

YIMBY! (Yes In My Back Yard) – How Oregon 4-H Is Including Diverse Youth

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: 15 minute oral presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Public health programs and professionals with interest in diversity issues

ABSTRACT: As the American and Oregon populations are becoming more diverse, organizations are required to include participants from multiple diverse communities. However, transitioning to practices that include diverse participants can be challenging for organizations. 4-H at the national and state levels is in process of assessing its current status and planfully altering its practices to become more welcoming of diverse youth. Oregon is specifically focusing on inclusion of Latino youth and youth with disabilities. With multiple stakeholder groups and a rich history of long-standing traditions, 4-H encounters challenges at numerous levels in diversity inclusion. This session provides a case-study of how diversity practices can be incorporated by an organization. The first panelist, Ms. Pamela Rose, will provide an overview of 4-H and the national initiative for inclusion; the second panelist, Mr. Mario Magana, will describe work of the past 15 years in developing programs for Latino youth; the third panelist, Ms. Meghann Fenn, will describe the recent initiative on including youth with disabilities; and the discussant, Dean Tammy Bray, will provide responses to the presentations from the perspective of a larger diversity initiative. A separate abstract has been submitted for each panelist.

OBJECTIVE(S): During this panel presentation participants will: consider the elements of a positive youth development organization in their community; examine 4-H strategies designed to increase level of inclusivity; discuss inclusivity as an element of individual, family, organization, and community health; and, determine how panel information is applicable to their work in healthy diverse and inclusive programs.

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