

# Raise the Level with a Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Training Institute

**Matt Aronson, Dan Gray, Miosoty Rivas,  
Nate Santiago, and Travis Smith**





# Presenters

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# Raise the Level with a YYA Homelessness Training Institute

*Brought to you by*



Office of Housing  
City of Springfield

**Matthew Aronson Consulting**  
The Goal is to End Youth Homelessness

*In partnership with*



Massachusetts Bay  
and Merrimack Valley



Executive Office of  
Health and Human Services

# Introductions

Name?

Preferred pronouns?

Who you are representing today and what is your role?

What was your favorite cereal growing up?

# Group Agreements



# Group Agreements

1. Don't take it personal
2. Be yourself
3. Come prepared
4. Be on-time
5. Respect pronouns
6. Be open-minded
7. Vegas Rule
8. Leave Room
9. Share the Floor
10. Respect Personal Space
11. Agree to disagree
12. Be mindful of time
13. Be present
14. Ouch and Oops
15. Be mindful of feedback
16. Hold Accountable

# Poll

1. Would your program or system benefit from more training?

# Poll

2. What kinds of training does your community need?



# We All Need Capacity

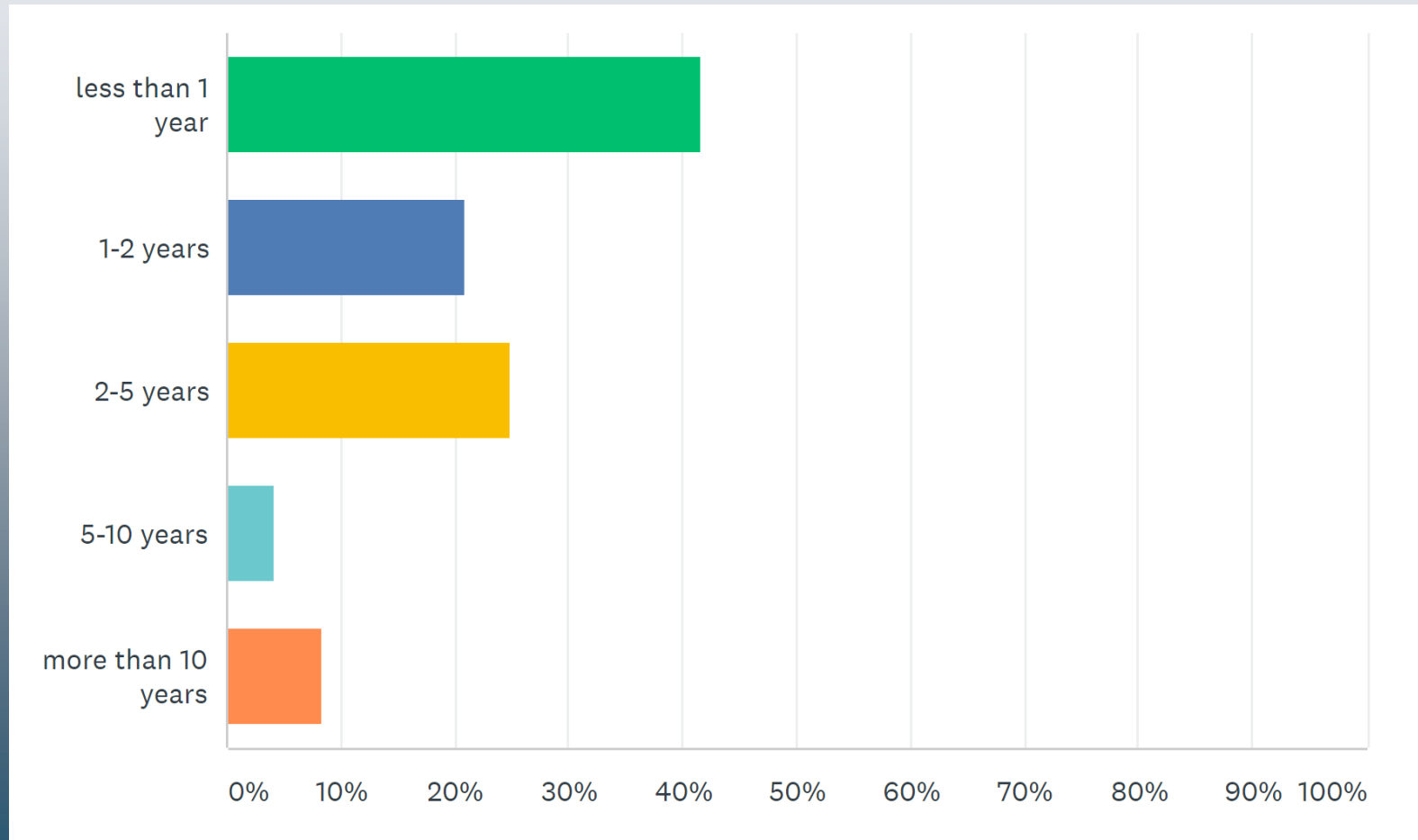
- Staff turnover
- Regular resource changes
- Regular methodology changes
- Regular ecosystem changes

As a result, nearly every YHDP Plan includes it as an action step

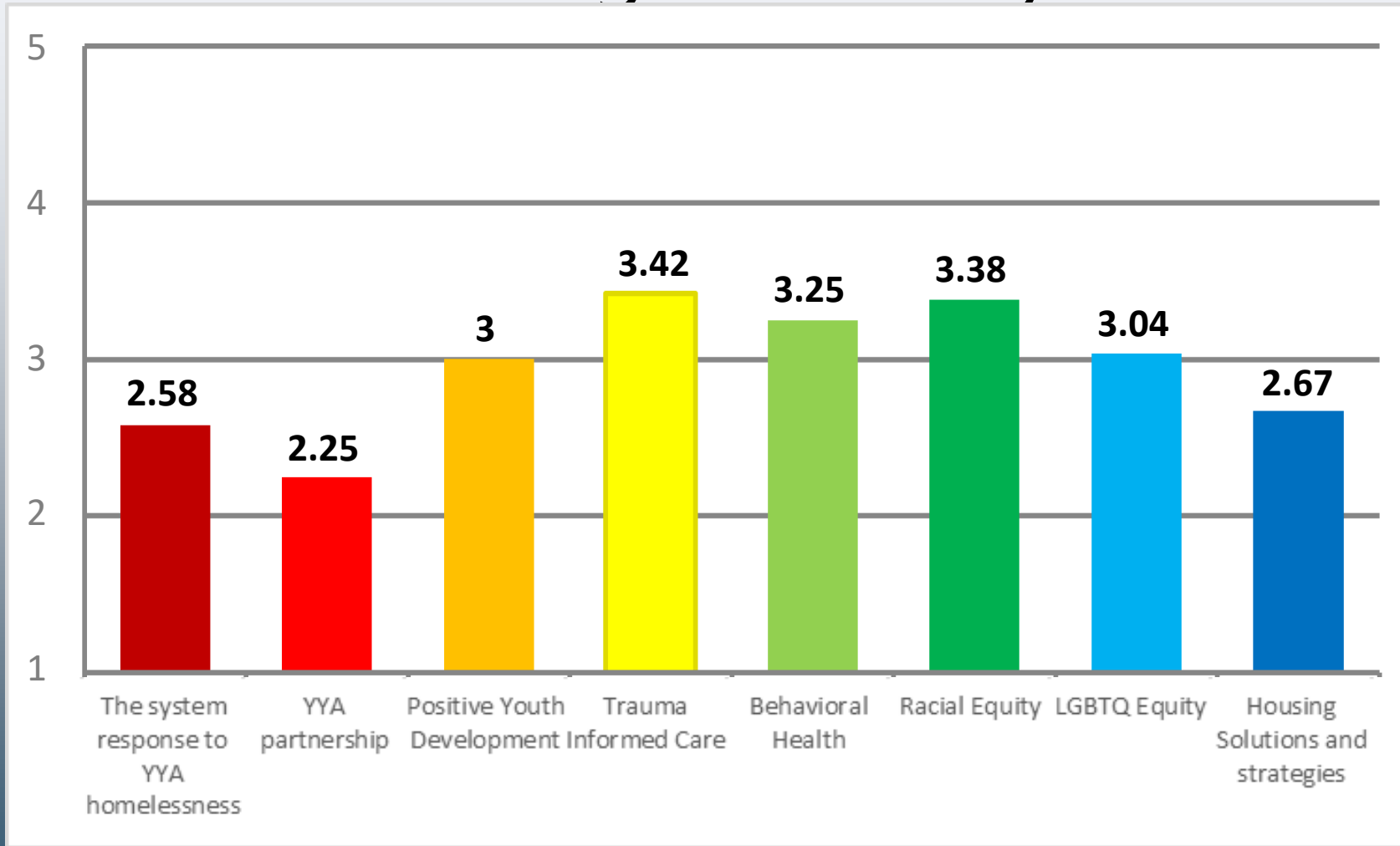
“A deficit in training and understanding among adults serving YYA experiencing homelessness.”

Barnstable County

# How long have you worked with YYA experiencing homelessness?



# How knowledgeable do you feel?



**THE INSTITUTE**

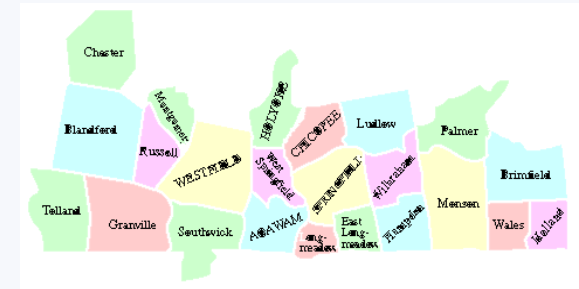
**WORK IN PROGRESS**



1. New Program Staff Capacity
2. Continuing Education
3. Internal Training for New Hires
4. New System Staff Capacity
5. Best Practices

## Five Goals

# Five Principles



|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b><i>Understanding and Working with YYA Experiencing Homelessness</i></b></p> <p><u>Lessons</u><br/>December 8, 10, 15, 17</p> <p><u>Peer Learning</u><br/>January 12</p> | <p><b><i>Positive Youth Development and YYA Experiencing Homelessness</i></b></p> <p><u>Lessons</u><br/>February 9, 11, 16, 18</p> <p><u>Peer Learning</u><br/>March 9</p> | <p><b><i>Trauma-Informed Care for YYA Experiencing Homelessness</i></b></p> <p><u>Lessons</u><br/>April 13, 15, 20, 22</p> <p><u>Peer Learning</u><br/>May 11</p>            |
| <p><b><i>Behavioral Health and YYA Homelessness</i></b></p> <p><u>Lessons</u><br/>June 8, 10, 15, 17</p> <p><u>Peer Learning</u><br/>July 13</p>                              | <p><b><i>Addressing Equity in Our Efforts to End YYA Homelessness</i></b></p> <p><u>Lessons</u><br/>August 10, 12, 17, 19</p> <p><u>Peer Learning</u><br/>September 14</p> | <p><b><i>Housing YYA experiencing homelessness and Human Trafficking</i></b></p> <p><u>Lessons</u><br/>October 12, 14, 19, 21</p> <p><u>Peer Learning</u><br/>November 9</p> |

# Curriculum

# Expectations

1. Consistent Participation
2. Preparedness
3. Attention
4. Curiosity
5. Evaluation Feedback

1. Adultism and YYA Partnership –  
Teaching and Modeling Behavior
2. YYA-led sessions

# Youth Partnership



1. Co-designing sessions
2. Lots of practice
3. Trust YYA to lead facilitation

# Youth Partnership

# 9 Keys to Success

1. Quality trainers
2. Offline Support
3. Flexibility
4. Cultivating the cohort
5. Connecting the topics
6. Starting out with Adulthood
7. Build trust early for difficult conversations
8. Community lead and facilitator teamwork
9. YYA facilitation

# Community Impact

Very challenging to make every meeting but incredibly rewarding and informative. I loved the positive spirit Matt and Dan brought to these classes. Hard field to be in and the message of compassion and understanding were delivered loud and clear.

I will admit, The first month I was super anxious because 2 hours is a long time in front of the screen and I was also working from home. I think I made every excuse in the book to try to get out but I am so happy I stuck it out. I gained so much over this year and I am really excited to share...I understand so much more goes into it than I even know. Matt and all of the facilitators, you are incredible and I am forever grateful for this opportunity. Looking forward to staying in touch.

# Designing Your Institute

1. Identify as many topics as you can as a group. Then each of you prioritize 6-8 for your community and discuss why.
2. Identify potential facilitators in your community, either specific people or roles, and discuss why.
3. Identify potential funding sources
4. Create a plan to identify YYA and adequately support their authentic participation





# Thank You!

For more information reach out to  
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Massachusetts Bay  
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Executive Office of  
Health and Human Services



Family & Youth  
Services Bureau

Runaway and Homeless Youth  
Training & Technical Assistance Center

**BRIGHTER FUTURES**  
STRENGTHENING PATHWAYS FOR YOUTH SUCCESS

# Thank You!

**Please complete the evaluation for this session.**

**Click on the link in the Chat, then select:**

Day Three

Workshop

Raise the Level with a Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Training Institute