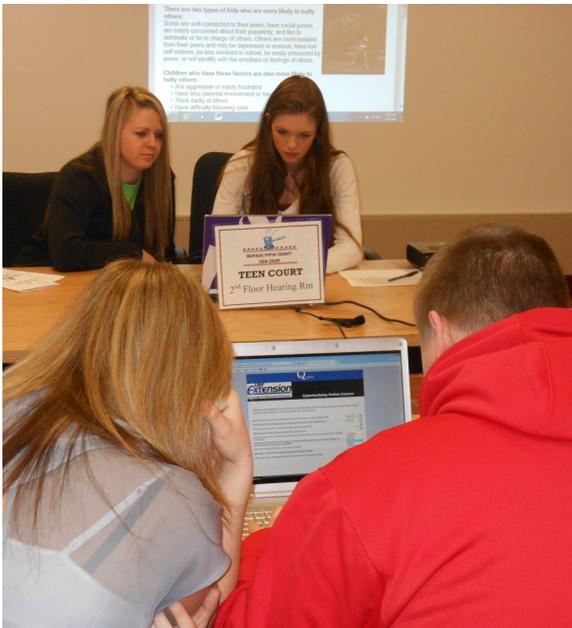


Over the course of five months, Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court held three panelist mini trainings. These formal trainings focused on developing skills in restorative justice measures, effective mentoring, critical questioning, deliberations in bullying cases and workforce readiness skills for panelists and offenders.

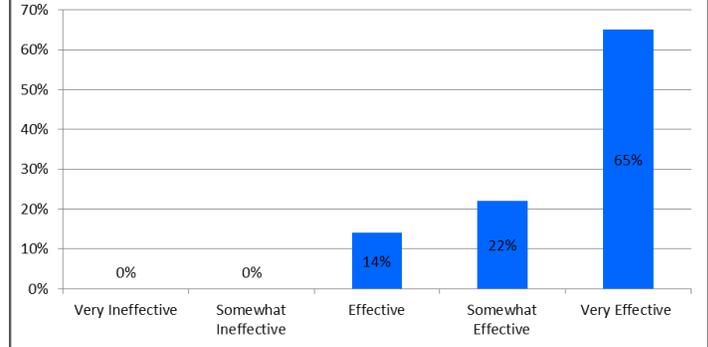
A Panelist's Perspective...

"The most valuable part of the training was cohesion among fellow panelists. It's good to have a strong working relationship."

The goal of these mini-trainings were to provide professional development opportunities for panelists; keep panelists up to date and engaged in the Teen Court process; develop meaningful, authentic sanctions for offenders; and strengthen the relationship between students from the six different schools as well as the youth-adult partnership between panelists and coordinators.



How Effective was the Training?



86% or 30 out of the 35 Teen Court panelists have attended at least one mini-training offered. After each mini-training students were asked a series of three evaluation prompts: How effective was the training?, What was the most valuable part of the training?, and list one skill developed or one aspect of Teen Court you thought different about. As a result of the trainings 100% of the time panelists reported the mini-training being effective.

A Panelist's Perspective...

"One thing I thought differently about is that Teen Court is not just about justice— it's about bringing community members together."

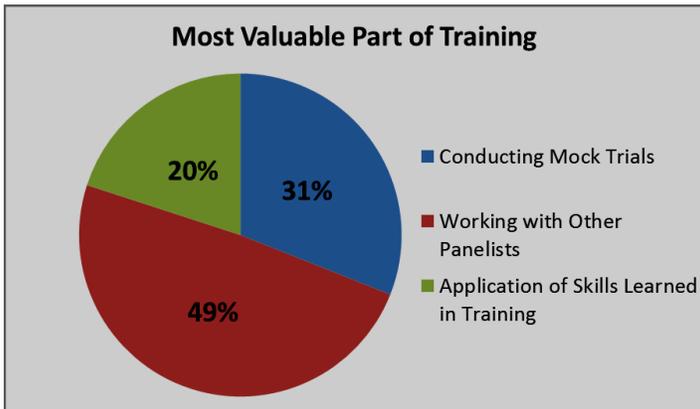
During the mini-training sessions, students created a list of individual characteristics and skills gained as a result of serving as a Teen Court panelist. The following are a few of the skills and characteristics identified by students:

- Flexible
- Cooperation
- Open-minded
- Non-discriminatory
- Problem solving skills
- Unbiased
- Listening skills
- Teamwork
- Respect
- Confidence

A Panelist's Perspective...

"I now think differently about how the sanctions benefit the offender. I also heard ideas for new sanctions I plan on using in future cases."

By participating in the mini-trainings, Teen Court panelists engaged in life-long learning activities. During the workforce readiness training, students identified and developed tools to put apply to their resumes. For those who attended the training on bullying, they had the opportunity to participate in a Cyberbullying Online Course developed by University of Wisconsin- Extension. Panelists not only strengthened relationships with fellow students at the mentoring training, but they were also involved in creating a position description for mentors and provided input on what responsibilities and qualifications to include. Panelists were also encouraged to talk to their respective schools about how Teen Court can benefit the panelist, school and youth offender.



Teen Court panelists found working with other students from different schools to be one of the most valuable aspects of the mini-trainings. This provides panelists the opportunity to become familiar with those they serve with during a Teen Court case.



Students from a media class at Durand High School were present during the mini-trainings to interview Teen Court panelists and coordinators to gain insight and knowledge of Teen Court. The footage from the mini-trainings will be used to create a 30 second Public Service Announcement, as well as a documentary to highlight Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court.

A Panelist's Perspective...

"I gained more leadership skills and more confidence in my role in Teen Court".

A Teen Court Resource Hub is in the early stages of development. The online hub will provide resources and information such as sanction information for youth offenders, information for parents, and examples of sanctions. Mini-trainings for next year will focus on how panelists and youth offenders can utilize the resource hub and the topic of truancy, which has been an increasing violation seen in Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court.

