

MCCRP Agenda & Minutes March 8, 2022

Members:

Wilma Brier (Not Present)	Angela English, CYFS Liaison (Present)
Laura Brown, Technical Advisor (Present)	Kay Farley, CRBC Representative (Not Present)
Laura Coyle (Present)	Marci McCoy-Roth, 2020-2021 Chair (Present)
Katy Dunn (Not Present)	Ronald Whalen (Not Present)
Stacey McNeely (Present)	

Welcome

Ms. Marci McCoy-Roth called the meeting to order.

Transition Youth Presentation

The meeting began with a presentation from two key staff from the county's Transition Youth Services Presentation, Shari Zouhairi and Megan Flynn, lead Social Worker.

Presentation included:

- A definition of Transitioning Youth: Youth between ages of 14 and 21
- Ready by 21 Manual

Produced by the State of Maryland, using July 2017 version.

- Core Values: Respect, Value (Youth voice and perspective), Inclusion, Advocacy, Empowerment, Support
- Benchmarks

1. Education - able to navigate secondary and post-secondary education or institutions.
2. Employment - End goal is for youth to be able to obtain and maintain jobs. We help them find work experience opportunities. Help develop resume, Refer them to community resources like Latin American Youth Center, Equus Workforce Solutions, Future Link, MoCo YES!, Job Corps

Question: Are there specific employers you partner with to find jobs for transitioning youth? Yes, MoCo yes, and Equus Workforce Solutions help find jobs and/or paid internships.

3. Finance: For youth to be able to save money and afford an age-appropriate lifestyle. Youth need to understand basic financial tools, budget creation, having a bank account (checking/Savings by the time they exit care) Credit Report, Completion of the Keys Financial Training Class through State of Maryland, specific to foster youth here in Maryland, offers financial incentives to youth to participate. Learn about

medical assistance, get a birth certificate, SS card, a state ID, learner's permit or driver's license.

4. Housing: End goal for the youth to have permanent housing after case closure. In care, live in a number of situations, including kinship, foster, group homes, Independent Living Programs. After care, youth can access housing voucher programs, New Futures Subsidy, Youth Bridges Initiative (county program), Foster Youth Independence, (HUD) Residential Rehabilitation Programs, Transitional Housing Programs, Private Lease or rentals.

Question: How long do subsidies last? All different, New Futures is one year, Youth Bridges is 2 years, Foster Youth Independence is three years (including utility subsidy). Residential Rehabilitation Programs can stay till 25 (more for youth with disabilities). Future Bound is 18 months. (Transitional Housing).

5. Supportive Relationships: End goal for the youth to have an established support network. Assist youth in understanding how to develop positive and safe relationships, conversations we have them, how to identify appropriate committed adult supports, and the importance of developing lifelong connections. Facilitating visitation, family team decision meetings, mentoring programs, Family Finding and absent Parent locator services, CASA.

Question: How often do you meet with the youth.

6. Health/Mental Health: End goal is to know how to utilize services to ensure their physical and mental wellbeing. How to navigate the healthcare system, how to schedule appointments, understand insurance, learn how to consult with providers to manage medical conditions, understanding their medical rights and how to use medication. And how to access mental health services, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRP), outpatient mental health, substance abuse, inpatient.

- Additional Resources

Bimonthly meetings with community partners, Transitioning Youth Learning Collaborative (agencies/staff, employment, school). Keeping Up App, Smart phone application for transition youth and available to age 25. Links with services, resources, sends to supportive websites, aligned with state benchmarks, has job listings. Montgomery County Youth Advisory Board - youth can learn how to be advocates for themselves and others.

Independent Living Coordinator for Montgomery County: life skills/financial classes, COG Youth Advisory Board, Interagency Commission of Homeless Youth

- Challenges that arise as youth age out: finding permanent housing resources, finding services for undocumented youth (which are limited), significant adult connection/Support is needed, limited employment opportunities, lack of income

support safety net. Possibility of Guaranteed Income Stipend, until they can get on their feet.

Question: Is the TYS the same as the child's case worker? So the case planning starts at age 14, classes start. Our unit is a foster care unit, all of our social workers can do all the services, specialized unit, we know the resources.

Any surveys of youth and how they are experiencing the program.

Question: How many youth are covered by TYs at a given time? 80 or 90 youth

Question: Where they are on the benchmarks? Does anyone assess how we are doing on the benchmarks? Agnes Lester, Youth Advisory Board for those who have aged out. The goal is to assess how they are doing and whether they are meeting these benchmarks.

What do we do when our young people have families of their own. We help review and oversight of the teen mom and how they are doing. Help set them up for WIC or Diaper bank and that kind of thing, pay for parenting education coaches.

While in care, we do surveys at 17, 19 and 21, how they are doing? There is talk about doing some post 21.

COVID Extension Jan 2020 through September 2021, almost two years of extended time in care. That helped them. Push to extend care to 23 for our youth.

Wishlist: Partner with private local companies that would hire foster youth. We are going to give you this opportunity. Listserv of opportunities. Lot of our kids are working for Amazon & Fedex.

Could we build into the APP usage metrics to help us see where there are problems or where the most interest is.

Attorneys restricted it to Age 18 and over. What is the company that developed?

Review and Approval of the Minutes

Minutes were not reviewed due to time.

Agency Report

Ms. Angela English shared the agency's data for Jan 2022 from the Supervisor's Briefing – Data Update report. She also shared the next meeting will be her last as she is retiring.

Additional discussion briefly held on the following:

- I. Panel Speaker for Staff: Planned for March 15, 2022
- II. Foster Parent [Survey](#) on survey monkey - No one has taken survey yet, Laura will write Chris.
- III. Spring Forum - May 19, 6-8 pm Virtual - Topic will be adolescent mental health

IV. Next Meeting is Wednesday, April 6 - due to travel conflicts

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Y2Q2YjM0ZGQtODA5NC00Y2U3LWEyOTAtODhIZWE3NzAyODQw%40th)

[join/19%3ameeting_Y2Q2YjM0ZGQtODA5NC00Y2U3LWEyOTAtODhIZWE3NzAyODQw%40th](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Y2Q2YjM0ZGQtODA5NC00Y2U3LWEyOTAtODhIZWE3NzAyODQw%40th)
[read.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%226e01b1f9-b1e5-4073-ac97-778069a0ad64%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e53369ff-510f-4381-a90e-7902431aa046%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Y2Q2YjM0ZGQtODA5NC00Y2U3LWEyOTAtODhIZWE3NzAyODQw%40th)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 443-692-5768,,531003628# United States, Baltimore

Phone Conference ID: 531 003 628#