



**Puff, Puff, Pass the F.A.C.T.S.:**  
**Positive Youth Development in Action**  
The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado  
Presenter: Corey Manning  
August 27, 2025

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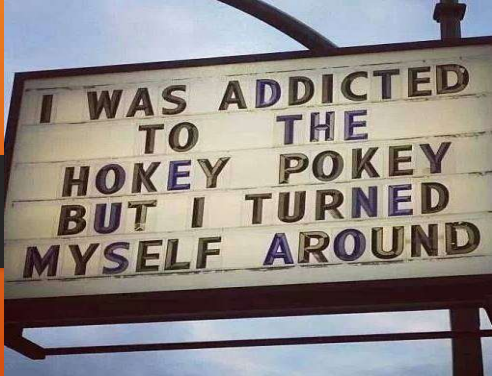
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**Principles of Positive Youth Development (PYD)**




Strengths-Based: Build on youth assets.




Intentional Process: Proactive design.



Youth as Active Agents: Youth shape learning.



Community-Focused: Supported by ecosystems.



Leadership & Civic Engagement: Develop contributors.

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## Strengths-Based: Build on youth assets.



### Why do young people use alcohol and other drugs?

- Curiosity
- Stress
- "To have fun."
- "Everybody does it."
- "All the cool kids are doing it."
- Lack of information
- Unknown expectations

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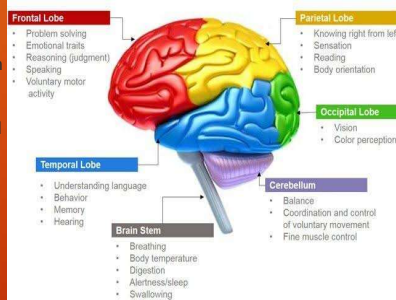
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## Intentional Process: Proactive design.

- Alcohol and other drugs interfere with forming connections in a teen's brain.
- These connections are intended to be formed *without the presence of alcohol or other drugs*.
- A brain in transition from child to adult is more vulnerable to addiction.



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**Youth as Active Agents:**  
Youth shape learning.

**F**amily  
**A**ge  
**C**ravings  
**T**olerance  
**S**urroundings

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**Community-Focused**

**Social Norms**

- People tend to do what they perceive everyone else is doing.
- What people *think* everyone else is doing becomes the norm. But...
- ...perceptions are not always accurate. Still...
- ...behaviors occur based on false norms.



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**The Social Norms Approach to Prevention**

- ▶ Gross exaggerations
- ▶ False perceptions
- ▶ Perception influences reality
- ▶ Affects youth
- ▶ Research-based prevention

Perception



Reality

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### How Discipleship/Mentoring Can Support a Young Person (PYD Lens)

Build knowledge together

Spot warning signs early

Express care and concern

Co-create healthy boundaries

Affirm strengths & resilience

Use real-life examples

Share perspectives with empathy

Connect to support networks

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### Leadership & Civic Engagement



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### Questions? Comments? Epiphanies?



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