THE SAN FRANCISCO FOSTER YOUTH HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Presenters:

Semuteh Freeman, Staff Attorney, Legal Services for Children

Maya Webb, Foster Youth Services Coordinator, San Francisco Unified School District
Foster Youth Higher Education Subcommittee Overview:

- **Purpose:**
  The Subcommittee seeks to create a college-going culture in the San Francisco foster care community and share information and resources to better serve foster youth pursuing post-secondary education.

- **Members:**
  - San Francisco Unified School District
  - SF Court Appointed Special Advocates
  - California Youth Connection
  - City College of San Francisco
  - Independent Living Skills Program
  - Legal Services for Children
  - SF Juvenile Probation
  - SF Human Services Agency
  - San Francisco State University
  - Group Homes
HISTORY

- History:
  - **2012-13 School Year**
    - Established a subcommittee of the AB12 local workgroup to focus on educational needs of transitioning foster youth.
  - **2013-14 School Year**
    - Subcommittee subsided with the lack of an agency lead.
  - **2014-15 School Year**
    - Re-launched by Legal Services for Children with a focus on:
      - Financial aid,
      - College enrollment and retention,
      - High School graduation,
      - Summer enrichment programs,
      - Students with disabilities,
      - Career Technical Education, and
      - Resources for foster youth both on and off campus.
**MEETING AGENDAS**

- **Meeting Structure:**
  - Monthly Meetings at City College of San Francisco
  - **Facilitated Topics** based on priority of need and interest. Covered topics included:
    - Special Education/DSPS
    - A-G Requirements
    - Coordinating counseling services in high school
    - Book vouchers/ transportation vouchers
    - How to support students on campus
    - Troubleshooting enrollment issues
    - Housing for students
  - **Open Forum** to case conference on available resources to specific student needs
  - **Special Projects** designed to help bring awareness and accessibility to resources and information. Projects included:
    - Local Higher Education Summit
    - Higher Education Passport and Guide
SUBCOMMITTEE OUTCOMES

- Resource Sharing
- Higher Education Summit
- Higher Education Passport
- SF Youth Collaborative List Serv
- SFUSD High School Site Visits
# Continuing the Journey:

**Creating a Pathway to Higher Education for San Francisco’s Foster Youth**

**Primary Goal:**
Increase the number of non-minor dependents in San Francisco County who successfully enroll in and complete post-secondary education.

**Secondary Goal:**
Provide useful tools for advocates and stakeholders in the foster youth community in San Francisco to best assist foster youth achieve matriculation and graduation in post-secondary education.

**Purpose:**
- To educate advocates and service providers on available resources both on and off campus for foster youth pursuing college/vocational training.
- To foster communication and information sharing between SFUSD and programs available for foster youth at colleges and post-secondary institutions in San Francisco.
- To support foster youth with disabilities make a successful transition from high school to post-secondary education.
- To introduce a SF Specific Higher Education resource in collaboration with 1Degree.

**Methods:**
- Harness momentum of the Higher Education Subcommittee to invite stakeholders, community members, advocates, current and former foster youth to the Summit.
- Hold a resource fair at the end of the Summit for information sharing and networking.
- Foster and nurture college going culture among San Francisco non-minor dependents and their advocates.
- Brainstorm ideas for increased coordination of efforts and use these ideas as framework for future subcommittee meetings.

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**WHEN:**
May 8, 2015,
9:00AM to 4:00PM

**WHERE:**
City College of San Francisco
Purpose of the Passport:
Provide foster youth in SF with a tool for higher education resources. Create an interactive way for youth and their service providers to keep track of their progress towards achieving post-secondary education.

Available at:
http://www.cacollegepathways.org/sites/default/files/foster-youth-higher-education-passport.pdf
WHO’S USING THE PASSPORT

- San Francisco Unified School District
  - Foster Youth Services (FYS) Liaisons and FYS Case Management Interns
- San Francisco Independent Living Skills Program
- San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocates
- San Francisco State University
  - Guardian Scholars Program
TIPS FOR CREATING A COLLABORATIVE IN YOUR COUNTY

- Identify lead agency and facilitator
- Identify and reach out to key stakeholders
  - College guardian scholars programs
  - K-12 foster youth support staff (AB490 District Liaison or FYS County-wide Coordinator)
  - Current and former foster youth
  - Placing agencies (Child Welfare, Probation)
- Identify concrete tasks and goals that impact policy change and/or implementation of best practices
- Plan a culminating event after one year to include larger community
TEAMWORK

Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.

Henry Ford
QUESTIONS?

Semuteh Freeman
Staff Attorney
Legal Services for Children
1254 Market Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 863-3762 x 307 (t)
Direct Line (415) 780-6337
(415) 863-7708 (f)
semuteh@lsc-sf.org

Maya Webb, MSW, PPSC
Program Administrator/Foster Youth Services Coordinator
San Francisco Unified School District
1515 Quintara Street, San Francisco, CA 94116
T: (415) 242-2615, Ext. 3310
F: (415) 242-2618
webbm1@sfusd.edu