

Attendees:

NC Region: Youth: Ashley, Syeed, Zach, Paul

Staff: Stephanie Salvatori, Hope Tressler

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

Staff: Janice Reindel, Rachel Green,

South Central Region: Youth: Betty, Stephen, Maranda

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

South East Region: Youth: None

Staff: None

(WebEx): None

JLC: Youth: None

Staff: Marie-Chezik Mofa

SW Region: Youth:

(WebEx): Staff: Rebecca Shaffer

OCYF: David Derbes, Amy Grippi

PA Partnership: (WebEx): Todd Lloyd

CWRC: Barbara Huggins, Chris Nobles, Meghan O'Hare

1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

- Youth were requested to sign the 2013 Youth Retreat Book for Chuck Songer of PCYA. He is retiring and was instrumental in giving the YAB an opportunity to speak at PCYA
- Reviewed handouts and agenda. Encouraged submissions for the BLAST, Facebook, Twitter, Tumbler
 - May is Foster Care Month.
 - ✓ Would like to have submissions with submissions of "Did You Know – Can be blog / posters / letters etc.
 - ✓ Please submit by the second week of April
 - Agency of the Year Form – Requested that this form be submitted by youth to nominate the agency they feel that is doing a really amazing work with the youth in their region
 - Will continue with the Age Appropriate Freedoms

2. Youth Thrive

- A brief overview of the presentation from *Youth Thrive* for the work that Pennsylvania has been doing was given. They were particularly interested in the "Punch Card" that the South Central Region stated doing. Good Work!!!

3. State of Child Welfare Report

- Todd Lloyd went over the State of Child Welfare Annual Data Report. This data can be helpful to the YAB projects. They share their work with the policy makers and media regarding the PA child welfare system. The website is located at <http://www.porchlightproject.org/> . All the reports they have submit can be found at this site.

4. Age Appropriate Freedoms

- All feedback from the last meetings was taken from a chart format and made into a narrative. This gives an overview of what being in care could look like with age appropriate freedoms without putting things into boxes. The team broke up into groups to have the youth review different parts of the document for feedback
- A report out was done on each page of the document and suggestions were given to clarify / improve the message
- A discussion took place on who should receive the document
 - The flip chart notes, the updated document and the Next Steps – the list the youth suggested as potential audience for the document, is included with the minutes on separate pages
 - Everyone was given an action item for the next meeting to develop a 2-3 minute speech on what you get from all of this. If you had to explain the Youth Advisory Boards position on the Age Appropriate Freedoms, what do you want people to know? What would those points be in terms of the guide? This can be in any format – paragraph / bullets

ACTION ITEM:

- ✚ Youth are to prepare a 2-3 minute elevator speech on what they want people to know regarding YAB's position on the Age Appropriate Freedoms for the next meeting,

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

- South Central Region
 - Strategic Plan currently working on
 - ✓ Working on the age appropriate freedoms
 - ✓ Attended a meeting with PCCYFS regarding social networking. Talked about the good side and bad side of it and how it affects youth and case workers
 - ✓ Volunteering for United Way in May

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- Strengths and tasks completed to move towards accomplishing goals:
 - ✓ Have six counties committed to hosting regional meetings for 2014
 - ✓ Group is coming together and the officer meetings are very helpful in preparing the regional meetings
 - ✓ Some YAB members going to Franklin Co for orientation
 - ✓ A group is going back to Dickenson College again to talk to law students and case workers
- Challenges faced and next steps
 - ✓ Dauphin County is currently going through many changes
- Feedback from group
 - ✓ Was asked how SC met
 - Officers meeting one month to plan for the regional meeting the next month
- North Central
 - Strategic Plan currently working on
 - ✓ Created a letter to stake holders on (a) Improvements the Regional YAB would like to see and (b) Requested the stake holder's rules and regulations they expect from the youth. Requested it in writing if they have it
 - Sent to the regional leaders for feedback
 - Once feedback received they will send it to the representatives
 - ✓ Working on the summer activity they will be having
- South West – No representation
- North East
 - Lackawanna Co
 - ✓ Strategic Plan currently working on
 - Just started Youth Advisory Board. Had 12 Youth and 5 staff at the first meeting
 - ✓ Strengths and tasks completed to move towards accomplishing goals
 - ✓ Challenges faced and next steps
 - ✓ Feedback from group
 - Requested feedback on the different opportunities that others seek out to recruit members, how it is structured

- and how the co / regions focus on what they will be working on
 - Received question regarding the number of staff that attend the meetings
 - One is a grad student who does the Independent Living (IL) Educational Support Group
 - IL Homemaker
 - IL Coordinator
 - Supervisor for IL at the agency
 - Individual who works with RTF
 - Different Community Providers come each month for support and give feedback
 - Lehigh County
 - ✓ Strategic Plan currently working on
 - Working final stages of survey
 - Working on local and regional goals looking at volunteer projects
 - Regional meeting coming up and will discuss community service project
 - Local meeting began the mentoring program
 - ✓ Feedback from group
 - Wanting to get the welcome packets and punch cards to begin using
 - Luzerne County
 - ✓ Strategic Plan currently working on
 - Will be working at a rescue mission making and serving dinner for homeless people and then spend time talking with them
 - Working on a combined activity with Lehigh County
 - Considering helping at the zoo
 - Meeting with their Master and give her the top 10 tips of the survey and seek her support
 - In July having a multi county picnic with all the counties in the region
 - ✓ Feedback from group
 - Need more ways to recruit
- South East – No representation this month

- JLC
 - Strategic Plan currently working on
 - ✓ Attempting to build up their membership
 - ✓ Working on the placement referral process for older youth
 - Met with commissioner and he want to have a tool kit.
 - Still working and following up on this
- See attached flip chart notes for requested feedback on *Membership and Recruitment and Forming and Agenda*

6. YAB Summit Discussion

- A discussion took place on what the YAB Leadership Youth Summit would look like this year. It was determined that it would a regular Statewide Meeting, only a bit longer that day. More information will follow.

7. What was good

- Report out – Feedback at end was great we got a lot of work done
- AAF document work went well
 - Small Groups
 - Good Discussion
 - Liked changes made
- Idea Catchers – Liked having that provided in the handouts for taking notes
- Like change for the report out and Feedback
- Welcomed two new people and appreciated their participation
- Liked having Colin facilitate the report out – would like to see youth participate/ facilitate more

8. Suggestions

- More Planning Time
- Given more Structure
- Needing a budget
 - Details
- Fundraising
- Perhaps extending Lunch to 45 minutes instead of a break

9. What can be Improved

- Timing of Agenda - The beginning was rushed
- Less on Agendas
- Break Timing
- Bring more youth on board
- Facilitators guide – More Youth

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- More Bricks
- Have ice breakers at each meeting
- Hand System – Don't speak out – raise hand when you want to talk
- Reaching out to all youth. Everyone should have a chance to talk
- Would like to see youth facilitate/ participate more
- Section Youth and Adults so the adults don't dominate. Perhaps have the adults have their own room for a meeting
- Make the meeting longer
- Questioned reason for county report outs versus region report outs

Next YAB Statewide Meeting Tuesday, June 17, 2014 – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm