ORGANISED BY:

Ministry of Education SINGAPORE

Ministry of Home Affairs

MSF Ministry of Social and Family Development

NCSS National Council of Social Service

YWAS Youth Work Association (Singapore)

IN SUPPORT OF:

Celebrating Social Service Partners

CONVERSATIONS ON YOUTH 2023

YOUTHS MATTER AMIDST CHANGE

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SHINE Children & Youth Services

Systemic Collaboration for Impact: The Youth COP Model

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Typical Response

You always disrupt the class!

I will send you to see the Discipline Master!

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Typical Response

You are lazy and aimless!

Go and attend the Motivational Workshop!

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Typical Response

You are a bully!

I will send you to Boys' Home together with all the bad boys!

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Typical Response

You play truant!

Go and see the counsellor!

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Important Concept in Understanding Youth-At-Risk

Significance of Labelling

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Labelling Theory: Significance of Labelling Effects

Primary Deviance

- An act of rule-breaking which results in person being labelled as deviant

Secondary Deviance

- Person accepts the deviant label and acts out accordingly in a cycle of deviancy

Symbolic Interactionism

- Self is conceptualized by one's perception of how others see him, developed through interpersonal processes and role-taking
- Self-concept is an important motivator and predictor of behaviour

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Reverse Labelling ~~Theory~~

"conscious application of positive labels and creation of prestige which are recognized by the youths' themselves, their immediate social systems and the community"

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What is Youth COP?

YOUTH COP is an **award-winning social work programme** for youth crime prevention. Started in 2007, this school-community intervention programme emphasises the **tri-partite collaboration** of the **Social Service Agency**, the **Neighbourhood Police Centre**, and the **School** in reducing juvenile delinquency.

Based on sound theoretical frameworks and working closely with stakeholders and systems, Youth COP empowers youths to reverse their negative labels and create new positive identities for sustained positive impact.

YOUTH COP sets itself apart from other existing programmes by **viewing youth-at-risk as contributors instead of liabilities** to their schools and community.

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Theoretical Frameworks of Intervention in Youth COP

1. Positive Youth Development
2. Resilience Theory
3. Systemic Interventions

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Positive Youth Development (PYD)

Traditional Youth Services	Positive Youth Development
• Focus on problems	• Focus on positive outcomes
• Reactive	• Pro-active
• Targeted youth only	• All youths including challenging youths
• Youths as recipients	• Youths as active participants

Key Attributes of PYD:

Character, Confidence, Competency, Connectedness, Care, Contribution

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Resilience Theory

(Grotberg,1995)

Grotberg organized protective factors into the following:

"I Have" – the external supports that promote resilience such as family and good role models

"I AM" - the inner strengths that develop over time and sustain those who are dealing with adversities such as calm, responsible and confident

"I CAN" – life skills and competencies such as interpersonal, problem solving skills that enable one to deal with the adversity with innovative solutions and management

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Resilience Theory

(Grotberg,1995)

Equipping Youth COP members with the following:

"I Have" – Social Workers, Police Officers, Teachers and Family members ensure that the youths have good positive supports to journey with them in handling the challenges ahead.

"I AM" - The inner strengths that develop over time as members go through a "fresh start" help build the youths' positive sense of identity.

"I CAN" - The life skills that the youths gained from the programme ensure that they would be able to deal with the adversity ahead with innovative solutions and wise choices.

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Systemic Interventions

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Systemic Collaboration for Impact

Partnering **Schools** – Leaders, teachers, students

1. Tapping on teachers' relationships with youth to nominate and encourage them to sign-up for Youth COP, using youth's strengths and abilities.
2. School's endorsement of Youth COP as a leadership program, creating a positive labelling effect for youth in program.
3. Opportunities for youth to contribute in school as leaders to recreate positive identity and labels.

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Systemic Collaboration for Impact

Partnering **Police** – Officers and the Law

1. Recruiting youth as crime-prevention leaders – getting them as allies in the fight against crime and to build commitment to stay away from offences
2. Police officers able to engage and mentor youth in crime-prevention knowledge and skills without effects of negative labelling
3. Community-outreach patrols with officers to give youth positive and meaningful roles in the community the live and play in.

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Systemic Collaboration for Impact

Partnering **Parents & Families**

1. Engaging parents through home visits for a positive platform: the Appointment Ceremony as partners and collaborators in youth's growth and progress.
2. Parents are invited to give feedback on youth's progress and contributions at home, support their goals and development.
3. Parents participate in badge-pinning moment, affirming youth's new positive identities and labels.

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Systemic Collaboration for Impact

Partnering **Community-at-large**

1. Community events and needs as opportunities for youth to contribute and serve as leaders.
2. Community spaces as resources for youth to seek support, respite and to be engaged meaningfully during free time.
3. Building positive connections between youth and their communities – key community leaders and stakeholders that help shape youth's identity in the community.

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WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF YOUTH COP?

Youth achieve:

1) Improved affiliation with school (teachers, leaders, peers, system)
2) Increased resilience & determination to stay in school and complete secondary education
3) Positive and safe relationship with the Police and the law
4) Increased pro-social behaviors and steer away from crime
5) Strengthened relationships with parents and family members
6) Develop positive identities of a leader and contributor at home, in school and in society
7) Reduced down-stream referrals of youth-at-risk (more than 98% of youth have remained in school and crime-free)

OUR HOPES

We desire to:

- grow this positive impact to more schools, students and their families
- share and partner with other SSAs to scale-up Youth COP
- work alongside with more NPCs and Police Divisions to engage more youth and lower youth crime
- onboard new stakeholders who believe and want to invest in reducing juvenile delinquency

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YOUTH COP

EST. 2007

THANK YOU!