

January 14, 2014 YAB Statewide Meeting

Attendees:

NC Region: Youth: Jason,

Staff: Stephanie Armbruster

(WebEx) Youth: Ashley, Shian

(WebEx) Staff: Hope Tressler

NE Region: Youth: Katie, Cheryl, Demara, Colin, Michael,

Staff: Janice Reindel, Jenn Richter, Rachel Green,

(WebEx) Staff: Lori Chaffers, Rachel Green

South Central Region: Youth: Betty, Steven, Maranda

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

South East Region: Youth: Mariah

Staff: Stephanie Oliver, Madison Leech

(WebEx): Youth: Alaysia

Staff: Tiffany Thornton

SW Region: Youth: Brandi

Staff: Laura Wussick

JLC: Youth: Meghan

Staff: Kathy

OCYF: David Derbes

PA Partnership: (WebEx): Todd Lloyd

CWRC: Cindy Gore, Barbara Huggins, Chris Nobles, Meghan O'Hare, Denise Hoffman Octavia

1. Welcome, Introductions and Ice Breaker

- Reviewed and approved November 14, 2013 YAB Meeting Minute with one change: Added Miranda to attendance for last meeting
- Reviewed handouts for The BLAST, ACA, and Retreat Logo Contest

2. “Families Community United” Presentation

- Parent Ambassador and Project Manager for *Families Community United* (FCU), Denise Hoffman from the Child Welfare Resource Center gave a presentation on the purpose and goals of *Families Community United*
 - Just as Barb and Chris and the YAB team work with the youth, the FCU work with the parents to make sure they get what they need to make families better
 - FCU has members throughout the state. The goal is to make families healthy and keep them together. They do this by working on various projects with the counties and parents – just as youth do in YAB. They want to make sure the parents are “at the table” when decisions are made.

- They are currently working on Brochures and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) booklet for birth parents
- Other projects they have worked on are
 - ✓ Father Engagement and including Fathers as part of the decisions
 - ✓ Conducted Family engagement survey for a county
- FCU has same goals as YAB – Wanting to make our families better

3. Strategic Plan Report Out – Broke into regions to list their projects

- South Central Region
 - Projects currently working on
 - ✓ Met with students at Dickenson Law School – Discussed placement and education. Good meeting – will meet with them again in April
 - ✓ Working on Age Appropriate Freedoms
 - Each county will be meeting with an administrator
 - Scheduling meeting to review provider contacts and draft the IL's addendum
 - ✓ Starting January will have a rewards program with punch cards for attendance. Will have a rewards program. Will have a drawing for a prize if a youth has 5 punches on their card. The prizes vary – example gift card (Copy of SC Punch Card attached)
 - ✓ Working on schedule for new year
 - ✓ Engaging with other counties to have other youth join
 - Strengths
 - ✓ Finding ways to meet their areas of improvement
 - Areas of Improvement
 - ✓ Recruitment
 - Feedback from group
 - ✓ Good idea for the punch cards
 - ✓ Trying to have other counties to become involved and by offering the punch cards, it gets the staff to bring the youth and see what is happening and the youth might want to come back
- North Central
 - Projects currently working on
 - ✓ Focusing on youth being committed and showing up
 - Feedback from group
 - ✓ Some feel by using food it is “bribing” people to come and feel that it is not the purpose of the meetings

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- South West
 - Projects currently working on
 - ✓ Age Appropriate Freedoms
 - Continued work on project of the Age Appropriate Freedom survey (this is an “open ended survey) and prepared to present to future Foster Parents
 - Strengths
 - ✓ Completed Survey and did have active participants
 - Areas of Improvement
 - ✓ Focusing on current members
 - ✓ Will work on recruitment; however, will work with those that currently attend the meetings
 - Feedback from group
 - ✓ Recommended doing a fun event just for those that worked on the survey
- North East
 - Projects currently working on
 - ✓ Age appropriate freedoms – Started with Permanency – Finished the top ten
 - Survey is completed in paper form
 - Working on logistics – i.e. distribution
 - ✓ Community Service Events
 - Collected non-perishable donations and are determining who it will be donated to
 - Collaborating on a regional community service collaborative event in March
 - Confirmed YAB dates for next six months
 - Starting a YAB Mentoring Program
 - Strengths
 - ✓ Alumni members and staff support
- South East
 - Projects currently working on
 - ✓ Encouraging new members to come – teaching new members
 - ✓ Working on Community Project – *Centergy Project*
 - Strengths
 - ✓ More participants are attending – Have increased since the beginning of the year
 - ✓ Have interesting speakers
- JLC
 - Projects currently working on
 - ✓ Age appropriate Freedoms

- ✓ Permanency and Housing
- ✓ Appropriate placements for older youth in care
- Strengths
 - ✓ A lot of passion regarding the older youth in care project
 - ✓ Created a survey and distributed to about 45 youth for their feedback regarding their experiences. Will bring back to stakeholders to see where the focus should be
 - ✓ Challenge is to connect with the stakeholders

4. Age Appropriate Freedoms

- Look at the Age Appropriate Freedom document to make sure it is the way the team wants it to look

Reminder: This is a guideline of what expressing what youth has to say and take it to those who what to hear

- Broke into team for each section. The report-out are attached to these minutes
- The document will be updated by Chris and Barb and presented at the next meeting
- Discussion on what the next steps will be after the next meeting
 - It has taken 6 months and two statewide meetings to complete. That is GREAT
 - Send to counties and provider agencies
 - It was suggested that a core group of YAB members meet with OCYF about this work, take to the Regional offices and then present at conferences in panels etc. where the participants are members of the Foster Parents Association and Private Provider Association, because these places are where the youth are living
 - Also suggested that this be placed in the contracts with the counties and Private Providers
 - Take information back to the IL Coordinators and build a relationship with them
 - JLC is willing to draft a letter back to the Private Providers providing information on what counties/ Private Providers are providing this
 - Have a communication plan so that everyone is communicating this in the same way, and the thought behind the decisional
 - Give it a test run once ready to roll out
 - Expressed that, on the local level, it is good to go through the Foster Care Coordinator in order to have changes made
 - Good to talk about this at the Youth Retreat

5. What was good

- We are awesome
- We are able to talk about changes
- Appreciate the morning and afternoon breaks
- Keep in mind, “It is not the Number of those that attend the Regional Meetings, but the Quality of Work that is done”

• What can be Improved

- Like discussions at report outs
- Have a list of things to discuss and make it separate
- More sharing times with other regions. Like hearing what other regions are doing and getting ideas
- Like the time frames listed on the agenda
- Be mindful of people on the WebEx. Be sure to include them in discussions and not as an afterthought
- Have important items on agenda first for those on the WebEx – in case they need to leave early
- When having breakouts have one group stay in the room with the WebEx people and the others go to different rooms
- Test the equipment used for the WebEx prior to the meeting starting
- Have a Statewide Community Event
- Question was asked regarding what members are to take back to their regions
 - This meeting did not provide much to take back, but going forward, wants the AAF document is complete, the meetings will provide action items to share with the local regions
- Suggestion was made to have a WebEx or conference call in between meetings for working meetings for feedback and report out time
 - Comments
 - Concept is good but do not like participating via WebEx or Conference call because are very frustrating and difficult to do
 - Suggested coming to meeting prepared for report out (Form used for Report Outs is attached to minutes)

Next YAB Statewide Meeting Thursday, March 6, 2014 – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Please have RSVP's, with names, of all attending to Janice by February 24, 2014
jtc30@pitt.edu