

**TRANSITION TO ADULT LIVING
IMPLEMENTATION TEAM MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2005
MINUTES**

Welcome/Introductions/Announcements:

Mike Richardson conducted the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves to the group. Many members were excused today due to the Legislature.

Darin Brush explained to the group about the Utah Economic Data Viewer (UEDV) developed to help people locate high demand and higher paying jobs. This information is available at www.jobs.utah.gov. This gives instant outlook information and rates jobs according to wages and demand in the Utah Labor Market. It also lists the top 100 high growth jobs. Darin encouraged everyone to become familiar with this website in order to assist youth as they prepare for future jobs.

Patti VanWagoner announced that Pam Russell is the new Independent Living Program Manager for DCFS. Herman Hooten has taken a job in the Northern Region closer to home. She read a brief letter from Herman to the group.

Patti also announced that the **Kids Count** data book was released today and the Transition to Adult Living initiative is highlighted. UFosterSuccess is also highlighted in the booklet.

Task Group Updates:

Employment/Training/Education Task Group—Barbara Thompson reported for Marie Christman. The appointed representatives for DWS and DCFS in each region of the state have connected with each other and are in various stages of the pathway development and implementation process. The Northern Region Pilot group is continuing to expand and include other partners in serving youth in that region. They are willing to assist other regions as they develop plans. Each region will report progress to Marie Christman on a regular basis. The partnership has been very effective and many more youth than ever before are being served.

Transition Planning and Out of Home Placement Task Groups—Patti Van Wagoner reported the progress of these two groups. Currently, these groups are meeting together as they formulate their assignments and plans. The group has been brainstorming and will now narrow the focus in setting up a practice

model for older youth in care. They will also help the foster parents and providers focus on skills needed by older youth. Patti mentioned the group meets the last Wednesday of each month at 8:30am here at DHS and invited those interested to join the group.

Housing Task Group—Richard Walker reported that there is still some difficulty in quantifying the housing needs of the youth throughout the state. One of the problems is that the needs and circumstances change frequently among these youth. Richard will meet with the Independent Living Coordinators in each region to determine as clearly as possible what the housing needs are in each community. Richard pointed out that youths need a specific plan in place in regards to housing. Also, Richard will check with Kelly Colopy about providing a link on the *Just For Youth* Website that will link to subsidized housing if that hasn't already been established.

Youth Leadership Task Group—Lisa McDonald reported that this group is working to actively involve youth in planning, implementing and evaluating the Transition to Adult Living (TAL) initiative. Their group plans to get youth to serve on each of the other task groups. They also plan to teach youth leadership skills and how to advocate for themselves. This group will partner with the DWS Youth Councils statewide and will also help to support the two mentoring pilot projects.

Marketing Task Group—Darin Brush passed around the updated Marketing Plan and a schedule for the Direct Mail Campaign. There will be eight messages shared during the next year—every six weeks beginning in mid-February. The “*Just for Youth*” logo will be on everything that goes out. The contact people will be the DCFS IL Coordinators in each region. The foster parents will also receive the same information as the youth in order to reinforce the message. DCFS caseworkers will get similar information so they will be aware of information mailed to youth. DCFS has been asked to have workers update all addresses on the computer system so the mailer will be as accurate as possible.

Aftercare Task Group—Pam Russell reported that this group is in the process of setting up a clear philosophy and belief system about what aftercare is. There will be three sub-groups—Medical/Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Relationships and Mentoring, and Service Delivery Systems. The group plans to provide a booklet that will inform each youth of community resources and how to access them as they are leaving care. Youth will be informed about the services and resources available while they are still in care so they will know how to access them when needed.

Training Task Group—Midge Delavan reported that the Training Task Group has divided the training into four phases. Phase One—the introductory phase—is

being done right now throughout the state with the DCFS workers. Phases Two and Three will be a locally based orientation that will bring all partners together. They will also use the Web to train people. Phase 4 will be intensive, skill based training for workers and supervisors. Midge mentioned that there will be a training development meeting on February 7th with representatives from DWS, WIA youth providers, DCFS, IL people and others to begin the process.

Evaluation Task Group—Amanda Singer reported for Kelly Colopy. This group will do a baseline study by interviewing 30-50 youth who are currently in foster care. Following that they will conduct a process evaluation to determine how the new services are being implemented. They will also conduct a “leavers study” by interviewing youth who have left foster care to determine how they are doing.

There was some discussion regarding the evaluations and Randy Bachman had some suggestions for evaluating a youth’s “readiness” for change or motivation for change. Questions such as—“What do you want when you are 18 years old?” “What do you need to get there?” Some studies have found that the answer is quite straightforward . . . the youth “need a house, a job and a date on the weekend.”

Others commented that youth need as many opportunities as possible to make choices. Some youth are still dealing with abandonment issues when they entered foster care and a similar thing happens when they leave.

We were reminded that the court connection is very important and we need to be certain that the Juvenile Court Judges understand this initiative and how it works. We need to avoid having youth come into custody at age 17½ and think that we can accomplish all of these things in a very short time period.

Outcome data was requested regarding youth who have left custody. Amanda said she would see that the information gets out to new team members. Also, it was suggested that we have a more uniform way to contact youth after they have left custody.

A request was also made that a copy of the TAL Power Point presentation be sent to Task Group and Implementation Team members so everyone could review the information that is currently being shared.

Next Meeting—

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at 2:30pm at DHS in Room 304.

Implementation Team and Support Staff Attending:

Mike Richardson
Randy Bachman
Darin Brush
Midge Delavan
David Evans
JJ Farrington
Barbara Feaster
Lisa McDonald
Pam Russell
Patti VanWagoner
Richard Walker
Jane Broadhead
Suzette Hudson
Amanda Singer
Barbara Thompson

Excused: Richard Anderson, Marie Christman, Kelly Colopy, Vicki Cottrell, George Delavan, Katie Gregory, Stephen Jardine, Kelly Peterson

Task Group Members Attending:

Gareldine Wright
Joe Leiker
Roland Oliver
Trish Coburn
Shari Lee
Jane Lewis
Rosa McFarland
Lorrin McGinnis
Brandy McCachren
Pauline Zvonkovic
Bob Haywood