



Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group

Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2021 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols, and Introductions

DCYF’s Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart welcomed attendees and walked through virtual meeting protocols. DCYF’s Community Engagement Manager Erin Kerrigan initiated introductions.

Legislative Update

Members reviewed the draft legislative update due on November 1, 2021.

- [Draft Legislative Update](#)

Esperanza: Homework Recap Activity and Share Out

Members broke into small groups of two to share their homework, discuss questions and provide feedback.

- [Esperanza: Homework Recap Activity and Share Out Feedback](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you are coming out of a state of trauma, being sex trafficked for example, we are so quick to advocate for the parent and the parent assumes we have these magic wands and we can just fix things. We need to advocate for the kin in a different format. Trauma doesn’t just go away like that; it is a process. We help give youth an employment position where they will thrive and set them up with seeing a psychiatrist. We need to look at what the child’s personal needs are not what we think they need. • Looking at the cultural aspect of Latinx, black or indigenous and developing a sense of community. There is no booklet for self-care, we need community care and points of access for individuals who have experienced trauma. The cultural aspect is so important. Systems are difficult because they are oppressive and driven by dominant culture values and therefore we need to understand the cultural means. • In black and brown communities the parental and pleasing role placed on young individuals is difficult because these young children who are tired of being moms at such a young age that when a man involved in sex trafficking puts their hand out that girl is gone. Also, we need to tell these young children, you are a child, to do things that children do and enjoy life as a child. Instead of people saying let me help you or fix you, instead why don’t you stand with us in the margins and listen.
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Youth Risk and Protective Factor Domain Conversation: Relationships and Mental Health

Guest Speaker Dr. Felice Orlich with Echo Glen Children’s Center shared insight into the experiences of the young adults she supports with the two domains of mental health and relationships.

- **Presentation**

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship counseling through Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR)? How are you addressing continuity after release? A concern of mine is there are no dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) providers in Pierce county. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COVID-19 has really impacted families being involved in what they learn at the facility and bringing that home. Telehealth is great, but right now that is not systematic. We have tried to set up meetings with families and sometimes they don’t show. We need to be very thoughtful of the concept of who the child’s family is. We are very focused on youth readiness; we aren’t always considering family readiness when a kid is coming home. The providers are not out there and
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	<p>with COVID-19 we have seen a significant increase of private practice and youth or families do not necessarily have insurance that cover those services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are huge service gaps. The waitlists are long to see a provider and receive therapy and a lot of the times there is a co-pay. We are needing to figure out solutions that will actually help the young folks that we serve. • Are the services embedded in after school programs? Where can you put the services so they are living services and motivating to children and they feel safe. • Kids at Echo Glen love meeting with their therapist, they feel welcomed and accepted, like a safe haven for them at this time in their life. • It's not just one location, some youth need more than one space where they feel safe and comfortable. • I didn't hear anything about disparities, criminalized, substance use disorder and black and brown communities. An institution can never be safe, especially when it is run by a system that is created and rooted in white supremacy ideology. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Absolutely. It is clearly an overrepresentation of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community. In terms of what I am thinking is a correctional institute is not the best place for a child to be either, but it offers less unsafe situations and being in an institution is a placeholder. • We are returning children into the care of the system that put them where they are and unless they have a community that supports them, we are going to have the same recidivism cycle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That is such a good point. I see these youth as kids who made decisions that weren't always the wisest decisions but they are still teenagers. Also, seeing and learning the child's experiences that have put them into the system. • The continuity of services is such a huge barrier. Involving the specific provider themselves. It is hard to have to meet new providers often. • People come and go and as a mental health provider how can we make the jobs worth their while and take care of people on the front line so they can be there for the kids because continuity of care is extremely important.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral program link (Potential solution/framework we can explore https://www.nacassociation.org/)

Wrap Up Activity

Members broke into small groups to discuss reflection questions about mental health and relationships and provided feedback.

- [Wrap Up Activity Feedback](#)

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world being shut down due to COVID-19 has really impacted our children and having layers of trauma on top of that. • Looking at what my children are going through, it is important to let your children know you are there for them, love them, and meet them where they are at especially when they feel like it is the end of times and they are wanting to go back to living how they know. • Funding: which organizations are being funded? Big box organizations are the ones getting millions of dollars and they aren't necessarily providing the resources that people need but they are valued more because they serve a large number of people. It needs to come down to quality and not quantity. The funding currently is valuing certain things and need to value the important things. • As a service provider it has felt like we need to connect with whatever services are available and it's like we don't care who they are but if they accept our request then we go
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	<p>with it. Instead we should see if they are trusted and are pickier on who we connect with and our children are entrusted with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As a youth, if you don't feel comfortable with your mental health counselor or you have been triggered in those meetings, there is an option to have a different provider and where the child feels safe sharing that.• We need to try and dilute the stigma of the mental health counselor as trying to fix the child or that the child is their project. Get to know the child first before jumping into an evaluation.
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Closing Remarks/Next Meeting/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group meeting will be on November 10, 2021 from 9:00am-12:00pm.• Recommendations to improve the process and access for how youth can navigate resources whether that is in a resource rich county or a county with very little resources.• There are still barriers even in resource rich counties.• Two meetings will be held at the beginning of 2022 to wrap up what we have learned and then do activities around that.
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