



# Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group

## Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021 – 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting

### Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols, and Introductions

DCYF’s Community Engagement Manager Emily Morgan welcomed attendees, initiated introductions and walked through virtual meeting protocols.

### 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](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a peer mentor, whether that is a school mate or someone who has had experience transitioning back to school would benefit Esperanza.</li> <li>• Having really good communication between home and school staff is essential to make sure Esperanza feels supported and gets the things she needs. That transition from Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) to school can be really difficult. That communication should start before she even leaves JR.</li> <li>• She needs a safe peer to connect with at school.</li> <li>• Trauma and mental health impact education.</li> <li>• What does Esperanza envision for herself after school? Does she have access to job shadowing or someone to help her plan for the future?</li> <li>• Esperanza should have choices about where to finish her education. She needs to be invested in it, so it is just a plan someone else created for her.</li> <li>• Jamestown S’Klallam has a wonderful model where they help young people find mentors and job shadowing in their community.</li> <li>• There is a partnership with Starbucks and the Seahawks where young people can get mentorship for different jobs that interest them.</li> </ul>
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### Youth Risk and Protective Factor Domain Conversation: Employment

DCYF JR Business Relations Administrator, Desiree Cheung, introduced the PacMtn MyJob Program Manager, Kendra Moore who shared insight and engaged in group conversation regarding the Domain of Employment

- [MyJob Presentation](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I’m curious to know if the interests of the young men are matched to the assessment, because in my experience I feel that we push the jobs that have trade programs, for example: labor. A lot of men express interest in coding or human services, but I wonder if they are kind of persuaded to pursue paths that have more programs.       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ With the career bridge assessment, we sometimes see the young people don’t feel their interest matches the assessment. We ask them what are two things that they want to do, then we look into those programs with them. We try to match our speaker program to the interests of the young people. They may not have the opportunity to do job shadowing or a trade program, but we still try to connect them with someone who can direct them as a speaker and/or mentor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is there a sweet spot where you try to engage young people?       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We try to prioritize the youth off of their Integrated Treatment Assessment (ITA) and those who are leaving the program soon.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is there any financial mentoring? I think our young people need help with financial literacy.</li> </ul>
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- We do have a financial literacy workshop. We work alongside the Money Matters program at Green Hill.
- Thank you. I appreciate that. It is my understanding that A Better Track is also contracting with DCYF for Education and Employment Training (EET).
- What is done to engage young people whose interests are not matched to a program?
  - There is a gap there. Not all of the interests of the youths are offered in programming. That's where we try to bring in the speakers and mentors. It is an area for improvement.
- What about our young ladies? Is there an option like this available in Echo Glenn Children's Center (EGCC)?
  - Unfortunately, due to the reduction in services in our program, we have not been able to continue serving them while at EGCC; however, we are able to connect with them upon request from their counselor, probation officer (upon release), etc.
- A barrier I observed during my work with the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC): aerospace work can be concentrated in the Seattle area, and it can be disheartening to complete a program that does not result in a job. Do the young men know that? Or do they receive counseling that includes geographical issues?
  - We can find that out.
- Locally, we have a cross cultural, cross organizational collaborative that is representative of community based organization for Black, Indigenous and LGBTQ+ in recovery. We work together to get individuals trained as peer mentors, because it is a very white-dominated space. In our adult program we stipend our individuals to participate in a 12-week workforce development process led by individuals with lived experience. We were considering expanding out, but are you guys aware of anybody who's doing it in Spokane?
  - I don't know about programs that are housed in Spokane, but there is Pioneer Human Services that works primarily with adults in Seattle that sounds similar to that. They do have housing and treatment services in Spokane.
  - What about the NextGen zone?
  - I am very familiar with them, but they don't do the hard resources or emergency resources that provide relative services in real time. They work more in stabilization.
  - Are you connected with Deekon Jones and his program, New Developed Nations, in Spokane?
  - Yes.
  - Economic Securities for All through Work Source sounds like what you are expressing.
  - Yes, that sounds like a good connection. I am currently working an advisory committee in the strategic planning to implement a basic income, and we're looking at a target population. Reentry has been named several times, but there isn't an entity to hold that contract at this moment. I am wondering if we can continue that conversation and meet with decision makers to build out a statewide program where youth that are reentering are coming out with a sustainable income and then organizations provide the resources.



**Youth Risk and Protective Factor Domain Conversation: Criminal Records**

Acting Director of Team Child Sara Zier shared insight and engaged in group conversation regarding the Domain of Employment.

- [Team Child Presentation](#)

<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would love if young people could learn more about expungement and how to seal their records. Courts sell this idea to young people, but stop short of informing them the timelines and requirements</li> <li>• Is the class A excluded from expungement/sealing for juveniles?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ You can seal a Class A Exclusion. All juvenile records can be sealed. Some have more stringent requirements and some are up to the discretion of the court.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Does the new law that extends acknowledgment as a juvenile to 25 impact expungement for class A's?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No, the new law does not change anything with regards to record sealing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What would it take to not have juvenile criminal history show up to employers and landlords?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The only option available to young people is record sealing and it is not foolproof.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There are many exclusions for those convicted of any crime - volunteering at your kids' school, becoming a caretaker for aging family, becoming a placement for a child who may be your family, volunteering, employment, etc. As we serve an older demographic, these things come up, and contrary to what people think it is visible beyond 7 years as an adult or juvenile.</li> <li>• What about our juvenile youth who have sexually offended? I have found that depending on the county it can be easier or more difficult.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, there is an extra layer of challenges for youth who have a sex offense on their history.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drug convictions can omit people from food stamp or financial aid (like FAFSA) benefits, as well.</li> <li>• Is it still true for juveniles (as it is for adults) that codefendants share debt/restitution until payment is completed? For example, if there are three codefendants and you pay a third, do you still owe until your codefendants pay, as well?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Courts do have discretion to separate or share the restitution. We are seeing more orders where young people are just responsible for their own restitution. For old cases, where that is not true, they can ask the court to revise restitution.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Those five years to wait for sealing are a LONG time for the private companies to sweep up that criminal history information too.</li> <li>• There is a large population of aging youth at Green Hill that will be released to the community. Having some youth have their records sealed or expunged would be very impactful.</li> </ul>
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**Landscape Analysis Update**

DCYF's Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) Research and Analyst Administrator, Sarah Veele provided an update on the Landscape Analysis and asked for feedback from members.

- [Landscape Analysis Presentation](#)

<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a huge need for financial literacy in community facilities</li> <li>• We need to think about the intersectionality of so many of these issues and how heavy they are. Legal advocacy and things like expunging records impacts housing and employment. Thinking about access to health insurance. It is all connected and these barriers build upon and impact one another.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ That is a great point. As we think about a geographic level, many of these things happen concurrently; if there is a community mental health desert, there is probably a health food supply desert, as well, etc.</li><li>● I love that you are using existing information, because young people definitely don't need another assessment.</li><li>● It would be awesome if framing and presenting of services related to substance abuse was a choice of the young people.</li><li>● We are still in a place of trying to figure out how to align our supply and demand and fill in gaps. We appreciate feedback on that.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ One thing I don't see is the concept of some young people being raised in an environment and family structure that might have a different relationship with the criminal element (seeing it as a survival skill or a way to get by), and we need to help young people dismantle that and develop independent ideas and connect with role models.</li></ul></li></ul>
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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**

<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The next Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group meeting will be on January 11, 2022 from 9:00am-12:00pm.</li></ul>
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