



## **Session 10**

# **Looking Over a Community Resource**

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- 10:1      What Should We Look For at this Community Resource?**
- 10:2      Introductions**
- 10:3      What is the Community Resource Like?**
- 10:4      What are Other Local Resources?**
- 10:5      An Informal Meal**
- 10:6      Follow-Up**
- 10:7      How Did You Like the Visit?**

# street smart

## Session 10: Looking Over a Community Resource

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### Objectives:

1. Participants will develop questions to answer about a community resource.
2. Participants will visit a community resource that serves homeless youth.
3. Participants will develop links with the community agency.
4. Participants will acquire knowledge about other available community resources.

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### Rationale:

Community resources must be in place to facilitate the desired behavior - practicing safer sex. From research on teenage pregnancy and drug and smoking prevention, it is known that coordinating services for youth is critical. These youth often rely heavily on peers rather than adults for obtaining information and other forms of support, partly because these other sources of support are unavailable to them.

The youth served in this training program need a variety of resources providing counseling, health care, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, legal aid, advice on how to take the G.E.D. exam, help in enrolling in athletic programs, and housing. To access these services, youth also need to become more self-directed, responsible consumers. To meet this objective, youth require more than just a discussion of where these services can be obtained: they need to be taken to community agencies and centers where they can personally meet the staff and consumers, and so they can become familiar with different sites and their services.

The stabilization and integration of community social services for youth may be the single best predictor of safer sex and drug use behavior. Therefore, it is essential that HIV/AIDS prevention programs establish strong working links between different social service agencies at both the leadership and staff levels. Without such links, effective case management cannot be accomplished.

## **Procedures:**

1. Brief the participants and have them think of questions to ask at the community resource. Check Feeling Thermometer levels. Give tokens to the participants for their questions.
2. Introduce the community resource staff and consumers to the participants.
3. Have the staff and consumers describe the community resource and what it is like to use their services. Have the participants ask questions.
4. Have the staff describe other community resources used by its consumers and how to access them.
5. Eat an informal meal together.
6. Discuss how to follow-up and make specific plans for coming back. Also have the participants express their appreciation for the visit.
7. De-brief the visit with your participants. Have them discuss what they liked. Check Feeling Thermometer levels. Give tokens for comments made about the community resource.

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## **Materials:**

Tokens

Directions to the community resource

Community resource handout on services

Community resource handout on other community resources

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## **Establish Links**

Select a community resource that provides community social services for youth. Have the leadership of both your organization and the community resource establish a formal link which facilitates your youth becoming consumers.

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## **Prepare for a Visit to the Community Resource**

Arrange for your adolescents to visit the community resource. Set up the following format:

- At the community resource have both staff and consumers present what services are available and what it is like to be served there.
- Have consumers from the community resource be paired with your youth when touring the resource and its services.
- Have the community resource do a presentation on other community services and how to access them.
- Have a meal served during the visit so consumers and staff can talk with your youth in an informal manner.
- Develop a follow-up mechanism with the staff whereby your youth will be invited back and feedback will be given to you on who returns.

### **Exercise 1: What Should We Look for at this Community Resource?**

*On the day of the visit, meet briefly with the participants and have them discuss what they would like to see in an agency that served them. Have them develop a short list of questions that they want answered. For example, confidentiality may be a concern that needs addressing. Give out tokens for questions they want answered. Ask them how they are feeling on the Feeling Thermometer. Discuss feelings.*

### **Exercise 2: Introductions**

*At the community resource, have the participants personally introduced to the staff and consumers. Have individual consumers at the resource act as a host to each of the participants.*

### **Exercise 3: What Is the Community Resource Like?**

*Have the resource's staff and consumers explain the available services, what it is like being a consumer there, and how services can be accessed. Give the participants the opportunity to ask questions.*

### **Exercise 4: What Are Other Local Resources?**

*Have the community resource staff present the other local resources that are available to their members. Hand out the list that describes the resources and how to access them. Hotline numbers should be included, as well as where free condoms are available.*

### **Exercise 5: An Informal Meal**

*Join the staff and consumers for an informal meal.*

### **Exercise 6: Follow-Up**

*Have the staff and consumers invite the participants back, and ask the participants to make specific arrangements to return. Have the participants share their appreciation with the staff and consumers for the visit.*

### **Exercise 7: How Did You Like the Visit?**

*In a private room ask the participants how they are feeling on the Feeling Thermometer. Ask them what they liked about the community resource and*

***discuss what the visit meant to them. Give out tokens for good feedback. For homework, ask the participants what other community resources they would like to visit.***

**END OF SESSION 10**