PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS

CASE STUDIES IN SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION BETWEEN CHILD WELFARE AND HIGHER EDUCATION
Call-in number is (480) 297-0021 and access code is 664-606-326.

To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “Send”

Presentation materials and audio will be posted at www.cacollegepathways.org
PRESENTERS

- Debbie Raucher, John Burton Foundation
- Linda Williams – Sierra College
- Roger Golec – Humboldt County Office of Education
- Devon Werble, John Burton Foundation
- Elise Cutini – Silicon Valley Children’s Fund
- Sherri Brooks - Silicon Valley Children’s Fund
EDUCATION PAYS

Education pays:

Unemployment rate in 2010 (%)

- Doctoral degree: 1.9%
- Professional degree: 2.4%
- Master's degree: 4.0%
- Bachelor's degree: 5.4%
- Associate degree: 7.0%
- Some college, no degree: 9.2%
- High school diploma: 10.3%
- Less than a high school diploma: 14.9%

Average: 8.2%

Median weekly earnings in 2010 ($)

- Doctoral degree: $1,550
- Professional degree: $1,610
- Master's degree: $1,272
- Bachelor's degree: $1,038
- Associate degree: $767
- Some college, no degree: $712
- High school diploma: $626
- Less than a high school diploma: $444

Average: $782

FOSTER YOUTH AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Want to go to college: 90%
- Actually go to college: 30%
- Complete a 2 or 4 year degree: 10%
HIGHLIGHTED COMMUNITIES

- Humboldt
  - Pop: 134,623
  - In care: 283

- Placer
  - Pop: 361,682
  - In care: 255

- Santa Clara
  - Pop: 1.83 million
  - In care: 1,083

- Los Angeles
  - Pop: 9.96 million
  - In care: 18,173
PLACER COUNTY COLLEGE TRANSITION SUPPORT TEAM

Formation

- Initiated by FYSI liaison at Sierra college and Placer County Office of Education in 2007
- Began with brainstorming meeting of stakeholders
- Took about 1 year to solidify
STRUCTURE

- Meetings organized by Sierra College
- Children’s System of Care provides admin support
- Meet once per month
- New agenda crafted annually
- Topics include mix of big picture issues and triage needs of students
PARTICIPANTS

- Community colleges
- County Children’s System of Care
- ILSP program
- County Office of Education
- Foster Kinship Care Education (FKCE)
- Community based organizations
- Department of Rehabilitation
- Minors’ attorneys
- THP-Plus providers
- CASA
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- List-serve to advertise resources and solicit for specific needs of students.
- Access to the Placer County Network of Care
- Organized an Independent City event.
- Increased number of youth accessing ILSP services.
- Organized an annual luncheon at the college
- Created a system for priority registration that is considered a model for colleges around the state
- Improved the transition to college by supporting child welfare staff to create systems for better and earlier planning
ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT.)

- Brought in local hospitals to provide mental health training and wellness to youth and provide assistance with fundraising.
- Bringing ILSP services to campus dorms.
- Improved foster youth retention from 25% to 70% at Sierra College.
- Every foster youth student in need of a computer is provided with one at no cost to them.
- Cross system collaboration with the Community College California Mental Health Services Act Project.
- Community awareness programs to promote the accomplishments of CTST, the result of which has been donations by private citizens of funds, services, and goods to support a successful academic year.
LOS ANGELES COURT SCHOLARS

Formation

- Commissioner Marilyn Mackel (retired) and Judge Emily Stevens (retired) spearheaded in 2009
- Began with court, DCFS and Cal State Los Angeles
- Letter sent from court to campus presidents requesting participation in collaboration with DCFS
STRUCTURE

- Meetings organized by family court judge
- Meetings held every 2 months
- Four subcommittees
  - Identification and Tracking of Foster Youth and Countywide Support to Colleges
  - DCFS/College Partnership Committee
  - Communication with Foster Youth, Caregivers, Partners
  - Fundraising Committee
- Focus on information sharing and big picture issues rather than individual cases
PARTICIPANTS

- DCFS
- Community colleges
- CSUs and UCLA
- Advocacy organizations
- Community based organizations
- California Youth Connection
- ILSP coordinators
- Judges
- Attorneys
- County Office of Education
- Los Angeles Unified School District
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provides opportunities for networking and relationship building.
- Created protocols for priority registration.
- Obtained donation of computers for foster youth to utilize while at court buildings for hearings.
- Provides a forum for information sharing about new legislation, policy changes within DCFS and opportunities at specific campuses or in the community.
- Creation of fact sheets for court personnel on topics such as college enrollment and financial aid.
- Sponsored an information-sharing forum
ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT.)

- Sharing of information by DCFS that helps those working with students to successfully navigate the county bureaucracy.
- Funds to assist Cal State LA with programs for foster youth.
- Creation of a verification system that enables college campuses to more easily verify foster youth status with DCFS.
- Liaison for the placement of California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) MSW students on various college campuses to work with foster youth.
- Secured a CALSWEC MSW student to be stationed at the Children's Courthouse.
- Efforts underway to create a more user-friendly interface for the ILP program’s online portal and ILP outreach campaign.
HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Grew out of the California Connected by 25 Initiative

Humboldt County Foster Youth Education Steering Committee created

Subcommittee on higher education established - 2009

Funds used for consultant to advise on improving collaboration between the Child Welfare Services and higher education
STRUCTURE

- Meets twice per month
- Very task-oriented and focuses on larger system issues rather than specific cases
- Meetings include a check-in that allows for cross-system information sharing followed by a discussion of specific issues or upcoming events
- Members also assist with local Beyond the Bench events
  ★ Organized by the Juvenile Court Judge with assistance from a newly created educational liaison position housed within the Child Welfare Services Agency.
  ★ Located at the courthouse to facilitate participation of child welfare judges
PARTICIPANTS

College of the Redwoods

County Office of Education - Foster Youth Services

Department of Child Welfare Services

Talent Search (Federal TRIO Program)

Humboldt County Probation

Humboldt State University
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Built a strong network of collaboration
- Creation of a Standing Court Order which allows all major agencies to communicate with each other
- Mentorship program with students from the Social Work and Sociology Departments serving as mentors to youth entering college.
- Publication of the Humboldt County Interagency Education Guide
- Hosting of a yearly foster youth luncheon for 6th-12th graders with approximately 55-60 youth in attendance each year.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT.)

- Series of team-based trainings for foster parents, CASA volunteers and probation staff.
- Creation of relationships with college campuses to facilitate transition to college.
- Creation of the Elite Scholars program for foster youth attending Humboldt State University.
- Agreement with the Talent Search program at Humboldt State that guarantees admission into the program for referred foster youth.
- Ongoing work to create a program that allows Elite Scholars to mentor younger foster youth.
SANTA CLARA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP (JCEP)

Formation

- Emerged from Foster Youth Services
- Initial focus on K-12 – since expanded to include higher education
- Collapsed several different meetings into one

Structure

- Meets monthly, alternating between a full workgroup and advisory group
- Foster Youth Services functioned as the coordinator initially
- Taken over by *Kids in Common* and *Silicon Valley Children’s Fund* to facilitate the meetings
- Functions as clearinghouse for information and updates
PARTICIPANTS

- Department of Children and Family Services
- Juvenile dependency/delinquency judges
- County Office of Education
- Kids in Common
- Juvenile probation placement unit
- Legal Advocates for Children & Youth
- Guardian Scholars at San Jose State
- Child Advocates of Silicon Valley
- Community College
- ILP
- Silicon Valley Children’s Fund
- ILP Guardians Scholar at San Jose State
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Information sharing among stakeholders about upcoming events and opportunities, legislative updates and other pertinent information.

- Developed a partnership program between DFCS, SVCF and SCCOE to use interns at state universities to act as mentors for high school aged foster youth to assist them in completing high school and getting on track for college.

- Launched summer school credit recovery program in partnership with National Hispanic University for English and Math. Provides one semester worth of credits for high school English and Math.

- Organization of annual higher education summit.

- Efforts are underway to implement a GED prep program and SAT prep class in coordination with ILP.
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

- SVCF leads collaboration that includes SCCOE, DCFS, ILP, CASA and the FYSI liaisons from each community college and foster youth supporters at local universities (San Jose State & Santa Clara University)

- Meets bi-monthly

- Focuses on improving coordination between the child welfare agency and local community colleges by identifying and addressing specific issues related to improving access and retention.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Successful implementation of priority registration on all campuses
- Development of new retention strategies including establishing measurement guidelines for retention
- Outreach to foster youth and hosting of events at ILP offices for foster youth to find out about what colleges offer, financial aid options, etc.
  ★ Coordinates annual Cash For College event for foster youth
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Annual May Foster Care Awareness Month event to promote higher education opportunities and career pathways
- Developed and piloting academic coaching/mentoring model on four community college campuses to improve retention (Relationships Inspiring Scholar Excellence – RISE)
- Ongoing discussions to improve process and flow of information to streamline services for foster youth on their campuses.
LESSONS LEARNED

- Take the time to find the right contact within each agency and at each campus.
- Cast the net wide and be inclusive rather than exclusive.
- Child welfare agencies should consider inviting colleges to existing collaborative meetings that may exist in the county.
- Keep it simple.
- Once group is solidified it can be helpful to develop a comprehensive project plan.
- It is helpful to have a central organizer to begin. Co-leadership involving multiple agencies can also be very helpful.

**TIP:** Visit [www.cacolleagepathways.org/explore-campus-support-programs](http://www.cacolleagepathways.org/explore-campus-support-programs) to find contact information for foster youth contacts at California colleges and universities.
LESSONS LEARNED

- Hold regular meetings with core participants at a consistent time.
- Use data to tell your story and convey your message.
- Design your group to meet the needs of your particular community.
- Budget limitations require the pooling together of resources.
- Avoid blaming. Come together around common goals without criticizing any one piece of the system for insufficiencies.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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