AGENDA

I. The Office of Youth Services

II. Data and Outcomes

III. PATHS to Success Grant

IV. Collaboration with YA
In January 2013, Wisconsin created a new Office of Youth Services within DCF to bring a stronger and more coordinated and comprehensive focus on the needs of vulnerable youth.
Outcomes for Youth ages 14+

- Reunification: 995 (60%)
- Adoption Finalized: 51 (3%)
- Aged Out: 369 (22%)
- Other: 119 (7%)
- Guardianship: 106 (7%)
- Missing From Out-of-Home Care: 20 (1%)

369 youth aged out in 2013
Older youth have greater placement instability than other age children.
By the 25+ time range, only 23.6% of older youth have experienced placement stability.
NYTD Outcomes at Age 19

NYTD measures the outcomes for youth who were in care on their 17th birthday, 19 and 21

- 52% were not employed at all
- 62% high school graduation rate (compared to 90% statewide)
- 55% not enrolled in any education program
- 30% are neither in school nor working.
• 29% of youth who took the survey at age 17 and again at 19 were homeless at some point in those two years.
Administration on Children, Youth and Families

Planning Grants to Develop a Model Intervention for Youth/Young Adults With Child Welfare Involvement At-Risk of Homelessness
Two Project Phases

• WI’s $700,000 grant funds a 2 year planning project (Phase I).

• 5-6 awards of Phase II funding are expected to be about $1,000,000 per year for 5 years.

Three Target Populations

• 14-17 year olds in OHC at risk of homelessness
• Young adults aging out of care
• 18-21 year olds who cycle in and out of homelessness with prior history in OHC
Multi-disciplinary Partnerships

- Department of Public Instruction
- Wisconsin Technical College System
- Department of Workforce Development
- Department of Health Services
- Department of Corrections, Juvenile Corrections
- Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority
- Wisconsin Dept. of Administration, Housing
- Children’s Trust Fund
- Wisconsin County Human Services Association
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
- Private non-profit shelter and service providers
- Current and former foster youth
Outcome Areas

1. Permanent Connections
2. Academics
3. Training and Employment
4. Housing
5. Social and Emotional Well-being
1) Engage in data analysis to deepen understanding of the populations, including:
   • Develop a predictive risk model to identify foster youth most at-risk of homelessness.
   • Analyze screening and assessment tools.

2) Independent Living Re-design

3) Implement pilot programs to learn what works in transitioning foster youth to adulthood and achieving outcomes in five core areas.
Data Exchange with DOA

Young Adult Clients with DCF Contact (2012)

- Client Age 17: 36, 22.2%
- Client Age 18: 313, 42.2%
- Client Age 19: 304, 35.9%
- Client Age 20: 347, 28.0%
- Client Age 21: 410, 24.6%
- Client Age 22: 385, 21.3%
- Client Age 23: 402, 8.0%
- Client Age 24: 385, 0%
- Client Age 25: 335, 0%
- Client Age 26: 165, 0%

Number of Clients vs. Client Age

- All ServicePoint Clients
- Clients with DCF Contact
TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT WORK GROUP

DELIVERABLES

• Explore and develop public/private employment opportunities.
• Implement Transition to Independent Living Employment Program
• Pilot slots for foster youth within existing employment programs
• Data Sharing Agreement with DWD
• Increase access to DWD employment services for targeted populations.
Preventing and ending youth homelessness requires more than a collection of good programs. It requires a systemic approach that ensures that every young person gets the most effective assistance, and that all of the stakeholders in a community are working toward shared outcomes.
Feedback

• What barriers have you identified in serving youth in foster care?

• How could we help support collaboration between the Office of Youth Services and YA programs?

• What ideas do you have on contributing to the success of the PATHS Grant?