



Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group

Meeting Minutes

December 2, 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, initiated introductions and walked through virtual meeting protocols.

Legislative Report Draft Review

DCYF’s Community Engagement Manager Erin Kerrigan shared a draft report based on member homework activity feedback and additional input collected.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think that style of report can be very helpful and impactful with our legislators. • We need to be sure the report is not characterizing things as individual or family failures, but having that system lens. • If anyone knows national best practices for the domains we discussed, please send that in. • Is there any data on how many of these people are going back to homes versus transitional housing? The families vs. Transitional housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yeah, we can do a data pull on that. ○ I’m curious what population I am serving as a transitional housing provider. ○ Our go-to for youth under 18 is returning to the family home. ○ It would be interesting to do data pulls on why a youth would be going to transitional settings as opposed to a home. ○ I’m not sure if we have that data.
Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Engagement team will send out the draft report for members to provide feedback.

Esperanza: Homework Recap Activity and Share Out

Members engaged in an individual homework recap activity and provided feedback.

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

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She needs to get to know herself and her value as a human being. She needs lots of reinforcement that she matters and can contribute. • Parents can forget the trauma they put their children through. The child needs to be a child, and sometimes the parents are the ones who need support. • Sometimes parents who are trying to get clean don’t want their child back in the home because they think they will interfere with their sobriety.
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Youth Risk and Protective Factor Domain Conversation: Schools

DCYF Education Program Administrator Haley Lowe shared insight and engaged in group conversation regarding the Domain of Schools.

- [Terrence’s Story](#)
- [Workshop Recommendations Programs and Services Designed for JR young Adults 18-25.](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to him talk about his mom telling him that he gave the state the power to hurt him was powerful. Knowing that it isn’t us against them can make a big difference. • He had an opportunity to find meaning in his talent. He didn’t even know his own talent until an adult pointed it out to him.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a young person in the juvenile justice system, being put in isolation, and being around gangs and violence were all risk factors. • His art, music, caring adults were protective factors. • How do we create these for these youths? Instead of trapping ourselves in the school house perspective. • Education is not in addition to rehabilitation, it is key to rehabilitation. • We need to highlight in our recommendation warm handoff to school districts and the responsibility of a warm adult for them to go to. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That is a great point, one way we are doing that is the foster care building point of contact. Working for DCYF, we have young people in our care (whether that is foster care or incarceration) our young people exiting the system really need an adult they can trust. • Echo Glen –The pandemic exacerbated the challenges. Education and service delivery was horrific. There was harm being done to the students at that time. Since then, there have been changes in leadership, across school districts, Felice’s support and encouragement to do something different. The key to the turnaround there is the communication and collaboration with the school district. The building and support staff and teachers and focusing on what do we need to do what can we do right now with no new resources to get these students better experiences. There’s still more work to do, but just 7 months of focusing on education and cross-system collaboration has given us a lot of hope. They currently have a principal that calls the youth scholars and shows up in a way where she feels lucky to work with those scholars. Rather than changing the kids, how do we change to be more responsive. They went from having 5 assaults in classrooms a month to zero. It has a lot to do with how you treat people. • 70% of our current population is over 18 and aging quickly. Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) was historically built on a k-12 system, so there was very little post-secondary education in JR. • We just started a college partnership with Centralia and Greendale School. We are building on additional college partnership, vocation pathways, and pre-apprenticeship programs. • We have a goal of partnering with a four-year program. • Open Doors is a re-engagement program. Some youth enter our care with very few credits. They are not going to get their full high school diploma in the time they are in our facility, so Open Doors assists with General Education Development (GED) programs even after they leave the facility. Legislation was passed to make that possible at Echo Glen. • We need to work with legislators to do this.
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Youth Risk and Protective Factor Domain Conversation: Living Skills

DCYF Office Chief of Reentry and Transition Lisa McAllister shared insight and engaged in group conversation regarding the Domain of Living Skills.

- [Life Skills One Pager](#)
- <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports>

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The life skills in the one pager are the areas that have been identified in JR’s reentry strategic plan in 2013. • We still have gaps, and we’re hoping that working in partnership with DCYF and some new money from the legislature will help us fill in some of those gaps. • One of the things we do at Hope for Homes is we offer them a job with us. It pays a little over minimum wage, we work with them and 911. They come here and relax. We pay for them to get their license, we do equine therapy, have life skills coaches to support. We want youth to hit the ground running, but really we need them to hit the ground and slow down. • These kids don’t need to be fixed, they need to be loved and supported.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ That is the key. We need to make community partnerships and now is the time. Young people have a reentry plan and everything outlined, but there are all these pressures and they don't have enough support. We need more partners like Hope for Homies.● Restorative Justice! We need more opportunities for youth to give back and be of service.● Progress is about finding the right opportunity.● I like the practicality of the list of living skills you shared.● We need to teach young people how to handle technology responsibly and how to not get into trouble online.
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Wrap Up Activity

Members completed reflection questions about attitude/behavior and living arrangements and provided feedback.

- [Wrap Up Activity Feedback](#)

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 December 16, 2021 from 9:00am-12:00pm.
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