

Youth Transitions Advisory Council

Thursday October 6, 2022

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM CST

Lentz Public Health Center

2500 Charlotte Ave

Nashville, TN 37209

Melissa McGee
Rob Burke
Steve Petty
Cory Bradfield
Richard Kennedy
Courtney Matthews
Ginger Harris
Dave Aguzzi
Troy Jenkins

Eric Moore
Tijuana Miller
Kevin Bland
Moneigh Betts
Chris Hofner
Kate Keese
Terese Sipes

Online Attendees Unavailable at this time

Meeting Summary

<p>Welcome /Announcements/Approval of Previous Meeting Summaries and Recording notification! (Please send your name into the Chat box, so we have a record of attendance.)</p>	<p><i>Richard Kennedy, Executive Director, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY)</i></p> <p>Richard welcomed the council to the meeting and introduced approval of the meeting summaries for the prior three YTAC Meetings. [Unclear] made the motion to approve all three; Ginger Harris seconded. Motion approved.</p>
<p>Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Update</p>	<p><i>Jessica Mullins, TDMHSAS</i></p> <p>TDMHSAS OCYAF Youth & Young Adult Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth/Young Adult Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First Episode Psychosis Initiative (ONTRACKTN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expanded from 5 to 8 sites. New sites are from Anderson, Rutherford, and Montgomery Counties. Sites are up and running with clients enrolled. Between 1-11 clients at each site. For the program overall, services have been provided to over 199 young people

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Early Psychosis Conference was well attended earlier in August. ○ Healthy Transitions (HT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funded by a SAMHSA grant until 2024 in Greene and Davidson Counties. Serves ages 16-25 with mental health diagnosis and/or co-occurring intellectual or developmental disability. Krystal Fortney is overseeing the program. Funds the Youth Leadership opportunities described below. ○ Clinical High Risk for Psychosis Initiative (CHR-P) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4-year SAMHSA grant is wrapping up with the evaluation component still remaining, but the dept. has been awarded another 4 years of funding. The site for the remaining four years in Shelby Co. for ages 12-25. In the same Alliance Healthcare clinic as the first episode psychosis initiative. • Youth/Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) Now directed by Sabrina Fillers, a certified CYAPSS, in partnership with Youth Villages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Young Adult Leadership Councils (Davidson & Greene Counties) ○ Certified Young Adult Peer Support Specialist (CYAPSS) Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launched in May of last year, 4 trainings held. Youth must have lived experience and be in recovery for at least a year ▪ 11 CYAPSS throughout the state • Annual Report on First Episode Psychosis Evaluation has been issued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact the department for the report
<p>Youth Villages LifeSet</p>	<p><i>Carlos Hawkins & Maggie Renshaw, YV LifeSet</i></p> <p>Chafee Pandemic Funds Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partnership with DCS ○ July 2021-Sept 30 2022 (just wrapped)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing financial assistance to young adults previously in foster care in the form of vendor payments ○ Rent, utilities, transportation, childcare, technology items, and medical costs ● Success Stories – Individuals have been helped to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Obtain vehicle/auto insurance ○ Obtain housing ○ Prevent repossession of vehicles ○ Prevent eviction or unwanted moves ○ Establishing childcare so that young adults can pursue employment ○ Orthodontics (not covered by TennCare) ○ Tech items for education ● Example: Young adult served by the program: most of assistance went to auto insurance, which helped her stay employed. Remainder went to utility payments. Was unable to attend the meeting today due to job requirements. ● Positive Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Served 971 young adults with +/- \$1.2 mil ○ Served 785 young adults who did not previously have services in place. Lifeset services were established for 32 of them. ○ Served 186 internal LifeSet and EFCS young adults
<p>Department of Children’s Services, Office of Independent Living Update</p>	<p><i>Courtney Matthews, Director</i> <i>Dave Aguzzi, Assistant Director</i> <i>Ginger Harris, Youth Engagement</i></p> <p>Office of Independent Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To Prepare youth in foster care and young adults who age out of foster care for a successful transition to adulthood to become confident and productive individuals in society. ● Youth populations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 14 to 16 custodial youth, Independent Living Plan 2. 17+ custodial youth, Transition Plan 3. 18 to 21 aged-out youth, Extension of Foster Care ● Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DCS Central Office Administration ○ Regional Independent Living Coordinators and Specialists <p>Divisional Priorities</p>

- Increase normalcy activities for youth in custody 14-18 (IL Wrap Services).
- Quality IL and TL planning (Case File Reviews)
- Independent Living Training
- Extension of Foster Care Expansion

Upcoming Projects

- Independent Living Laptop distribution
 - Custodial youth with recent or upcoming secondary graduation.
 - Extension of Foster Care young adults entering post-secondary education program.
 - Custodial youth aged 14 or older with identified need for educational purposes.
- Independent Living App Development
 - Purpose: to serve as a resource directory for transition age youth, source of information on IL related services, and notification feature
- NYTD Survey
 - 17-year-old cohort will receive gift card incentive for the first time.

Stimulus Payment Applications as of 10/05/22 – Still working with Finance and Administration to determine dollar amount – \$2,662,800 encumbered at this point, between 30 and 40k still remain to be paid.

- Public/Lifeset Stimulus: 1669
- EFCS Stimulus: 660
- Total Payment Requests: 2329

EFCS Episodes July 1-June 30

EFCS Data Category	# Served FY22
Total EFCS Episodes	848
Total Young Adults Served	830
Total Active in EFCS	266

EFCS Data Category	# Served FY21
Total EFCS Episodes	844
Total Young Adults Served	781
Total Active in EFCS	508

Youth Engagement

- Independent Living Camps
 - Upcoming Fall IL Day Camp 10/13/2022- Montvale, Maryville, TN.
 - Winter IL Day Camp 12/13/2022-Gratitude Ranch-Franklin, TN.
 - Overnight Camps will resume in 2023
- Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Department will continue their work with the Young Adult Advisory Council by meeting bi-monthly via WebEx or conference calls. The Young Adult Advisory Council was instrumental in identifying the needs of young people during the pandemic, which resulted in the Pandemic Aid stimulus payments and direct vendor payments by Youth Villages. Members of the Young Adult Advisory Council will be represented in EFC Expansion planning. Members of the council participated in their annual foster parent conference. Council members shared their foster care experiences with current DCS foster parents. ○ Legislation last year created a post-secondary program on 5 campuses. Launched this fall at MTSU, ETSU, UT Knoxville, UT Martin, and University of Memphis. Also Walter State, Pelissippi State, Jackson and state with liaisons on campus. A YAAC participant is serving as a liaison at UT. <p>Q from Rosemary, online: What about 2023 benefits from youth not in school?</p> <p>A: this is what was referred to in earlier update about employment and removing barriers to employment. A group in Shelby Co., persevere, and another group, Viable, are partners in the effort to establish the employment criterion for eligibility.</p>
<p>Project Instar</p>	<p><i>Jon Berestecky, Chambliss Center</i> <i>Moneigh Betts and Chris Hofner, Co-Chairs, Project Instar</i></p> <p>This project is a panel of youth advocates that seeks in part to repair a strained relationship between youth in the foster care system and DCS. The panel is designed to give guidance to youth soon to age out of the system from individuals with lived experience. Youth believe in messengers more than messages. The first panel is planned at Chattanooga Community College in January 2023.</p> <p>Moneigh relayed her story of being “thrown” into school upon entering independent living, feeling rushed and</p>

	<p>unprepared. Her experience made clear the need for experienced advisors.</p> <p>Chris entered a children’s home at age 17 during pandemic restrictions and similarly recognized the need for more opportunities. He anticipates questions about resources. For example, he wishes he had known about the Chambliss Center sooner.</p> <p>The project is still in the planning phase.</p> <p>The importance of individualized plans instead of “cookie cutter” solutions is emphasized.</p> <p>From Jon Berestecky: This panel is the beginning of a regular series. These youth are consultants, and are being paid as such. Donations to Chambliss are welcome to support the effort.</p> <p>Q, Richard Kennedy: if you had a magic wand, what would you change about your relationship with DCS when you were aging out?</p> <p>A: More knowledge of resources, potential living situations. More communication with caseworkers. The EFCS program overall is a blessing. More information.</p>
<p>Omni Family Foundation</p>	<p><i>Nathan Harmening, Omni Family Foundation</i></p> <p>Praise for Project Instar.</p> <p>Omni Family Foundation intends to fill gaps in the system not covered by state departments.</p> <p>Mission: to add sustainable value to lives of former foster youth by offering collaborative pathways to meaningful careers.</p> <p>Facilitating Independence through 4 Pillars of long-term support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significantly expand access over next q0 years. Thanks to new grant for West TN, new sites opened in Memphis and Jackson. Capacity doubling from 10 to 20. Need for collaboration with SMA. ○ Home rental assistance program – awarded \$400k from THDA for rental assistance vouchers in Middle and West TN. Currently 10 living in Nashville independently paying subsidized rent. Program is income based. Current rent payments are between \$50-200. Other mentoring services available. West TN program is ramping up, vouchers coming.

- Permanent Supportive Housing proposal and partnerships being planned focused on affordable quality housing.
- Transportation
 - Jobs are great, but how do they get there? Youth are reluctant to take public transportation.
 - Drive to Thrive Program
 - Down payment assistance program – payment sharing with youth
 - Small loans for used cars in partnerships with banks
 - To build credit and learn financial responsibility with cushion.
 - Loans of approximately \$5k, applications begin in January
- Career Development
 - Leveraging relationships with labor to secure internships, training opportunities
 - Partnering with Viable, going well.
- STAND Program
 - Supportive, Tangible, Advancive Necessities, and Donation
 - To help youth with “smaller” needs such as materials for education, apartment furnishings, tires, etc.

Q, Moneigh from Instar: will transitional housing function as a voucher?

A: yes, but less rigid structure. It is a pilot program for two years. Based on working out details individually with Nathan and an private landlord. The lease is between the tenant and landlord with Omni only being involved in separate agreement regarding payment. Geared to 20-21 year olds, not necessarily right out of foster care.

Requirements to apply:

- Within one year of aging out or leaving EFCS

Q, Chris from Instar: Are you offering linkages to other THDA resources?

A: We encourage obtaining those resources but they are not required.

Q: Do you provide information about those resources?

A: Yes. Though we do not have personnel in Memphis, they are in development. Nashville participants have been doing so. Need partnerships with orgs like SMA to determine what resources are available.

	<p>Q, Stephanie Athalone: When can we get this in East Nashville?</p> <p>A: KLF is serving East TN with this program. Omni will be moving East in the next 10 years.</p>
<p>Updates from Resource Centers</p>	<p><i>Stephanie Athalone, River City Youth Collective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photos to share! • Value of Communication • 2-3 events per week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Cheffin it up with Steph” cooking classes ○ Celebrations – Winter Holidays, Juneteenth, Graduation ○ Sip Sip (juice) Hooray and Paint ○ First annual College Tour at Chattanooga State and UTC ○ Dinner and Discussion ○ Bowling ○ “Hope for the Future” Vision Board Activity ○ Upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fall Break ▪ Sisters Saving Sisters ▪ Manhood 2.0 ▪ Job Readiness ▪ Money Talk\$ ▪ More cooking classes ▪ Friendsgiving Etiquette Dinner <p><i>Chaney Cruze, Youth Connections</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Young Adult Advisory Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential collaboration with other initiatives discussed today ○ Youth-driven evaluation of current programs ○ Youth Success Workshop for justice-involved youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intro to all Youth Connections programs for certificate ▪ 5 participants so far ○ Success story – young woman used opportunity payment to match for a car after securing her own apartment ○ New mental health therapist hired, offering group therapies ○ Upcoming - Nov. 9th open house with dinner ○ New hire – resource coordinator position assisting with housing and other resources in the coordinated entry system

	<p><i>Kevin Bland & Tijuana Miller, South Memphis Alliance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assist youth 14-25 ○ Financial literacy, ○ In-house (not virtual) services resuming ○ Sisters Saving Sisters/Brothers to Brothers programs ○ Will Work program 18-30 getting HiSet, GEDs completed. School or vocational assistance, individualized. ○ Success story: participant recently secured a car ○ Mentoring program in partnership with Memphis Grizzlies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eligible: colleges, people seeking community service projects ▪ Not limited geographically <p>Q: Grant options for training? A: Will Work program helps with adults that are out of college, offers \$1000 for match for all participants</p> <p>SMA looks forward to partnering with Nathan and Omni!</p>
<p>Announcements/Final Thoughts</p>	<p>Cory: Family Voices of TN has a job opportunity for a youth program coordinator to be circulated</p> <p>SMA: Upcoming Trunk-or-Treat Youth Empowerment Event in April</p> <p>Eric Moore, Omnivisions: Jackson TN home is 95% ready and they are accepting applications for females in need of independent living support (6 spots).</p> <p>Richard: In the upcoming YTAC Report, we are happy to no longer need to recommend the removal of the education requirement for EFCS, as it has been accomplished this year! Share recommendations for the YTAC report.</p> <p>Cory: Thanks to all the partners for providing the information for this year's report in a timely fashion.</p> <p>Steve: Recommendations often change very little, and it is exciting to have one met this year. Thanks to Courtney, Dave, Ginger, and DCS for their persistence!</p>
<p>Meeting Dates</p>	<p><i>2023 Proposed Meeting dates:</i></p> <p><i>March 23, 2023</i></p> <p><i>June 22, 2023</i></p> <p><i>August 10, 2023</i></p> <p><i>October 5, 2023</i></p>