



Contact: Dorianne Silva
Phone: (912)272-9755
Email: dsilva@yapinc.org
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YAP Community-Based Approach with High-Risk Youth to be Highlighted at Forum in France

November 1, Harrisburg, PA—Two members of YAP's international team will participate in a plenary address and facilitate a workshop at the forum, "*Engaging and Empowering Young People to Participate in a Collective Social Action for Change*," which will take place on November 4-6 in Lyon, France.

The Forum is sponsored by the French organization, Comité National de Liaison des Associations de Prévention Spécialisées (CNLAPS) and will promote best practices, big ideas and youth-empowered approaches to engage in social change. CNLAPS and the French Embassy's Office for the Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations are generously sponsoring YAP's attendance and participation at the forum. As the representative of French NGOs in the United States, the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations aims at facilitating partnerships and collaboration amongst French and American civil service organizations.

CNLAPS invited YAP to share its approach to neighborhood-based recruitment in delivering intensive community-based programs for high-risk youth. The invitation was the result of a YAP presentation in Warsaw in 2011 where a France-based academic who attended the presentation was impressed with the community development component of YAP's model.

Dorianne Silva, YAP's Deputy CEO and President of International Programs will participate in the conference plenary on November 4 to briefly introduce YAP's community-based wraparound model, and how it integrates youth empowerment in service delivery for the highest risk youth. The following day, Ms. Silva will be joined by Diana Matteson, YAP's International Development Associate where together they will facilitate a workshop entitled, "*Engage and Empower: Youth Advocate Programs, Strengthening Communities, One Biography at a Time*". Both presentations will demonstrate how high-risk youth can be successfully and safely served in their communities.

The workshop will focus on YAP's 5 guiding principles of the model: individualized service planning, family engagement, using a strength-based approach, adhering to a no-reject policy and cultural competence, with a special emphasis on neighborhood-based recruitment. During the workshop, YAP will also facilitate a discussion about youth-led systems change, strengthening communities, using the YAP model to re-connect disconnected youth and highlight the scope of YAP's work across diverse communities in the US and around the world.

The participants of the Forum will include streetworkers, policy makers and stakeholders from around the world. YAP is the only North American presenter honored to join colleagues from Europe presenting on various topics related to the conference theme.

###