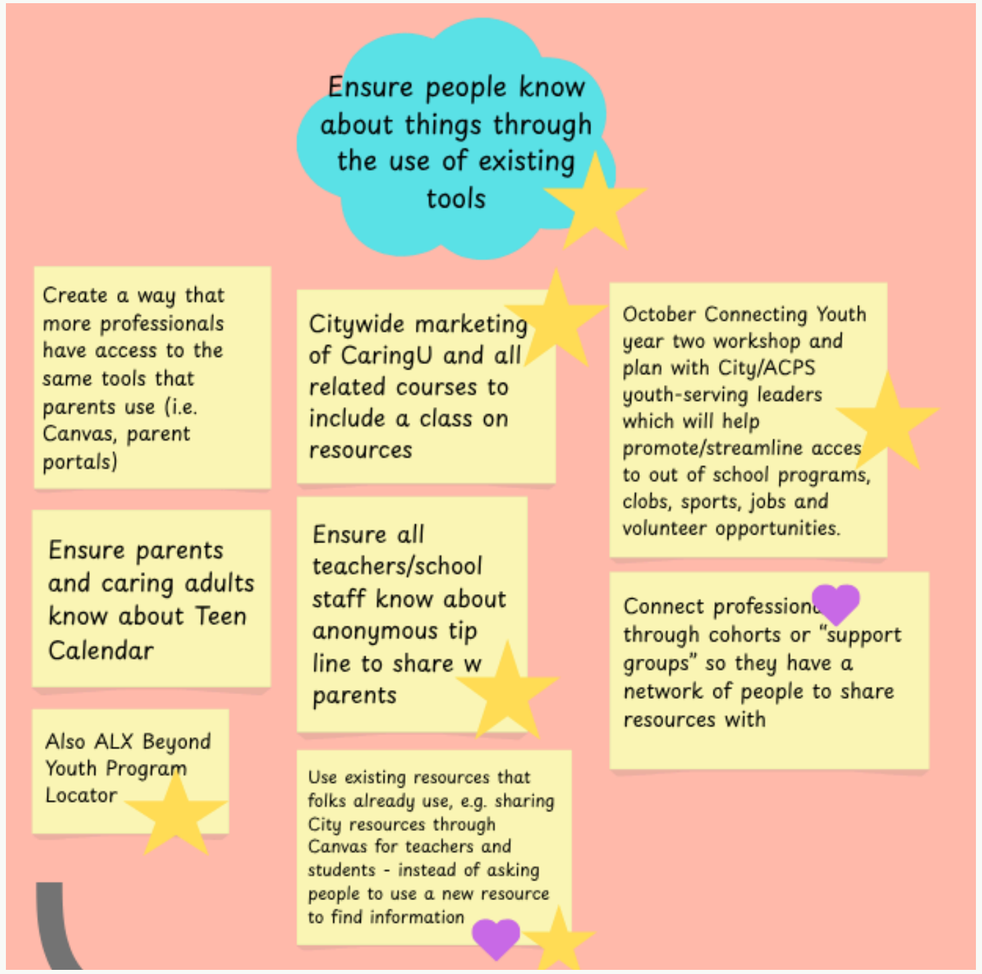
Strategic Direction 1: Adult Roles, Training & Accountability

Big Picture

Problem:	Students shared that they often struggle to trust adults to listen, respect their privacy, and respond fairly. Inconsistent rules, unaddressed concerns, and adults escalating conflicts can make seeking help feel risky or ineffective, leading youth to turn to peers instead.
Result:	All youth have caring adults they can trust to listen, respond respectfully, and provide support when needed.
Strategy:	We will strengthen adults' capacity to be trusted, caring, informed, and accountable to youth by increasing their knowledge of available resources, strengthening their relationship-building skills, and reducing barriers that prevent youth from connecting with caring adults and supports that help them feel safe.
Indicators:	Other adult relationships Caring School Climate Youth feel Safe at School, Home, & in their Neighborhood ACHS Students Feel Welcome at School Adults at ACPS Care About All Students Didn't attend school due to feeling unsafe

Review & Confirm Big Picture

Original Brainstorm



Year-One Action:

Coordinate with existing City, school, and community initiatives to improve how youth-serving organizations share information about programs, resources, and opportunities through communication channels that youth and families already use.

Performance Measurements:

How much we did:

# of organizations consulted;

# of communication improvements recommended/tested

How well we did it:

% of recommendations reviewed by relevant communication partners

Is anyone better off:

#/% of participating organizations reporting improved ability to share information with youth and families

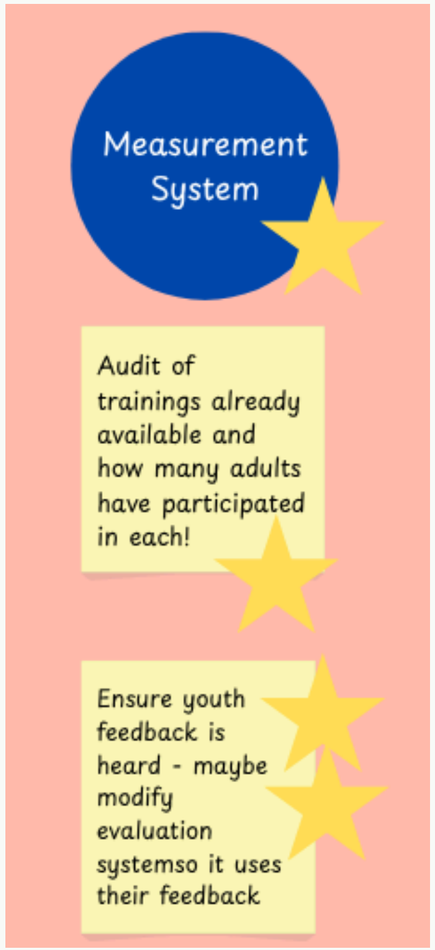
Review & Confirm Implementation Steps

Action 1a: Accessible communication channels

Year-One Action:	Coordinate with existing City, school, and community initiatives to improve how youth-serving organizations share information about programs, resources, and opportunities through communication channels that youth and families already use.			
Steps:	**1ST QUARTER** Coordinate with existing efforts and communication leaders to learn what communication improvements are already underway. Clarify partners' roles & contributions	**1ST QUARTER** Ask youth-serving organizations which communication platforms they currently use, which they cannot access, and what prevents them from sharing information through school communication systems.	**2ND QUARTER** Share findings with the CYFCC Goal Group and relevant City/ACPS communications leads to inform potential improvements.	**3RD-4TH QUARTER** Test an improved communication process, if requested by the CYFCC Goal Group.
Prospective Partners:	CYFCC Goal Group, ConnectingU partners, City Communications, ACPS Communications, & other relevant partners	Existing networks, including the Youth Services Coordinating Council & ConnectingU partners	CYFCC Goal Group & City/ACPS Communication leads	CYFCC Goal Group
Deliverables:	Confirmed roles & scope of work shared with CYFCC & Communication partners	List of communication platforms, barriers to communication, & opportunities for improvement	Recommendations incorporated into the communications effort	Partner feedback on the new process & its usefulness

Review & Confirm Big Picture

Original Brainstorm



Year-One Action:

Assess who is participating in existing trainings that help adults build supportive relationships with youth, identify groups of adults who are underrepresented, and test strategies to increase their awareness of and participation in these opportunities.

Performance Measurements:

How much we did:

# of trainings reviewed;

# of training providers contributing data;

# of outreach efforts tested

How well we did it:

% of trainings with participation data by adult role;

% of targeted registrants attending

Is anyone better off:

#/% increase in participation among targeted adult groups

Review & Confirm Implementation Steps

Action 1b: Adult participation in trainings

Year-One Action:	Assess participation in existing trainings that help adults build supportive relationships with youth, identify groups of adults who are underrepresented, and test strategies to increase their awareness of and participation in these opportunities.				
Steps:	**1ST QUARTER** Identify existing trainings and gather participation information.	**1ST-2ND QUARTER** Identify participation gaps and barriers as well as recruitment approaches	**2ND QUARTER** Develop a targeted outreach approach to recruit one underrepresented adult audience	**3RD QUARTER** Select one feasible improvement & test targeted recruitment	**4TH QUARTER** Review & share findings with partners. Recommend next steps for Year 2
Prospective Partners:	ConnectingU & Training Providers	Training providers & relevant partners	Training providers, ConnectingU partners, & relevant staff	Participating training providers	Training providers & partners involved
Deliverables:	Inventory of existing trainings, providers, audiences, & participation data	Summary of participation findings & outreach opportunities	Oureach plan	Completed outreach pilot & participation findings	Brief evaluation summary & Year 2 recommendations

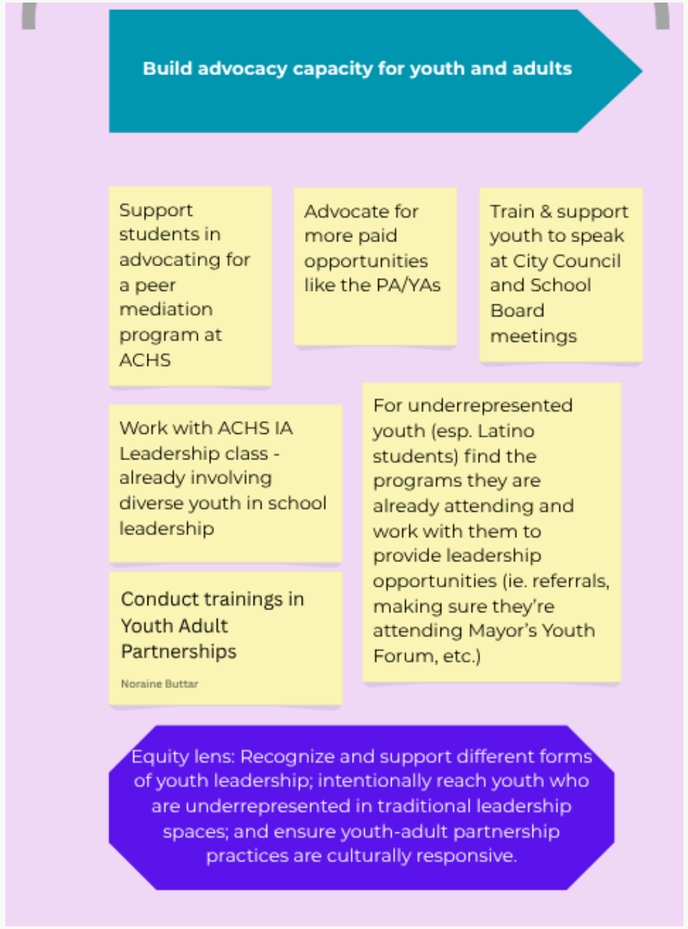
Strategic Direction 2: Youth Leadership & Peer-Led Models

Big Picture

Problem:	Youth experience not feeling heard, valued, or taken seriously, particularly at school, feeling excluded from decisions that directly affect them, and frustration with the adult centric systems that silence them.
Result:	All youth have meaningful opportunities to partner with adults who listen, share decision-making power, and act on their input.
Strategy:	Expand meaningful and equitable youth leadership by strengthening young people's opportunities and capacity to advocate, influence decisions, and lead alongside adults, while equipping adults and systems to share power and support authentic youth-adult partnership.
Indicators:	Community Values Youth Youth as Resources

Review & Confirm Big Picture

Original Brainstorm



Year-One Action:

Strengthen existing youth advocacy opportunities, especially for young people underrepresented in traditional leadership spaces, by helping youth influence decisions that affect them and preparing adults to listen, respond, and follow through on youth recommendations.

Performance Measurements:

How much we did:

# of youth/adults prepared;

# of advocacy opportunities supported

How well we did it:

% of youth reporting meaningful participation;

% of recommendations receiving a documented adult response

Is anyone better off:

% of youth reporting increased advocacy confidence and feeling heard and taken seriously by participating adults

Review & Confirm Implementation Steps

Action: Advocacy Capacity

Year-One Action:	Strengthen existing youth advocacy opportunities, especially for young people who are underrepresented in traditional leadership spaces, while helping adults better support, listen to, and respond to youth advocacy.			
Steps:	**1ST QUARTER** Identify existing opportunities for youth advocacy & for coordination	**2ND QUARTER** Select an existing youth group & an issue they want to influence; find responsive adult partners	**2ND - 3RD QUARTER** Prepare youth and adults to work together. Support youth in advocating for change	**3RD - 4TH QUARTER** Ensure adults respond to youth recommendations & explain what can advance; Learn from the experience & plan Year 2
Prospective Partners:	Youth-serving organizations	Existing youth program or class; Adults willing to listen & engage with youth advocates	Youth advocates; Advocacy trainer; Participating adult decision-makers	Youth Advocates; Participating adult decision-makers; Youth-serving partners
Deliverables:	List of existing opportunities, potential partners, relevant youth recommendations, & participation barriers	Youth advocacy opportunity, youth advocates, & willing decision-makers identified	Youth & adult are prepared; Completed youth advocacy activity & documented recommendations	Documented adult responses & commitments shared w/youth; lessons learned; Year 2 recommendations

Next Steps



August
Strategic Direction #1

- Identify Year-One actions for one strategic direction

September
Strategic Direction #2

- Identify Year-One actions for 2nd strategic direction
- Confirm the group is comfortable with staff drafting the remaining details

In Between Meetings
Draft Action Plans

- Using the data, youth recommendations, and existing efforts we've already reviewed, flesh out the actions the group prioritized
- Identify potential partners and roles
- Draft performance measurements

October
Finalize & Commit

- Review drafted plans together
- Make revisions & approve action plans
- Confirm roles and commitments (let's do this later)

November-December
Celebrate & Launch Implementation!

- Celebrate in person over lunch?!

Civic Action Kickoff - An Opportunity to Hear from Youth!

Event Details

December 3 & 4 | Both ACHS Campuses
Sign up for one or more classroom sessions:
9–10:30AM • 10:40AM–12PM • 2–3:30PM

We're recruiting facilitators and notetakers to guide interactive classroom discussions focused on our proposed actions to hear what students think.

We'll provide discussion guides, materials, and a brief orientation.

Interested in facilitating?
Use this link to sign up!



Mental Health & Wellness Fair

November 9, 2026 during Advisory (~11:57AM - 1:45PM) | ACHS King Street & Minnie Howard campuses

Students have repeatedly told us they don't know what mental health resources are available or how to access them. We're partnering with ACHS Student Leadership classes to help close that gap. The goal is for students to leave knowing where to go and how to take the next step.

We're seeking school, City, and community partners to:

- Introduce students to mental health and wellness supports.
- Offer an engaging activity that promotes their mental health
- Explain how students can connect to support.

The event combines a resource fair + experiential wellness activities (i.e. self-care kits, art therapy, mindfulness, or other wellness activities, games, movement, reflection/writing, etc.)

Interested in participating?
Sign up here: forms.cloud.microsoft/g/pxibpSi8Px





Thank you!

Contact

Chelsea Eickert, Children & Youth Community Plan Coordinator
Chelsea.Eickert@alexandriava.gov

