

"The Past, Present, and Future of Youth Involvement"
Introduction Session
Washington, D.C.
December 3, 2002

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HALLY MAHLER: All right. That was a nice charge. Can I have please, Sneata [Misspelled?], Christine, and Nana? Come on up to the stage. Is Christine here? Okay, great. Come on down, if you could come up to the stage. Thank you so much to Shanti, and to Nancy and to Max for helping us really set the tone, I think, for the day. I think that at YouthNet, you bring a lot of enthusiasm to this youth involvement agenda. Although none of us really knew it in the beginning when we started out, it's turned out to be really one of the most successful pieces of the work that we're doing. The thing that people often times are most interested in and that's way this started off as really sort of a small meeting. We were just going to get together so called experts in youth involvement and why it evolved after Barcelona into such a much larger working group and I think that during the course of the day, people will talk about Barcelona and some of the other things that have happened. I just want to say that on the agenda, if you take a look at the agenda, we are going to start off by looking at the past, present and future and we are going to spin some vision. Just to get us started off in the morning, allow us to dream a little bit about the future and so again, we keep setting the tone. We are going to go from there and we are going to look at some other models of participation, recognizing what we are doing in the international arena and what we are doing in health are not really the only models of participation. In

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fact, we're way behind the game and we want to learn from other areas what people are doing. After that, we're are going to look at this really key area of monitoring, evaluation and research on youth participation because we can't answer our skeptics without being able to answer the so what. And, unfortunately, we have interesting information about the so what for the people who are actually involved, but we don't have a lot of interesting information about the so what for the beneficiaries of our program. That's an important thing to share and then the thing that I am most excited about is many of you, I don't know maybe 12 or 14 or you have signed up to take 4-5 minutes to share what your organization is doing in youth participation. I'm really most excited about this because I really don't have a clue about what the breathe [Misspelled?] is, although I suspect that each organization represented in this room probably is doing a tremendous amount and this is the first step toward better networking. And then finally, we are going to look at moving the youth participation forward and we chose four areas in which to look at moving the agenda forward. In the policy arena, in the M&E and research arena, in the program design and organizational structure of NGO's and when I say organizational structures, it's what Nancy introduced to you as sort of this shift from youth as people who do the peer education to youth as managers and administrators in their program, so that's what we are going to look at today and I'm

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very happy to facilitate this session, "The Past, Present and Future of Youth Participation" to help us spin our web and I'd like to welcome up Smita Sonti as our first [Unintelligible], actually, excuse me this is not the first one that's going, there's a different one going first. Sorry, technical problems.

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