

September 19, 2013 YAB Statewide Meeting

Attendees:

JLC: Youth: Megan

Staff: Cathy Marie-Chezik Mofta

NC Region: Youth: Paul

NC Staff: Hope Tressler, Stephanie Armbruster

NE Region: Youth: Tiesha, Rob, DeMara,

Staff: Linda Rolley

South Central Region: Youth: Dominic, Steven, Maranda, Bettu

Staff: Leasia Ayers-Caswell, Betsy Glossner, Don Farner, Amanda Knaub

South East Region (WebEx): Youth: Princess, Danae

Staff: Yasmeen Faruq, Dawn Lucus, Julia Sullender

SW Region(WebEx): Youth: Brandi, Mecca

Staff: Rebecca Shaffer, Crystal Rivera

PA Partnership: Staff Todd Lloyd

CWRC: Cindy Gore, Barbara Huggins, Chris Nobles, Meghan O'Hare, Chris Reese

- Welcome and Introductions
- Explanation was provided for Family Finding and Family Group Decision Making (FGDM)
 - Family Finding - When a family starts receiving Children and Youth services they attempt to locate family/ kin for support especially if the child or youth is being removed from the home. Even though the child is in care, they don't lose their family too
 - FGDM – When transition plan is being worked on the youth will be advised there is going to be a conference and the youth and family decides who they want to attend to help support them through different transitions. It could be a coach, pastor or anyone who the youth feels can help with the transition. This gives the family more power and control over what happens in the youth's life
 - Judges need to know about these services to talk to the caseworkers and family about the services to make sure the right ones are being provided
 - Administrative office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) is helping judges understand what Family Finding and FGDM is
 - They created a document – “bench card” that gives judges questions they can ask right from the bench about Family Group Decision Making and Family Finding
 - The AOPC has asked for YAB's input on the Youth portion of the Key Questions sheet under both the Family Finding and the FGDM (YAB helped the AOPC last year with the *Check This Out* poster).
 - The following recommendations were made for *Key Questions* under Youth for FGDM:

- ✓ Take out Guardian ad Litem – Use lawyer instead
- ✓ Use “FGDM”
- ✓ Have a name/ Calling it something more generic. Not all agencies have adopted it
- ✓ The order of questions – some prompts of explanation - 2, 3, 1, 4
- ✓ Ask youth about transition plan?
(as worker)
- The following recommendations were made for *Key Questions* under Youth for Family Finding:
 - ✓ Don’t use “love” so freely. Say, “Someone you are comfortable living with”
 - ✓ # 4- take out, “*Sleeping at friend’s house*”. Change to “*Do you have a friend or mentor you spend a lot of time with . . .*”
 - ✓ Prompt youth about past adults / caregivers to give more options (teacher, etc. watch of care for
 - ✓ Use at any age!!
- Presentation from SWAN.
 - Michelle – Former Foster Care Youth
 - Video on Michell’s story called the *Life Book*. Michell then spoke about her experiences and what a child goes through in care and how the Child Prep helped her
 - Tanisha Dvonne English from SWAN gave a presentation on *Child Prep and Child Profile* and working with youth and helping youth face the issues that they have and are going through.
- Regional Report Outs and good discussion on what is being worked on:

North East – Age Appropriate Freedoms

Strategic Plan

- Age appropriate freedoms / permanency
 - Top 10 TIPS for foster care
 - In process on working on survey
 - New format
- Strengths
 - Dedication / Passion
 - Networking & Communications
 - Our Members and Staff
- Challenges

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- Consistency of members
- “New Members”
- Time
- Tasks
 - Annual Picnic

Next Steps:

- Reformatting Survey
- Community Service Events
- Distributing Top 10 and Survey

North East Suggestion

- Keep New Members up to date
 - Schedule in advance, pick member meetings
- Divide & Conquer
- Contact PPI SWAN and County Commissioner as external members
- Use Your external member Power

SC – Age Appropriate Freedoms & Safety

1. Age appropriate freedoms; Gather and review safety assessment and research
 2. Law related to safety as well as draft a recommendation
 3. Turnover in youth leadership and inconsistent attendance by youth member to work on strategic plan at the additional six yearly meetings
- Challenge Suggestions
 - Future Goals
 - Reform Leadership Roles
 - Had a recruitment party (Not many people coming)
 - External Members ☺ Awesome stuff
 - IL Networking – Groups (Out Reach)
 - Youth make connections to internal/ external members (Call / email)
 - Youth should lead (Administrator)
 - Have consistency
 - Use #YABSWAG

SE / JLC

Current Projects

- Education Success Guide
- Potential 2013 – 2014 YFC Project
- Re-entry or S.I.L.

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- Updating our *Know Your Rights Guide* with Fostering Connections
- Medical Assistance

Strengths / Accomplishments:

- DHS printing Edu Guides to distribute to Philly Service providers

Challenges / Next Steps:

- Youth projects are becoming too broad and difficult to accomplish
- Pick topics prior to the kick-off or work shops

Suggestions

- What is goal, what will be achieved, keep reminding what goal is every meeting
- Focus on one topic at a time
- Updating new members, keep agenda. Find a way to mediate them
- Always focus on why task is/needs to be done
- Feedback keeps spirits high, short-term goals have timelines

NC – Age Appropriate Freedoms

- Check list / Spreadsheet
- Roundtable/ Summit
- Create a survey about age appropriate freedoms, Compare / Contrast
- End Goal is: To have more uniformity

Strengths:

- Youth feedback and engagement – Quality Floaters
- Age Appropriate Freedoms is a new goal
 - Completed re-entry awareness
 - Planned community service event 10/1/13
 - Recruitment event in June

Challenges

- Consistent members
- Lack of leadership

- Open discussion
 - Discussed ways to reach out to prospective YAB members
 - Discussed topics and activities for regional/ local meetings

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- The support for YAB regions have be divided between Chris Nobles and Barbara Huggins. Chris will have North West, North Central, and South West. Barb will have North East, Central, and South East

- Action Items and Reminders
 - Copies of document will be forward to all regions with the meeting minutes
 - YAB things are being provided for regions – pencils / pens / water bottles
 - Next YAB meeting, November 14th, open up to any youth who is committed has potential leadership ability, and has an interest please invite them.
 - YAB has been nominated for *Youth Thrive* award. 137 applicants. PA YAB is on the final list of 15. The people judging for the award will be at the next YAB meeting
 - Be sure to submit articles for the Blast
 - Send meeting updates and minutes to Janice to be posted on the YAB website
 - Be sure to send tracking sheets, meeting minutes and sign in sheets to Janice

- Agenda Topics for Next Meeting
 - Ways to recruit

Next YAB Statewide Meeting Thursday, November 14, 2013 – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Please have RSVP's with names of all attending to Janice by 11/4/13 –
jtc30@pitt.edu