

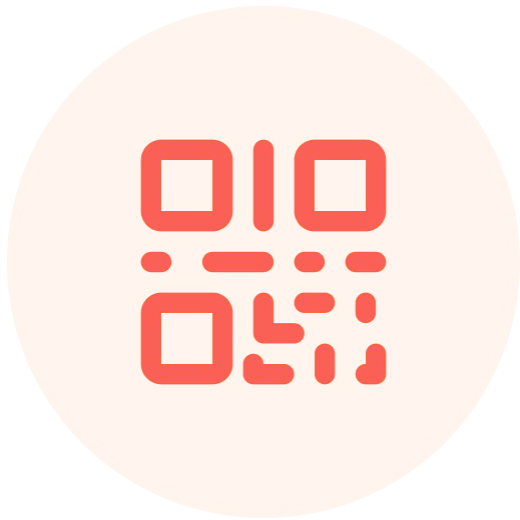
**The challenge is in the moment;
the time is always now.
-James Baldwin**

Rachael E. Gibson, PhD, MPH, MS, MEd

Maine Family Planning Conference

7 April 2023

slido



**Join at slido.com
#1504029**

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What city/county do you work in?

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What is your role?

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When you think about the current climate and CSE, how do you feel?

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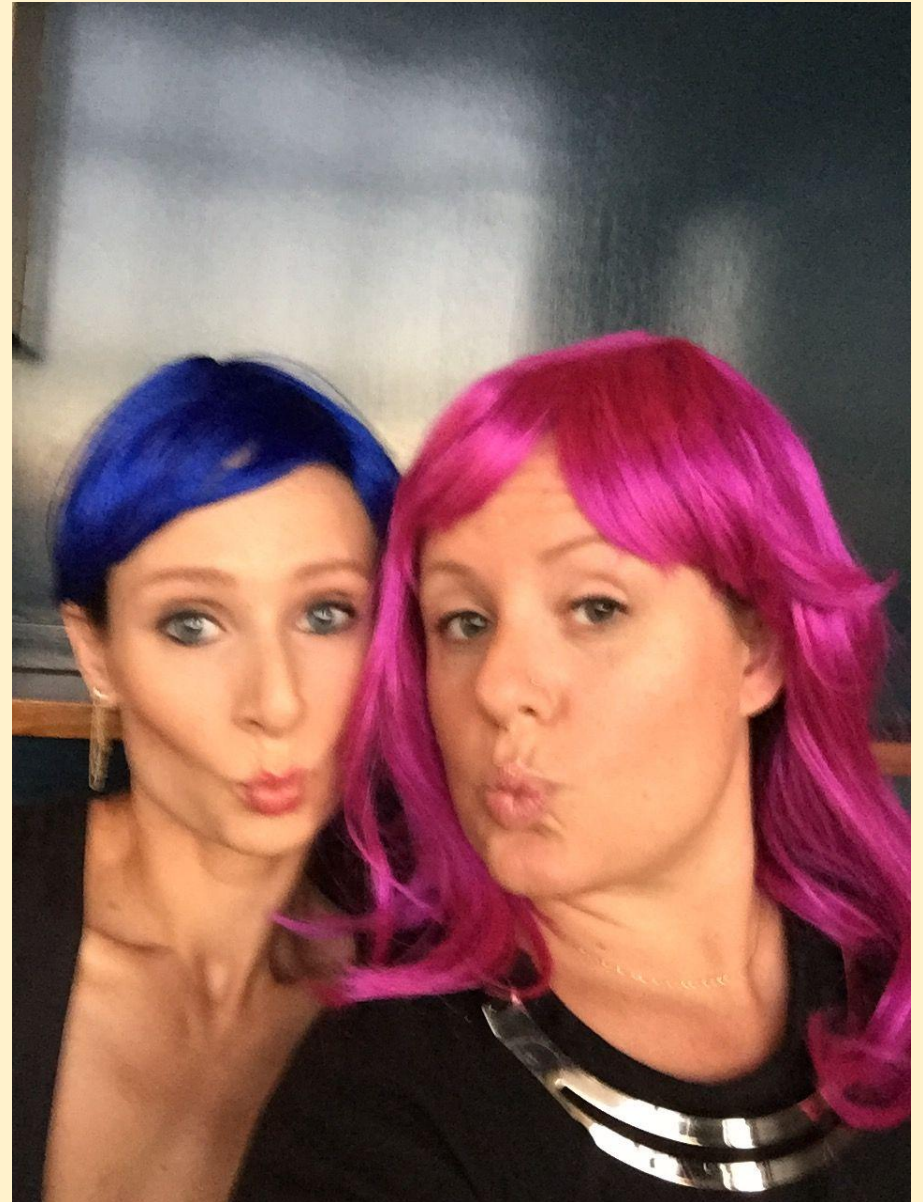
How do you want to feel when you think about CSE and this work?

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WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

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What's your why?

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A large, intense fire is burning on a wooden structure, possibly a ship or a large building, against a dark night sky filled with stars. The fire is bright orange and yellow, with thick smoke rising from it. The wooden structure is visible in the foreground, with several vertical planks or beams. The overall scene is dramatic and fiery.

AMERICA: SERIES FINALE



Florida man...

Nina Giddens: Gender Neutral Bathroom Win at Xavier University!



**Michigan Senate
passes
Equal Rights
Amendment!**



Jaden Turner-Oliphant: Queer Sex Education Meets Rural Tennessee



Cinamon: Bring Youth Together on an International Scale



MNYAA at OutFront Minnesota's Youth Summit



Texas Youth Activist Alliance



Alabama Youth Activist Alliance Spectrum Prom



Nessren Ourdyl: The Muslim Students Organizing for Justice Conference



URGENT ACTION!

New York could decide to put abortion pills on
SUNY and CUNY campuses THIS WEEK! And we're
hearing legislators need to hear from you, like, now!

Take this 30 second action to contact
NYS Senate and Assembly leadership!

bit.ly/nyforabortionpills

**Advocates
for Youth**
Young. Powerful. Taking Over.



NATIONAL YOUTH
HIV & AIDS
AWARENESS DAY

APRIL 10

cdc.gov/healthyyouth



RACIAL JUSTICE IN SEX EDUCATION: E-Learning Modules



sexuality and
reproductive rights

of people with

Disabilities

amaze



AND



MAINE

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What's your win?

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Individual Growth



Build Community



Hold Space



Support Youth



★ **Individual Growth**

★ **Build Community**

★ **Hold Space**

★ **Support Youth**

Youth-Adult Partnerships

Tips for Adults when Working with Youth Leaders

A youth-adult partnership (YAP) is one in which adults work in full partnership with young people on issues facing youth and/or on programs and policies affecting youth. The YAP framework uplifts youth experiences and encourages young people to lend their expertise and be part of designing programs and policies that impact them.

NINE TIPS FOR ADULTS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUTH

- 1. Communicate openly,** especially in regards to the required level of involvement. The roles and tasks that derive from the projects should be meaningful and evenly distributed.
- 2. Be honest** about the expectations of the project goal and youth contribution. Make sure that the expectations for youth are realistic and fair.
- 3. Establish clear and tangible goals.** The goal of partnering with youth is not just about starting a project and meeting the goal but to create a long-term relationship and to build more support for current projects and future ones. Goals do not necessarily need to be related to the organization but could be a goal that aims for personal growth.
- 4. Understand where young people are coming from.** There will be times that they will say no. Just put yourself in their shoes and acknowledge that they need to say no to keep up with other important responsibilities in their life. They also need the energy to continue to do the work. Do not react negatively to a young person saying they are unable to take something on.
- 5. Acknowledge each individual's voice.** Just because you hear one young individual say something, it does not mean another young individual feels the same way. It is essential to recognize that youth voices are different and vary. Each voice should be valued and considered.
- 6. Support and connect** young people to opportunities. Partnering with youth for community change is great, but providing or putting youth in the right direction of resources for social, mental, behavioral, and emotional services can make a big difference in a young person's life.
- 7. Seek out resources.** As adults, there may be a disconnect with youth because of generational differences and ageism. It is important to seek out **resources** on youth health and development to learn how to partner with young people. It is equally vital to attend different training sessions and workshops on the topic.
- 8. Be flexible.** Young people go through much more than what people think they do. Life does not always go the way that we want it, so it is important to be accommodating to each young individual's life and to be understanding of the schedule changes.
- 9. Create a safe and welcoming space for everyone.** Some ways to create a safe space for all include being a friendly face, using appropriate language, being non-judgemental, accepting, and reassuring how young people are needed/wanted for the projects to be able to make a difference.



WHAT'S YOUR WHY?



An aerial photograph of a dense forest during autumn. The trees are covered in vibrant orange, yellow, and red foliage, with some evergreen trees still visible in green. A dark, calm lake is nestled within the forest in the upper center of the image. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

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-James Baldwin**