Surveying the Field: Mapping a Path Towards Better Outcomes for Systems-Involved Youth

March 29, 2019
AYPF’s Vision

AYPF’s vision is that all young people, particularly traditionally underserved youth, have equitable opportunities and supports to become lifelong learners, earn a family-sustaining wage in their career, and actively participate in civic society.
AYPF’s Mission

AYPF’s mission is to educate, engage, and inform policymakers and practitioners about education, youth, and workforce policies to improve the lives and outcomes of traditionally underserved youth. We carry out this mission by providing research-based information and resources, first-hand learning experiences, convenings, and peer-to-peer networking exchanges to policymakers and youth-serving leaders at the national, state, and local levels.
AYPF has hosted 12 juvenile justice and foster care related webinars.

Over 3,000 people have tuned in to our juvenile justice and foster care related webinars.

AYPF has hosted 9 Capitol Hill forums and 4 discussion groups related to juvenile justice and foster care.

AYPF has led 3 juvenile justice and foster care related study tours.

Over 500 people have attended our juvenile justice and foster care related discussion groups and Capitol Hill forums.

AYPF has produced 9 publications on juvenile justice and foster care.

AYPF has partnered with 29 organizations over the last 3 years on convenings and publications related to these issues.
Our Resource Page

Foster, Juvenile Justice, and Crossover Youth

Resource Page | Tuesday, 16 May, 2017

Program Areas: Alternative Education Pathways | At-risk Youth (Foster Youth/Juvenile Justice) | Civic Engagement | Closing Persistent Achievement Gaps | Comprehensive Community Solutions for Youth Success | Comprehensive Supports | Postsecondary Education and Workforce Success | Youth Leadership and Voice

Understanding Foster, Juvenile Justice, and Crossover Youth

American Youth Policy Forum
May 2017
Today’s Goals

- Hear from state leaders and organizations about the greatest challenges and opportunities within the FFPSA and the JJDPA.
- Take inventory of the current resources available to states and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the FFPSA and the JJDPA.
- Identify gaps in resources and potential tools that could help states and stakeholders implement the new federal legislation.
Agenda Overview

- State Presentations from Connecticut, Virginia, and Maryland
- Reflections from State Presentations
- Interactive Resource Mapping and Discussion
- Key Takeaways and Closing
Housekeeping

- Restroom Key Fobs

- Wi-Fi
  - Network: YOUTHNET1
  - Password: AYPFGoldenGate

- Discussion Group “Ground Rules”

- Twitter Handle: #AYPFMapping
Graphic Recording
Honoring Youth Voice
Introductions

- Your Name and Title
- Organization
- What fears or concerns do you have about the JJDPA and/or Family First legislation?
State Presentation #1: Preparing for the Family First Prevention Services Act: How Connecticut Safely Reduced their use of Congregate Care

Linda Dixon, Ph.D., Administrator
Family, Adolescent, and Children’s Services
Connecticut Department of Children and Families
Hartford, Connecticut
Connecticut
Department of Children and Families
Enhancing Community Supports and Safely Reducing Congregate Care
January, 2011

- 4,900 youth in care
- 30% of youth in congregate
- 364 youth in OOS programs
- 200 youth <12 in congregate

March, 2019

- 4,200 youth in care
- 7% of youth in congregate
- 9 youth in OOS programs
- 10 youth <12 in congregate
Practice Transformation

- New leadership with a clear vision
- Permanency
- Legislative Support
- Announced Visits
- Differential Response
- Strengthening Families Practice Model
- Considered Removal
- Commitment to use data to drive system change
- Commitment to Racial Justice
- Fatherhood Engagement

Connecticut: Enhancing Community Supports
3/29/19
Connecticut Process

Established blueprint

Kinship mapping process

Developed DCF search/engagement team and expand Wendy’s Wonderful Kids

Technical assistance in recruiting and permanency for DCF staff and providers

Add clinical supports and child specific recruitment to foster care

Developed kinship navigator service

Targeted service expansion in clinical and non-clinical services
Connecticut Process (cont’d)

Examined needs of youth out-of-state and developed in-state resources

Focused workforce development: (permanency, discharge planning, family engagement)

Converted shelters to 14-day family-focused service

Leveraged relationships with legislators and advocates

Supported critical thinking prior to removals

Increased efforts to engage families and youth

Examined service outcomes and practice efforts by race/ethnicity

Connecticut: Enhancing Community Supports
3/29/19
Agency Self-Reflection

- Policy change (i.e., 10% rule)
- Special review forum
- Rightsize state operated beds
- LEAN approach to foster care licensing
- Examine voluntary services program
- Enhanced service oversight

Connecticut: Enhancing Community Supports
3/29/19
Message: Families can access services without DCF involvement

Engage early childhood experts

Differential Response/Considered Removal/Announced Visits

Partnership with courts
Connecticut Rightsizing Steps

- Held expedited permanency meetings for youth <12
- Assessed youth >12 beginning with the less intensive levels of care
- Rightsized programs based on established criteria
Maximize Foster Care Resources

Youth created DCF’s foster care profile forms and directed our recruitment video

Panels of youth at racial justice forums and at “Youth at the Capitol Day”

Developed curriculum in LGBTQ sensitivity and launched the “Pride Campaign”

Foster care with intensive clinical supports

Consultation on recruitment & retention plans and data-informed benchmarks

Targeted effort in rural areas
Challenges

- Messaging
- Recruiting foster parents who want to serve as mentors to biological families
- Balancing emphasis on services/arrays with natural supports
- Shift in provider landscape
- Kin placement permanency
Our Road Ahead

- Capitalize on technology for foster recruitment
- Continue workforce development in permanency
- Fiscal incentives for private agency growth
- Coordinate efforts related to FFPSA
State Presentation #2: Utilizing a Multidisciplinary and Collaborative Approach to Child Welfare Transformation: A Three Branch Model

Carl Ayers, Director
Division of Family Services
Virginia Department of Social Services
Family First Prevention Services Act and Implementation Updates
Family First Overview

- Family First Vision
- Prevention Services
- Foster Care Changes
- Implementation Updates
Three Tiers of Family First

- Prevention Services
- Foster Care Changes
- Other Programmatic Changes

Strategic Priorities:
- Prevention Services
- Family-Based Placements
- Congregate Care
- Evidence-Based Services
- Resource and Financial Accountability
The **vision** for Family First is to **keep children safe**, **strengthen families** and **reduce the need for foster care** whenever it is safe to do so.
Prevention Services
Who is Eligible for Title IV-E Prevention Services Funds?
- A child (and their caregivers) who is a candidate for foster care who can remain safely at home or in a kinship home and is identified as being at *imminent risk* of entering foster care

- A child in foster care who is pregnant or parenting

- A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is a risk of a disruption/dissolution and includes post-reunification services
“Imminent risk” means a child and family’s circumstances demand that a defined case plan is put into place within 30 days that identifies interventions, services and/or supports and absent these interventions, services and/or supports, foster care placement is the planned arrangement for the child.
The Candidate for Foster Care must have a written prevention plan which includes the following:

- Identify the prevention strategy so that the child can remain in the home, live temporarily with a kin caregiver until reunification can be safely achieved, or live permanently with a kin caregiver;
- List of services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of the child to ensure success of the prevention strategy
What services are reimbursable?
IV-E Reimbursable Services

- Mental Health Prevention Treatment Services
- Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Services
- In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs

Trauma Informed
• Improved outcome must be based on the results of at least 2 studies that used a random control or quasi-experimental trial
• Carried out in a usual care or practice setting
• Sustained effect for at least one year beyond the end of treatment

• Improved outcome must be based on the results of at least one study that used a random control or quasi-experimental trial
• Carried out in a usual care of practice setting
• Sustained effect for at least 6 months beyond the end of treatment

• Improved outcomes must be based on at least one study that use some form of control group
## Initial List of Services Under Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental Health Prevention Treatment Services</th>
<th>Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Services</th>
<th>In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs</th>
<th>Kinship Navigator Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
• Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
• Multisystemic Therapy
• Functional Family Therapy | • Motivational Interviewing
• Multisystemic Therapy
• Families Facing the Future
• Methadone Maintenance Therapy | • Nurse-Family Partnership
• Healthy Families America
• Parents as Teachers | • Children’s Home Inc. Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically-Advanced Model (KIN-Tech)
• Children’s Home Society of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model |
Federal Prevention Services Clearinghouse

- Release of Clearinghouse Handbook of Standards and Procedures: April 2019
- Release of Program and Service Ratings of the Initial 11 evidence-based services: May 2019
- Release of the next list of evidence-based services to be reviewed: Late Spring-Summer 2019
Foster Care Program Changes
We believe that children do best when raised in families.

After a two-week grace period, IV-E payments will be limited to the following placement types:

- Family and kinship foster homes
- Placements for pregnant or parenting youth
- Supervised independent living for youth 18+
- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) for youth with treatment needs
- Specialized placements for victims of sex trafficking
- Family-based residential treatment facility for substance abuse (*beginning October 2018*)
Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

- Accreditation
- Trauma Informed Treatment Model
- Facilitates Outreach to the Family
- Provides Family-Based Aftercare Support for at least 6 months
- Registered or Licensing Nursing and Clinical Staff

Congregate Care
QRTP Collaborations

- DBHDS
- OCS
- VDSS Licensing
- VDSS Family Services
- DMAS
QRTP Requirements

- 30-day Assessment
- 60-day Court Review
- 12-month review by Commissioner
Definitions: QRTP Process

• **Qualified Individual:** Licensed Mental Health Professional means a physician, licensed clinical psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner, licensed marriage and family therapist, certified psychiatric clinical nurse specialist, or licensed behavior analyst. As defined in 12VAC35-105-20.

• **QRTP Assessment Process:** Use of the mandatory Medicaid clinical assessment process (currently known as IACCT), with the possibility of an added Child Welfare module.
  • This will require extensive collaboration and planning with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to determine feasibility.
Implementation Updates
We know some of the pieces, But we’re still figuring out many of the pieces.
Public Law 115-123
DIVISION E—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EXTENDERS TITLE VII—FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Virginia Department of Social Services (IV-E Funding Entity)

Virginia Office of Children’s Services (State Foster Care Funding Sources)

Three Branch Leadership Team (Judicial, Executive and Legislative Branches of Government)

Three Branch Home Team

Finance
Prevention Services
Appropriate Foster Care Placements
Evidence-Based Services

A Collaborative Approach to Implementation: The Three Branch Model
29 meetings

91 hours

102 Experts

= 9,282 hours of work invested in the implementation of the Family First Act in Virginia

**June 2018 – February 2019**
The "Local" Voice

- Prevention Advisory Group
- The "Local" Voice
- Permanency Advisory Committee
- CPS Advisory Group
To Date Accomplishments

**Finance Workgroup**
- Maintenance of Effort
- Budget Implications
- Budget Proposal for General Assembly

**Evidence-Based Services Workgroup**
- Survey for EBS in Virginia
- Collaboration with DMAS, DBHDS and DJJ
- Increased understanding of the Hexagon Tool

**Prevention Services Workgroup**
- Recommendations on defining key terms
- Continuum of Prevention Services
- Feedback for Development of Federal Clearinghouse

**Appropriate Foster Care Placements Workgroup**
- Recommendations for QRTP Assessment
- Feedback for Development of Federal Foster Home Model Licensing Standards
Moving Forward
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workgroup</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finance Workgroup</strong></td>
<td>- Understand the financial costs of group home placements if not IV-E eligible</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Understand the financial costs of supporting the start up of evidence-based services</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Recommending a fiscal auditing tool and process</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence-Based Services Workgroup</strong></td>
<td>- Analyze results of EBS Survey (service gaps)</td>
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<td>- Perform CANS data analysis</td>
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<td>- Provide recommendations for fidelity monitoring and CQI process</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Use of Hexagon Tool to assist in understanding where specific EBPs may fit in our system</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prevention Services Workgroup</strong></td>
<td>- Maximize and leverage CSA and Family First Funds (as well as other child serving agencies) to meet the diverse and complex needs of families</td>
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<td>- Develop a long term vision for the prevention services continuum</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Recommendations for Title IV-E Prevention Services Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appropriate Foster Care Placements Workgroup</strong></td>
<td>- Develop workflow recommendations for the judicial and Commissioner review requirements for a youth placed in a QRTP</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Develop strategies to increase foster homes with an emphasis on kinship homes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Recommendation for key terms: Family and Permanency Team and After-Care Supports</td>
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To Do

• Consider establishing a local Three Branch Team

• Stay tuned to Fusion for critical updates

• Send representatives to child welfare advisory committees

• Maintain open communication with Three Branch VLSSE Representatives
Thank you!

familyfirst@dss.virginia.gov

Family First Team
Carl Ayers, Director
Elizabeth Lee – Project Manager
Laura Reed – Project Manager
Jim Fiske – Financial Consultant
Allyson Roberts – Change Management Consultant
TIME FOR A BREAK
State Presentation #3: New Opportunities to Strengthen Racial Equity through the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act

Betsy Tolentino, Executive Director
Pre-Adjudication Services and Reform
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
Developmental Approach to Juvenile Justice Reform

Hallmarks of the Developmental Approach

- Accountability Without Criminalization
- Alternatives to Justice System Involvement
- Individualized Response Based on Assessment of Needs and Risks
- Confinement Only When Necessary for Public Safety
- A Genuine Commitment to Fairness
- Sensitivity to Disparate Treatment
- Family Engagement
Juvenile Complaints Have Declined for All Race/Ethnicities Since FY06

- Complaints for African American youth declined 52.1%, and declined 65.4% for white youth.
- African American youth comprise 63.1% of complaints, up from 57.8% in FY06.
- African American youth comprise 32.0% of the general population.

Prepared by: Office of Research and Evaluation
Data Source: DIS ASSIST
Sensitivity to Disparate Treatment


- Implementing Race Equity Training Series to “operationalize” principles and practices of race equity through increased dialogue, assessment, and policy and practice solutions
- Increasing regional and local capacity for race equity strategies through equity coaching and specialized technical assistance
- Vetting DJS assessment and treatment policies and procedures through the new *Racial Impact Assessment Lens (RIAL)*
- Modifying policies and practices in order to mitigate disparate, adverse outcomes for youth of color
- Routine monitoring of decision point data for youth of color to assess progress and identify additional work opportunities.
Maryland Juvenile Detention Population Declined Significantly

- The average daily juvenile court population in DJS detention declined **55.0%** over ten years.
- Cases detained for the Adult Court now make up **37.3%** of the DJS detained population.
Resources

DJS Website
www.djs.maryland.gov

Data Resource Guides

Implementing Juvenile Justice Reform, National Research Council of the National Academies
http://www.nap.edu/catalog/18753/implementing-juvenile-justice-reform-the-federal-role
For More Information

Betsy Fox Tolentino
Executive Director of Pre-adjudication, Intake and Reform
Betsy.Tolentino@Maryland.gov
Cell – 410-599-8004
Reflections from the Judiciary and Technical Assistance Perspective

Speakers:

The Honorable Hiram Puig-Lugo, Judge
Board of Directors National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Julie Breedlove
Managing Director
Communities and Priorities
Capacity Building Center for States
Resource Mapping and Group Discussion

Key

- Green = Foster Care
- Purple = Juvenile Justice
- Yellow = Gaps

Resource Card How-To

- **Organization**: Name of organization responsible for developing the resource
- **Title**: Name of the resource
- **Format**: Publication, toolkit, database, etc.
- **Audience**: Who was the resource developed for? i.e. policymakers, practitioners, community-based organizations, youth, etc.

#AYPFmapping
Questions to Generate Resource Card Ideas

- What resources has your organization worked on in the past few years?
- What resources are particularly helpful to your work?
- What resources are in development?
Where are the Gaps?

- Are there gaps in Organization, Audience, and Format?
- Do you see trends in the formats and/or audiences that are being used/targeted?
- What resources do your networks, state partners, advocates, etc. need?
- Given the resources documented on each poster, what areas lack attention?
Feedback from July 2018 Discussion Group

What pertinent voices do you think are missing from policy and practice conversations about these youth?

- Other
- Youth
- Practitioners
- Higher education
- Business leaders
- Religious leaders and organizations
- Federal policymakers
- State policymakers

Percentage distribution graph with 0% to 45% scale.
Key Takeaways and Closing

- What is your one takeaway from today?

- What are you the most hopeful for?
We Want Your Feedback!

Please complete the feedback form in your folders before heading out.

Thanks!