

Bridges Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2016

Council Members present: **Stacia Burlingame** (Montgomery County JFS), **Ansley Callanan**(Ohio State Bar Association), **Lucy Chandler** (Supreme Court of Ohio), **Danielle Green-Welch** (Cuyahoga County JFS), **Tina Evans** (Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities), **Fawn Gadel** (Family & Youth Law Center at Capital University), **Monica Gazarek** (Wood County JFS), **Kristin Gilbert** (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services), **Jenny Gottfried** (The Village Network), **Meredith Hicks** (Lighthouse Youth Services), **Mindy Hughes** (Lake County JFS), **Hon. Jim D. James** (Stark County Juvenile Court/ Judicial Workgroup on Foster to 21), **Holly Jones** (Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services), **Angela Lariviere** (Ohio Youth Empowerment Program), **Mark Mecum** (Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies), **Molly Moses**(Ohio Housing Finance Agency), **Dauntea Sledge** (ACTION Ohio), **Denise St. Clair**(Ohio Family Care Association), **Colleen Tucker** (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services), **Mary Wachtel** (Public Children Services Association of Ohio), **Anthony Dumont** (YouthMOVE Ohio), **Vashawn Turner** (YouthMOVE Ohio), **Arlene Jones** (COOHIO)

- Brief overview of the handouts contained in the packets
- Brief discussion on the reason and purpose of the Advisory Council
- Introductions of council members and representatives in attendance

Purpose of the Day:

- Build a uniform and foundational understanding of legislation
- Have an understanding of who will be served through the Bridges program
- Have a sounding board for important discussion
- Discuss Framework, membership of council, and how to make recommendations
- Discuss purpose and parameters of Advisory Council
- Discuss work that has been accomplished thus far

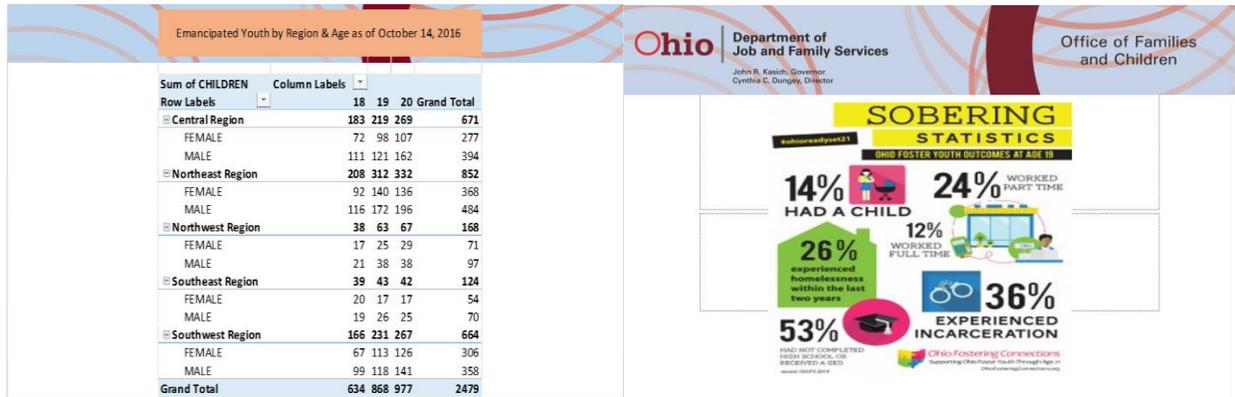
Key Terminology:

Youth= under the age of 18

Young Adult= 18 - 20

 <p>Department of Job and Family Services John R. Kasich, Governor Cynthia G. D'Angelo, Director</p>	 <p>Department of Job and Family Services John R. Kasich, Governor Cynthia G. D'Angelo, Director</p>
<p>Every year, more than 1,000 Ohio youth "age out" of foster care at 18 years old.</p>	<p>National Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less than 50% are employed full time• 40% of adult homeless population spent time in foster care• 48 % of females become pregnant by age 19• Only 2% earn a bachelor degree

Discussion of current outcomes for Emancipated Foster Youth



Outcomes Elsewhere

Outcome	Ohio	States with Extended FC
Enrolled in school	47%	70%
Earned diploma/GED	53%	60%
Adult Connections	85%	92%
Homelessness	27%	13%
Incarcerated	31%	13%
Had a child	11%	9%



Comments:

- Services tend to be female friendly (favored), however when you look at the data more males are “aging out” in Ohio and nationally (observation based on regional slide)

Federal Authorization

- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
- Offers states option
- Title IV-E reimbursable foster care, adoption or guardianship assistance up to 19, 20 or 21

Discussion of Fostering Connections to success and increasing adoptions act of 2008

- The act is federal legislation
- The act addresses the poor outcomes of youth that experienced foster care
- It establishes a safety net and added supports for youth in foster care
- In 2010, the first states started implementing programs
- Approximately 28 States have implemented or are in development of a program
- Each state follows the general format of the act but has flexibility to meet the needs of their young adults.
- States are allowed to receive Title IV-E funds.
 - Funds cover housing, case management, and adoption assistance payments

Substitute House Bill 50: Timelines

- **February 2015** **Introduced**
- **May 25, 2016** **Passed Ohio Senate**
- **June 13, 2016** **Signed by Governor Kasich**
- **September 11, 2016** **Start clock**
- **October 11, 2016** **Create Advisory Council (1 mo.)**
- **June 11, 2017** **Submit rev. Title IV-E State Plan**
Adopt rules (9 months)
- **December 11, 2017** **Implement Plan (15 months)**

- Amended plan is approved by HHS
- Sufficient funds appropriated by Ohio General Assembly

Timeline of HB 50

- Staff went over the timeline dictated in HB50

Substitute House Bill 50

○ **Program Criteria:**

- **Adoption Assistance**

- **Housing and Case Management
(Emancipated youth)**

Provisions within the law

- State administered program
 - ODJFS is responsible for developing and implementing the program
 - Legislation allows ODJFS to contract with a designee to provide case management services and housing.

Program Criteria (HB50 handout)

Adoption Assistance

- Adopted person was 16 or 17 when adopted and had been in custody of PCSA or the parent enters into an adoption assistance agreement.
- The person has attained the age of eighteen but not attained the age of twenty-one
- Parent maintains parental responsibility to adopted person.
- Must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Is completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
 - Is enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education;
 - Is participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
 - Is employed for at least eighty hours per month;
 - Is incapable of doing any of the activities described in division (C)(1) to (4) of this section due to a medical condition, which incapacity is supported by regularly updated information in the person's case record or plan.

Q. How is parental responsibility defined?

- a. Pursuant to 5101:2-49-10 (E) supporting a child- The adoptive parent(s) must be supporting the child. An adoptive parent(s) is supporting the child if the adoptive parent(s) provides the child with shelter, food, and clothing, child support, or any support regardless of the physical location of the child.

Q. Does the adoptive parent still have to claim the young adult on taxes (way to prove still responsible)?

- a. No, the adoptive parent is not required to claim the young adult on their taxes.

Bridges: Housing and Case management

- The person has attained the age of eighteen but not attained the age of twenty-one;
- The person was in the custody of a public children services agency upon attaining the age of eighteen;
- The person signs a voluntary participation agreement; and
- Must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Is completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
 - Is enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education;

- Is participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
- Is employed for at least eighty hours per month;
- Is incapable of doing any of the activities described in division (C) (1) to (4) of this section due to a medical condition, which incapacity is supported by regularly updated information in the person's case record or plan.
- The program's official name is "Bridges"
 - It is voluntary
 - A Voluntary Participation Agreement (VPA) must be signed in order to be enrolled in the program
 - Young Adults must have emancipated at the age of 18 or after
- If the Young Adult doesn't qualify for Title IV-E eligibility they will still be in the program. The state will cover the cost.

- Q. If a young adult is enrolled in Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP), does it qualify under the criteria that requires enrollment in a job readiness program?
- a. Yes, CCMEP would be a qualifying program designed to promote or remove barriers to employment.
- Bridges Staff are working with CCMEP staff to align in a way where efforts are not duplicated and won't disqualify young adults for the other program.

- Q. Do the counties have the necessary information and process guidelines in order to direct the young adults to the Bridges program when they return after emancipation? Also, how will the transition of responsibility for the youth from county custody to a state administered program work? What does that process look like?
- a. As the Bridges' Program is developed, we will make sure that these processes are defined and provided to Bridges stakeholders.

- Q. For the requirement that the youth must emancipate at the age of 18, will the youth who are 18 currently be eligible once the program is implemented?
- a. Yes, as long as they are under the age of 21 when the program is implemented. We are also discussing methods to publicize the program.

- Q. For the emancipated youth who do not volunteer to be part of Bridges and/or do not qualify, will these young adults still be eligible to receive post emancipation services? If yes, do all counties offer post emancipation services?
- a. Yes, county PCSAs will still be responsible for providing post-emancipation services to young adults that are ineligible for Bridges or do not want to be in the program but need assistance. The hope is that since the state will administer this program, county resources that are currently being used to support young adults, will now be available to serve more youth and young adults.

- Q. What is required for Title IV-E eligibility and what does Title IV-E cover?
- a. Bridges staff will provide a document with this information.

Comments:

- It was suggested that during a future meeting, council members discuss the disparity across counties in regards to their ability to provide post emancipation services.

Internal Workgroup discussion

So what have we done so far...

- Internal Workgroup Subject Matter Experts
- Process map
- Questions
- Name Change
- Presentations/Forums
- OFC Webpage
- Fosterto21@jfs.ohio.gov

Click to add title



Ohio Fostering Connections council

Click to add title

- Ohio Fostering Connections Recommendations
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities (other states)
- Youth Focus Groups
- Advisory Council
- Judicial Workgroup

- Ohio Fostering Connections provided recommendations to be considered in the development of the Bridges program
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities
 - Has knowledge on other state's development and implementation of these programs

Council Framework

Council Framework

- Conflict of Interest

- Charter

- Co-chair

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- Recommendations made by the Advisory Council are not subject to Ohio ethics laws because the council members are not given sovereign decision making powers. The council will provide recommendations but do not have final decision making authority.
 - There will be no discussion of the logistics of a competitive process within the council in order to avoid a conflict of interest if any council member's organization is interested in applying for a possible Request for Proposals (RFP).

Charter

- The draft charter was reviewed and suggestions for edits were made. Bridges staff will make the updates and send the updated version to council members for input.
- Once all edits have been made, the council will vote on approval of the charter.

Council members were asked if they felt that subcommittees would be helpful as council members addressed specific topics. Council members reported that subcommittees should be developed on an as needed basis, but subcommittee members should only be individuals already involved with the council. They did not see a value in bringing in external stakeholders as subcommittee members, due to the broad range of experience represented by the council members. However, subject matter experts could be invited to present on a specific topic.

Process Maps

Process Mapping

- Enrollment

- Emancipated youth in the program

Enrollment (See process map handout)

- 180 days prior to transition (transition plan) applies to all transition plans not just the Bridges program.
 - 270 days was too far off according to county IL workers so the timeline was moved to 180 days.
- Should be distinction between permanent custody IL youth and temporary custody youth.
- The discussion should happen later because it discourages permanency.
- The discussion should happen earlier so that you have a longer time to discuss permanency and not necessarily IL skills.
- Youth swim lane could be more active.
- Possibly have the transition plan where youth can access it.
- Reasonable transition period (grace period) to allow for transition from High School to one of the five criteria “summer break” etc.
- VPA- a contract laying out the responsibility of each party
- Individual plan- living working document that includes specific information.
- It would be helpful to have the hard line federal requirements for the program and have the other areas where states have flexibility in a document.

Q. Where will the “gap period” be spelled out?

- a. At this time it makes sense that this gap period would be included in a rule

Q. What does the rule require if a youth comes into care less than 90 days prior to their 18th birthday?

- a. The agency is required to complete an IL assessment and IL plan for the youth. A transition plan is still required and may contain the same information that is housed in the IL plan.

Q. Would a young adult meet the work requirement in they were participating in “Ameri Corps” or other volunteer options?

- a. This question will be discussed within the internal workgroup and will provide an answer at the next meeting.

Q. Will there be timelines associated with the enrollment process?

- a. Yes. As the Bridges’ Program is developed, we will make sure that these timelines are communicated to Bridges stakeholders.

Q. What role will SACWIS play in this program?

- a. SACWIS staff are actively participating in development discussions. SACWIS Management anticipate functionality will be available by implementation.



Next Steps

- Schedule meeting location

 - Insight into today's meeting
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Future Meetings

- Meet Bi-Monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month from 10a-2p
- Location: 4020 E. 5th Ave. Columbus, Oh. 43219
- Meeting Dates:
 - January 26, 2017
 - March 23, 2017
 - May 25, 2017
 - July 27, 2017
 - September 28, 2017
 - November 30, 2017
- If a council member is unable to attend a meeting, a representative from the respective agency may attend in council member's place but will not have voting authority.

Tasks:

- Create a title IV- E eligibility and reimbursability document (handout) to provide to the advisory council.
- Amend the advisory council charter and send to all council members for approval.
- Select a co-chair based on volunteers that are received.
- Provide the regional map that was used when staff generated the data that was provided.
- Send out appointments for the 2017 Advisory Council Meetings

Meeting Feedback

- Good first meeting.
- Council members would like to discuss 1-2 significant items in the next meeting that the council will be able to help decide.
- Provide the council an agenda and list of topics to be discussed well in advance of the next meeting so that they have the opportunity to discuss with their respective agencies.
- Prioritize all action pieces so that the council can address the most time sensitive tasks first.