

Project PEACE: Promoting Employment after high school through Community Expertise



Molly Taylor
Seb Prohn, Ph.D.

Partnership for People with Disabilities
Virginia Commonwealth University

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90DNCE0004-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

What is Project PEACE?

**Promoting Employment After high school through
Community Expertise**

Our Values

- Leading our research are people of color and people with disabilities
- Rooting conversations in lived experiences of our community members

Our Approach to Community Collaborations for Employment



A diagram consisting of two large, dark red circles connected by a thin white line. The line starts from the bottom-left of the first circle, extends horizontally to the left, then diagonally up and to the right to connect to the second circle. The text inside each circle is white and centered.

Multi-method
Research
Approach

Understanding
Community
Contexts

Research Methods

1. Secondary Data Review and Analysis

1. Business needs assessment survey

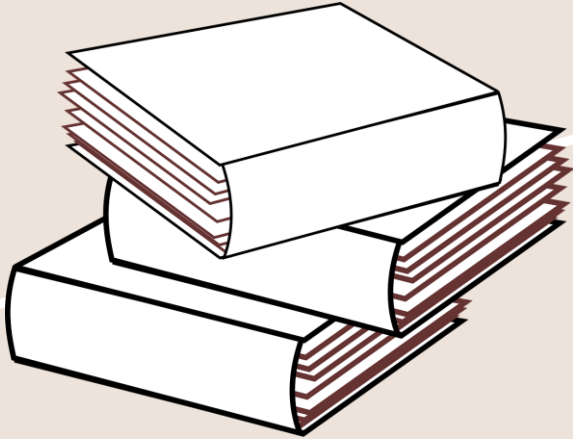
1. Community Conversations

1. Photovoice



Secondary Data Review & Analysis

Strategies for finding sources



1. Build a team of researchers with varying strengths and knowledge

2. Reach out to research and community partners for documents, reports, and papers

3. Look in unexpected places (school division websites, appendices in other reports, ect...)

Community Conversations

- Method
 - Recruitment
 - Who do you invite?
 - Session structure
 - 2 breakout sessions, whole group harvest
- Challenges
 - IRB Approval

“I really enjoyed this morning, how we opened up the session with individuals telling their story”

Community Conversations: Preliminary Results

Barriers to Employment

Accessibility

Lack of Resources

Attitudes/Mindsets

Solutions for Employment

Changing
attitudes/mindsets

Supporting
Youth

Supporting
Employers

Using
Technology

Supporting
Educators

```

graph TD
    SY[supporting youth] --> SYCP[supporting youth: community partnerships]
    SY --> SYER[supporting employers: partnership/relationships]
    SY --> SYCAM[changing attitudes/mindsets: community partnerships]
    SY --> SYEC[supporting educators: collaboration]
    SY --> SYEM[supporting employers: mentorship]
    SY --> SYYM[supporting youth: mentorship]

    SE[supporting employers] --> SEED[supporting youth: education]
    SE --> SEER[supporting employers: education]
    SE --> SEED2[supporting educators: education]
    SE --> SECAM[changing attitudes/mindsets: education]
    SE --> SEM[supporting employers: mentorship]
    SE --> SYM[supporting youth: mentorship]

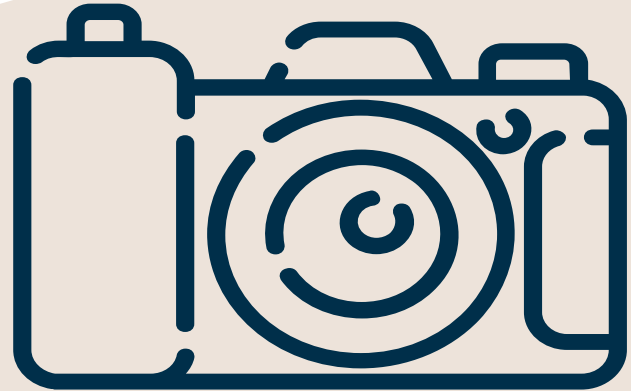
    ED[supporting educators] --> EDY[supporting youth: education]
    ED --> EDER[supporting employers: education]
    ED --> EED[supporting educators: education]
    ED --> ECAM[changing attitudes/mindsets: education]
    ED --> CAM[changing attitudes/mindsets]

    SYCP --> SYER
    SYER --> SEER
    SEER --> EED
    EED --> SECAM
    SECAM --> SEM
    SEM --> SYM
    SYM --> SYCP

```

Photovoice

- Method
 - Recruitment
 - How do you get youth to participate?
 - Session structure
 - 6 sessions
- Challenges
 - Recruitment
 - Engagement



Photovoice Sessions

1

Registration Meeting
Answering Questions
Parental Consent

2

Project Overview
Consent Discussion
Telling Stories

3

Camera ethics
Taking a good
storytelling picture

6

Taking quality
pictures
SHOWeD Questions
Introduce Topic 1

Small Group Discussion
~20 Minutes
Introduce Topic 2

Small Group Discussion
~20 Minutes
Whole Group
Next Steps of Project

Challenges to community-engaged research

Researcher-Participant
Trust

IRB/Timeframe

Creating your
research team

Takeaways & Strategies

Strengthening
Community
Partnerships

Centering the voices of
youth with IDD

Thank You!

Feel free to reach out and follow along through these platforms:



@projectpeace@vcu.edu

@smprohn@vcu.edu

@taylorml9@vcu.edu



[@ProjectPEACE_VA](https://twitter.com/ProjectPEACE_VA)



[@projectpeace_va](https://www.instagram.com/projectpeace_va)