

Facilitators Manual

Sample Agenda

Law Enforcement and Youth Forum Agenda

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| 8:30 am | Module 1 – Panel discussion |
| 10:00 am | Break |
| 10:15 am | Module 2 – Panel Debrief Sessions |
| 11:15 am | Reconvene in Large Group |
| 11:30 am | Lunch – with breakout group |
| 12:15 pm | Module 3 – Adolescent Development |
| 2:15 pm | Module 4 – Effective Use of Communication to Interact with Youth |
| 4:00 pm | End of program |

Ground Rules

- One person speak at a time
- Be respectful
- Listen to each other
- Be honest

Preparation for Modules 1 and 2 – Forum and Debrief Sessions Forum Coordinator

Purpose of the Forum

The overall purpose of these forums is to reduce the number of youth of color who enter the juvenile justice system. Although minority youth make up 22% of the population, they account for 76% of the youth in correctional facilities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Research tells us that youth of color do not commit a higher percentage of crimes than white youth, yet they enter the juvenile justice system in greater numbers than their white counterparts and they stay longer.

We want to make our communities safer and save the lives of both young people and law enforcement. In order to accomplish these goals we need to implement strategies that reduce the likelihood of conflict between youth and law enforcement. This so important because the first point of contact these youth have with the system is with law enforcement –

- 1 on the streets with police officers;
- 2 at school with School Resource Officers;
- 3 on public transportation with SEPTA; and,
- 4 in public housing with Housing Authority Police.

These forums offer one strategy – a way to open dialogue between young people and law enforcement and accomplish the following *forum objectives*:

- Identify issues, concerns about improving youth and law enforcement interactions; and,
- Identify recommendations for improving youth and law enforcement relations.