

The Minnesota Youth Community Learning (MYCL) Initiative, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and University, partners Konopka Institute staff at the University of Minnesota and seven local community coalitions. Their shared goal is to re-engage students with learning and school through skill-based mentoring, parental education and support, fostering school connectedness, and community capacity building.

Communities

Seven diverse community coalitions located across Minnesota are partners in the design and implementation of this Initiative. These multi-sector coalitions have a long history of successful programming and advocacy for youth.

Initiative funding has made it possible for each community coalition to hire a full-time program coordinator and an Americorps Promise fellow. Staffing and program funding for MYCL have accelerated each of the seven coalition's efforts to support youth.

Goals

The guiding principle of MYCL is that adolescent health is influenced not only by the individual strengths and vulnerabilities of adolescents themselves but also by the character of the settings in which they lead their lives. In each of the seven Minnesota communities work proceeds in four key areas:

Involved Youth

Linking high school and middle school students who are disconnected from learning with a community teacher.

Positive Parenting

Assisting parents in providing positive parenting and educational support for their middle and high school students.

School Connectedness

Assisting schools to enhance a sense of connectedness for young people.

Engaged Community

Strengthening the capacity of each MYCL Initiative coalition to address the needs of all youth in their community.

Knowledge Partnerships

As a University-housed Initiative, MYCL has a role in enhancing the way the University of Minnesota engages with communities. The Initiative's collective knowledge, information and lessons will generate new best practices and models for youth development that can be shared and used across the nation by practitioners and policy makers.

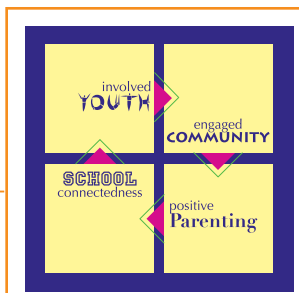
The Konopka Institute

The Konopka Institute brings expertise and understanding of best practices in working with youth and in applying these practices in a way that takes into account each community's cultural, economic and political dynamics. The Institute's reputation for working with communities to empower youth brings a reservoir of mutual trust and credibility to the project.

The MYCL Initiative also resonates with the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth & Family Initiative launched by University of

Minnesota President Robert Bruininks, which places child and adolescent development as an institutional priority.

The President's Office, Academic Health Center, Medical School and Department of Pediatrics all provide funding or matching contributions to the Initiative.



Coordinator Retreat

Community coordinators and Konopka staff meet quarterly to build skills and collaborate.

Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Adolescent Health

Division of Adolescent Health & Medicine • Department of Pediatrics

www.konopka.umn.edu • 1-800-644-6466

Paul Snyder, MSW, MDiv
612-626-8412 • psnyder@umn.edu

Pam Moore, MA
612-626-6787 • moore068@umn.edu

Mark Mahon, MA
612-625-6185 • mmahon@umn.edu

As part of the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center and Medical School, the Minnesota Youth Community Learning Initiative is housed in the Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Adolescent Health, which is part of the Division of Adolescent Health and Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics.

Staff in the Division provide research, technical assistance, training and clinical services. Supporting a wholistic perspective, the Division focuses on promoting the healthy development of children and youth.

Home to numerous programs and projects, the Division's work frequently includes community outreach, advocacy and communications. In addition to the programs listed below, the Center is renowned for a series of monographs funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and based on the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (sidebar – Add Health Series).

The Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center (PRC)

Collaborating with community-based, youth-serving organizations to promote youth development through research, training and advocacy.

Contact:

Jennifer Oliphant, MPH
612-624-1907 • oliph001@umn.edu

The State Adolescent Health Resource Center (SAHRC)

Working to strengthen the knowledge, skills and capacity of state agency adolescent health coordinators across the country.

Contact:

Kristin Teipel, MPH, BSN
612-624-0182 • teipe001@umn.edu

The Leadership Education in Adolescent Health Fellowship Training Program (LEAH)

Applying an interdisciplinary approach to prepare health professionals for leadership roles in adolescent health.

Contact:

Mae Sylvester, MS
612-626-0162 • sylve001@umn.edu

Publications On-Line

Add Health Series

Influencing Behavior

The Power of Protective Factors in Reducing Youth Violence, 2004.

Mothers' Influence on Teen Sex

Connections that Promote Postponing Sexual Intercourse, 2002.

Improving the Odds

The Untapped Power of Schools to Improve the Health of Teens, 2002.

Reducing the Risk

Connections that Make a Difference in the Lives of Youth, 1998.

Look under "Publications" at www.konopka.umn.edu

PRC Resources

A Work in Progress V.2

Building a Minnesota State Plan for Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting, 2003.

prc newsletters

Healthy Youth Development at the PRC; 2005.

Male Involvement Moves Forward; 2004.

<http://www.prc.umn.edu>
(go to "publications")

SAHRC Resources

e-adolescence

A monthly newsletter that delivers a listing of adolescent health resources, publications and web sites.

Subscribe by sending an email to boche001@umn.edu