

BREAKING THE CYCLE

Community Collaboration Helps Teens in Tough Times

Helping Youth Achieve a Healthy Outcome and Positive Future!!!

Perspectives

- Youth and GAL
- Parent's and their Attorney
- Department of Human Services
- Court
- Service Provider

GAL

A great program!

- It is a great help to youth in Foster Care that do not have a healthy adult in their life.
- These skills assist youth to be successful in the future and end the continuous return to foster care for them and their future children.

Youth Comments

- Good Program, 14 female.
- It is pretty fun because it is not in a classroom setting, 19 male.
- It is helpful that way you know more when you get out there, 17 male.
- Children in Foster Care are confused 18, female.
- It is a good way for Foster Kids to get more attention, 16 male.
- It has been helpful, 15 male.

Parents Perspective

- Generally, want their children to learn positive life skills.
- Want a better life for their children than the life they have.
- Many understand that, otherwise, the cycle will repeat itself – their grandchildren will likely be placed in foster care.

Michigan Department of Human Services

- Independent Living Requirements
- Youth in Transition Eligibility

Independent Living Preparation

- Independent Living (IL) preparation is **required** for all youth in foster care age 14 and older, regardless of their permanency planning goal
- The goal of IL preparation is to assist youth in a transition to self-sufficiency.
- IL is an ongoing process of maturation, skills development and assuming responsibility for self.

Youth in Transition Eligibility

- A youth who has reached his/her 14th birthday while in foster care is eligible for YIT until his/her 21st birthday.
- A youth who has or had an open juvenile justice case and is placed in an eligible placement under the supervision of DHS is eligible for YIT-funded services. This may include a youth who has never had an open neglect or abuse case.
- A youth whose case is closed, and met all eligibility criteria for YIT during the time he/she was under DHS supervision, is eligible for YIT if currently between the ages of 18 and 21.

Youth in Transition Expenditures

- Requested Youth in Transition (YIT) funds will be used to gain access to goods and services designed to assist the youth to:
 - Successfully prepare for, achieve and maintain an independent living situation.
 - Prepare the youth for functional independence; or
 - Ensure the youth's physical, social, economic, and psychological needs are met.

Approved Expenditures

- Vocational and Employment Services
- Computer
- Independent Living Training
- Mentoring and Family Connection
- Housing
- First month's rent, damage deposit, and utility deposit
- Start-Up goods
- Medical and Health Needs
- Mental Health
- Education
- Parenting
- Money Management
- Membership fees (sports, community organizations, associations)
- Transportation
- Aftercare
- Coalition Building
- Expenses for youth groups or peer support groups related to independent living
- Development and piloting of new initiatives

From the Bench Perspective

- Families in this process do not historically have the tools to raise children that will function in a safe and healthy fashion in the future.
- Young parents in this process typically are second or third generation in their family that have been involved in foster care, and delinquency proceedings.

Challenge

- Offer a program that could positively affect the youth even if parent was not in a position to modify their lives or chose not to participate.
- Create an environment that teenagers would respond to positively.

Community Partnership

- Vital partners include:
 - Family Court representatives
 - Attorneys
 - Foster Care Caseworkers
 - Community agency focused on non-formal youth education/youth development

Non-Formal Youth Development

- In our model, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE). MSUE brings to the table:
 - Experience in non-formal education
 - 501(c)3 status, a requirement for many grant applications
 - 4-H's well-recognized, positive reputation that helps get participants in the door willingly
 - A local staff person specializing in youth career development, workforce preparation, and financial literacy
 - Access to evidence-based curriculum
 - Free meeting space

Broad Topics Included

- Financial literacy (budgeting, banking, credit)
- Legal (leases, loans)
- Relationships (boyfriends/girlfriends, family, roommates, co-workers)
- Health (nutrition, food prep, CPR/first aid certification, making)
- Education (study skills, college financial aid, correlation between education and income)
- Career and work force prep (dressing for success, interview skills, resume writing, conducting a job search, choosing a career, entrepreneurship)

Questions

Contact Information

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