



Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board

I Am the Brand I say I Am!

2012 IL Youth Retreat | C.L.A.I.M

September 2012

This year's retreat took place at the University of Pittsburgh—Johnstown Campus. We had 140 youth, and 40 staff in attendance. Here are some Highlights!

Youth began the week with a game called "Can you Beat the System," where a lot of youth talked about their stories of empowerment.

There were tournaments, a dance and a talent show!

Thursday was the banquet where Kevin Brown rocked the house and discussed the difference



between being a *Label* and being a *Brand*.

On Friday— The Peer Team to beat was the **PINK** team!

You can find the retreat video and year book at the YAB Website.

"There are so many teens out there going through the same things I am. I met people who completely understand me. It was weird, because normally, No one does. I guess it just feels nice knowing there's people out there I can really relate to, and that I'm not alone."
- Christy Marks

"The 2012 IL Retreat was so engaging and well ran by it's wonderful staff that it makes me wish I could be 16 again so that I could attend every year for the next five years!"
- Kevin Brown



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Hey!

There's a new resource! Its called, "Making Healthy Choices: A Guide on Psychotropic Medications for Youth in Foster Care"

YAB is looking for Submissions!

- Does your Regional or Local YAB have something to say?
- Do you enjoy writing or blogging?
- Is there poetry you would like to share?
- This year's theme will be C.L.A.I.M!

Important Dates

Statewide Dates

- 9/20/12
- 11/15/12
- 1/17/12

Youth Summit Dates

- Final Planning mtg 9/6/2012 (4:30-6:30pm)
- Youth Summit! 10/3/2012-10/4/2012

Regional Dates

Please Submit your Regional Dates to be displayed here!

www.independentlivingpa.org

Lifeistransition.tumblr.com



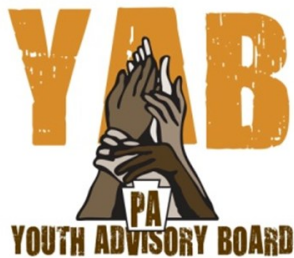


Fostering Connections/Act 91 has Passed!

This Law which has a huge impact for youth transitioning out of care has been passed in Pennsylvania.

Here are the things this law does for us.

- A) **Increases Permanency**
- Adoption and Custody Subsidies are now extended for youth until the age of 21, making it more accessible for families and support networks to choose permanency, instead of allowing the youth to age out of care.
- B) **Extends Services**
- Education and Treatment are still reasons youth can stay in care, but now they can choose to work 20 hours a week or be in an employment training program.
- C) **Allows Youth to “Re-enter care”**
- If a youth decides to leave care and manage transitioning on their own, they can opt to re-enter care until they are 21
* **Please note**, that any youth who ages out of care after the age of 18 is still eligible for After-care services which include housing and education supports.



The 2012 YAB Summit and Strategic Planning

This October your Statewide Elected Representatives will be meeting in State College to create our 2012-2013 Strategic Plan. We'll be utilizing Fostering Connections to frame our Plan.

We'll be asking the questions, “How do we get Fostering connections to be implemented well?”

There are four areas we'll be planning in the following areas:

- Permanency
- Age Appropriate Freedoms
- Housing
- Re-Entry and Planning

Your Regional Coordinators have registration info.

PA Youth Elected Representatives

Every year Regional Youth Advisory Board members are to vote for the four youth they would like to have represent them at our statewide meetings. If you have your four representatives for the 2012-2013

year, please forward their names and email addresses to Janice Coplin at jtc30@pitt.edu

If you have questions about the responsibilities of an elected representative please

contact Babs, my info is below!

Questions? Submissions?
Barbara Huggins (Babs)
Statewide YAB Coordinator
Bmh75@pitt.edu
717.795.9048

PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

is comprised of current and former substitute care youth ages 16-21. Youth leaders on the YAB educate, advocate, and form partnerships to create positive change in the substitute care system.