



Breakout session

# Community Voice to Action Steps: Gaining Deep Understanding from Lived Experience



2024

Health Policy Summit  
Workshop

# Community Voice to Action Steps: Gaining Deep Understanding From Lived Experience

INTERACT  
FOR HEALTH

Cohear

# Agenda

**I. Introduction**

**II. Why are we here?**

**III. Framing the project**

**IV. Engaging the Community**

**V. Gathering with Purpose**

INTERACT  
FOR HEALTH

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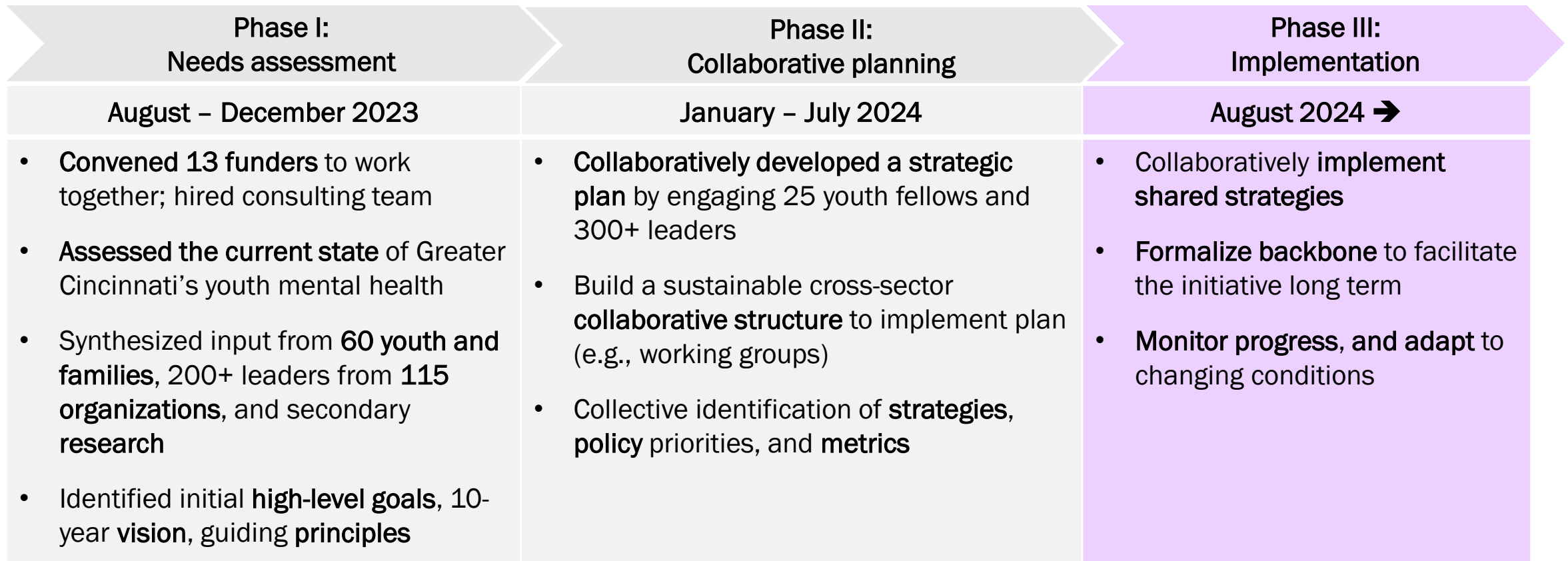
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Operations

# Why are we here?



HEY! is a **diverse coalition** of over 300 community leaders, healthcare providers, educators, policymakers, families, and most importantly, youth, working to create a community that supports the **mental well-being of all youth** from ages 0-24 in Greater Cincinnati, especially those facing the greatest barriers and disparities.

# How did we build community-wide momentum for change?



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# Framing the Project

## **Purpose**

What is our “WHY” or as Simon Sinek says, “The compelling higher purpose that inspires us and acts as the source of all we do.”

## **Decision Makers**

Identify the people who have the agency to make policy change based upon what they hear.

## **Key Questions**

What key questions do you need to answer to achieve your goals?

## **Documentation**

Maintaining shared expectations requires clear reference materials that act as a resource

## **Goals**

What do you hope to accomplish when the project is complete?

## **Demographics**

What lived experience do you need to inform your process and guide your strategy. - Axes of Diversity

## **Timeline**

Are there any other projects that this work supports or folds into?

## **Deliverables**

What will be produced through this project?

# Framing the Project: Ideal Project Road Map



**Defining** the purpose, goals, stakeholders, lived experience,



**Organizing** Bridgebuilders with lived experience to connect with the everyday experts.



**Gathering** people with relevant lived experience to meet and share ideas directly with **Decision Makers** through solutions oriented facilitation



**Processing** feedback to distill clear insights, actionable ideas, and innovative strategies for change.



**Sustaining** engagement to maintain relationships and receive the continued feedback necessary to test plans and achieve equitable outcomes.

Cohear



# Engaging the Community

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We believe that **real relationships** are essential to community engagement. That's why we've built a powerful civic network of Cohear "**Bridgebuilders**" who are committed to helping get new voices to the table. We utilize proven organizing strategies to activate the Bridgebuilder network and empower **everyday experts** to participate.

It all starts with a



# Engaging the Community

Achieving scale through the **Snowflake** model.



Each time we recruit a new Bridgebuilder, we ask them for 1-3 names of other potential Bridgebuilders. That way, each new Bridgebuilder helps lead to even more new people, and the network grows **organically** through warm introductions.

# Engaging the Community

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The ideal Bridgebuilder will have:

- Large personal networks of **trust**
- **Lived experience** and/or connections in traditionally hard to reach communities.
- A **desire** to be a part of the work.

# Activity!



Make a list of 5-10 people in your personal and professional lives who are bridgebuilder types.

If you don't have a project in mind... use Hey! for inspiration.

# Gathering with Purpose

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## How to set the stage:

### **Establish shared expectations**

Share the agenda early. Make sure all stakeholders understand their role and the EE's and Decision Maker(s) have the right experience for the conversation and understand why they are there.

### **Make it productive**

Be strategic about who is in the room, including who is guiding the conversation– I.E. Facilitator. Create a space for conversation AND recording.



# Gathering with Purpose

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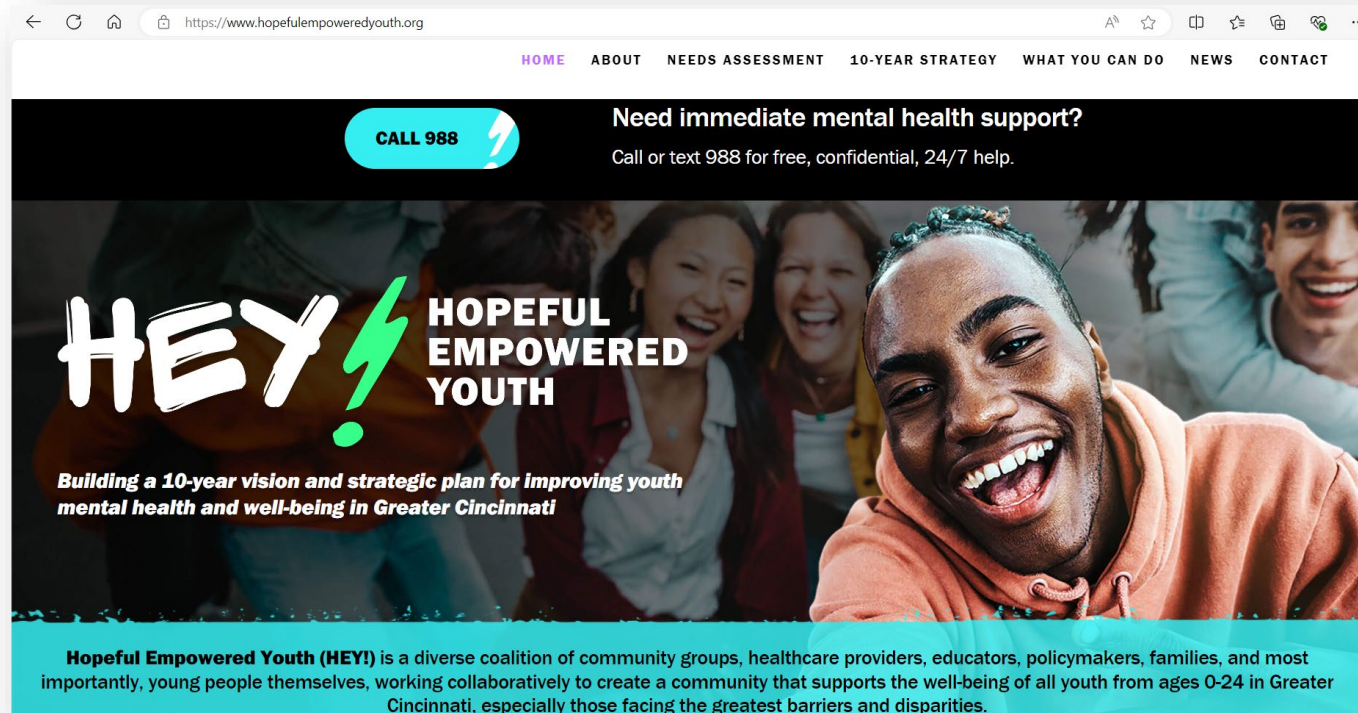
## Brainstorm Activity!

How can we create an atmosphere of inclusion when we gather?



Learn more @ [www.hopefulempoweredyouth.org](http://www.hopefulempoweredyouth.org)

AND  
[www.wecohear.com](http://www.wecohear.com)







We value your opinion!

Please fill out our evaluation using the QR code to the right or in your program

