

**TRANSITION TO ADULT LIVING  
IMPLEMENTATION TEAM MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2004  
MINUTES**

**Welcome:**

Marie Christman chaired the meeting and excused the co-chairs because Mike Richardson is out of town and Richard Anderson had a conflict but will join us later in the meeting.

**Recommendation Approved:**

George Delavan had a matter that needed attention from the Implementation Team today. The Physical & Mental Health Task Group was assigned to determine the amount of state match needed to expand Medicaid benefits to our foster youth to age 21. Those figures are not finalized yet but should be within the next 2 weeks. Steve Jardine reminded us that any requests for Building Blocks for the State Budget needed to be submitted to the Governor's Office by mid-September.

In advance of receiving the estimate, the Implementation Team approved submitting the estimate to Richard Anderson and Robin Arnold-Williams with the recommendation that it be forwarded to the Governor and Legislature in hopes of receiving an appropriation in the 2005 session. The vote was unanimous.

**Announcement:**

Richard Walker announced that he has negotiated with a landowner in Ogden to rent six low-rent housing units on three different properties to youths who are transitioning from foster care. Richard met with the people involved with the Northern Region Pilot Project yesterday to begin housing plans. Similar types of agreements will be sought in other communities as well.

**Website Demonstration:**

Mary Shumway introduced the group to two new websites that will be operational this month—UtahCTE.org and UtahCareers.gov. The State Office of Education, the Department of Workforce Services and higher education have partnered to develop the websites.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> the Governor will assist in the "kick-off" for the program. These sites will focus on career planning, job connections, job training, and resources for students, as well as the general public. The sites are user friendly

and will greatly assist students to do much of the search on their own rather than waiting for a counselor who may be advising hundreds of students each year. The sites also provide information about "Hot Jobs" and answers to the most frequently asked questions. Both sites will be fully operating within the next couple of weeks.

Mary also passed around a "Job Skills" booklet and asked for feedback regarding the information from those who received the booklet.

Kelly Colopy also passed out updated information about the "Just For Youth" website indicating the changes and additions made during the last month. The group was asked to look over the information and give any feedback to Kelly. The goal is to provide pertinent information without overwhelming the youth that visit the site. The plan is still to have the site operational in October.

### **TAL Accomplishments to Date:**

Marie Christman passed around a list of major accomplishments since the Transition to Adult Living Initiative began.

Each of the Task Groups have had major accomplishments that will be shared with those attending the Youth and Adult Summit in November. There was some discussion to clarify accomplishments so that each attendee understands what has been done and what yet needs to be done.

Following is a copy of the Accomplishment List:

## **Transitions to Adult Living Implementation Team Accomplishments September 2004**

### **Driver's Education and Driver's License**

A DCFS Practice Guideline is in place that provides youth the opportunity to complete driver's education and obtain a driver's license prior to aging out of foster care.

### **Funds for College and Occupational Training**

A partnership between the Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Workforce Services and WIA youth providers has been established to provide youth transitioning out of foster care with funding to attend college or occupational training. Youth will receive funding from the federal Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program beginning in the fall of 2004. Currently sixteen foster youth have applied for funding for the fall semester and will receive assistance for tuition, room and board, books, and supplies to attend college or occupational training.

### **Transitional Support Fund**

The Division of Child and Family Services has established the Transitional Support Fund to meet the unique needs of youth transitioning to adulthood. The funds will provide assistance in the areas of education, training, career exploration, physical and mental health, emotional support, transportation, and housing.

### **Youth Website**

A website to provide youth access to information and resources in the areas of housing, education, employment, finances, health, parenting/child care, social, and transportation will be operational in October 2004. Focus groups with foster youth were held throughout the state to gather input on the content and format of the website. This input was utilized to develop a website that appeals to the specific and unique needs and interests of youth.

As a result of a partnership between public education, higher education and the Department of Workforce Services, the State Office of Education will launch a website in September 2004 that will provide career planning information, job outlook information and training resources for high school students.

### **Health Care Coverage**

The Division of Child and Family Services and the Department of Health have implemented procedures to enable youth to maintain Medicaid coverage when they age out of foster care. The Medicaid Newborn Plus Program will provide health care coverage until the youth's nineteenth birthday.

### **Mentoring**

Two pilot mentoring programs will be initiated to match foster youth with caring and supportive adults. The programs will recruit recently retired seniors and individuals from the general population to assist youth with their individual needs in the areas of life skills, relationship building, job preparation, and education.

### **Housing**

The Department of Community and Economic Development has negotiated with property owners who receive low-income housing tax credits to earmark six transitional housing units for foster youth. These units should be available in September 2004.

### **North Region Pilot Project**

A pilot project has been initiated in North Region (Weber, Davis, Morgan, Cache, Rich, Box Elder counties) to coordinate job training, employment, education, and housing for foster youth. The Department of Workforce Services, Division of Child and Family Services and the WIA youth providers have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that spell out the responsibilities of each agency and allocates up to 50% of WIA youth funds for youth transitioning to adulthood. As a result of the pilot program, 16 foster youth have been screened for WIA services in North Region.

### **Life Skills Assessment**

Each foster youth over age 16 and their caregiver will complete an Ansell Casey Life Skill Assessment twice per year to measure and track the acquisition of skills and knowledge needed for living independently. The results of the assessment will be discussed at the child and family team meeting and the youth will identify areas to be addressed and outline the strategies to obtain the necessary skills.

### **Partnership Between Division of Child and Family Services and Department of Workforce Services**

The Division of Child and Family Services and the Department of Workforce Services have joined together to improve education, employment and training opportunities for foster youth transitioning to adulthood. As a result of this partnership the following has been achieved in each region of the state:

- ▶ Independent Living Coordinators serve on the local Department of Workforce Services Youth Council.
- ▶ A contact person has been established in each agency to process referrals and answer questions.
- ▶ Agreements have been established that outline the responsibilities of each agency and define the pathways for providing services.

### **Bridges Pilot Program**

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) and the Division of Child and Family Services has implemented a pilot program in Utah County to teach foster youth to manage their mental illness. The Provo School District has agreed to provide high school credit for youth who complete the classes.

(End of Accomplishment List)

### **Youth and Adult Summit:**

Lisa McDonald explained that it was necessary to change the dates for the Youth and Adult Summit to November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "its All About YOUTH." The first day is especially for youth, agency people, community partners and foster parents. We hope to have Governor Walker address us and hear from Richard Anderson and Robin Arnold-Williams. There will also be a motivational speaker. A "report back" to the youth from last year's summit will be the focal point of the morning.

In the afternoon there will be a youth panel giving each of the adults a chance to see, hear and learn from the youth who are currently in foster care or who have recently exited the system. Following that, all participants will break into regional groups to begin working on the pathways in their own area.

The second day of the summit will be devoted to youths and foster parents and is intended to teach youth leadership skills, set the agenda for the second year and enjoy some teaching activities.

The question was raised as to whether or not the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Implementation Team meeting should be cancelled since all of the team and task group members are invited to attend the Summit on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The decision will be postponed until next month.

Kathy Dimick and Ann Foster reported on a couple of conflicting conferences that are also planned on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> but it was decided we needed to move ahead with the plans.

### **Update on Marketing/Training Strategy:**

Barbara Thompson reported that not all of the individual task group chairs have been able to turn in their marketing/training ideas requested at the last meeting since the turnaround time was short. We still want to receive those plans and ideas.

We have discovered with those that have been turned in that we need to compile all of the information then get a small group of experts together to develop a marketing and training plan.

Most of the training will be directed at the DCFS caseworkers, WIA youth providers and youth initially—then expanded to foster parents, other community partners, legislators and then to the general public.

### **Other Announcements:**

Lisa McDonald announced that the Youth Mentoring Surveys have been collected and the results will be available soon. She thanked Barbara Feaster for developing and distributing the surveys and the IL Coordinators and caseworkers for having the youth fill out the surveys.

LeRoy Franke, Lisa McDonald and Herman Hooten will be presenting at an Independent Living Conference in Texas at the end of the month. They will try to get their presentation available on the Internet upon their return.

### **Next meeting:**

Wednesday, October 6, 2004 at 2:30pm, DHS, Room 304

### **Implementation Team Members and Support Staff Attending:**

Richard Anderson  
Marie Christman  
Vicki Cottrell  
George Delavan

Barbara Feaster  
Ron Harrell  
Stephen Jardine  
Michelle Barnett

Lisa McDonald  
Mary Shumway  
Richard Walker

Karl Wilson  
Jane Broadhead  
Barbara Thompson

**Excused:**

Mike Richardson  
Herman Hooten

Suzette Hudson  
Amanda Singer

**Task Group Members and Guests Attending:**

Kathy Dimick  
Ann Foster  
Chris Chytraus  
Dan Wright  
Stacy Brubaker  
Steve Titensor  
Melissa Larsen  
Sarah Pomeroy  
Mary Jane McGuire  
Angie Barley  
Jane Lewis

Ken Hull  
Amy Brewster  
Janis Martin  
Cheryl Dubach  
Nancy Mickkelsen  
Terri Harris  
Eric Jenkins  
Bonnie Athas  
Melissa Rhea  
Kelly Colopy