

CA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL

CHILD DEVELOPMENT, SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TRANSITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015

**SUCCESSFUL YOUTH TRANSITION
OPPORTUNITIES**

PolicyLink



INTRODUCTION

- In 2012, the CWC CDSYT adopted an employment policy agenda for youth aging out of the foster care system
- Santa Clara's Foster Youth Emancipated Foster Youth (EFY) Program was held up as a model
- There are timely policy and systems change opportunities at the federal, state, and local levels
- CA Opportunity Youth Network (COYN) developed an **advocacy and action agenda** for the coming months, focused in the short term on the implementation of WIOA and Adult Education Reform (AB86); and in the long term on emergent relevant issues at the local, state, and national levels.



TODAY'S GOAL

Provide an overview of the findings of the CA Opportunity Youth Network's policy research agenda and find common themes with CWC CDSYT.

Generate conversation, hone strategies that represent members' interests, and prioritize activities in a way that best supports the CWC CDSYT Employment Goals

SANTA CLARA MODEL

- Prior to EFY Employment Program, the county had limited job opportunities for qualified emancipated foster youth, and the existing job opportunities were only available within the Social Services Agency.
- In early 2006, three county departments came together to develop a pilot employment program for youth to have temporary, paid assignments that included on the job training (OJT).
- The pilot program was a success with 24 of the 30 youth hired completing their temporary assignment.



SANTA CLARA MODEL CONT.

- The county wanted to use the momentum to create a permanent, larger scale program to offer employment opportunities to former foster youth.
- Key Partners: Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, Department of Family and Children's Services; Santa Clara County Employee Services Agency (ESA)/Human Resources

CWC CDSYT ACTIONS

- Research was provided to members
- White paper was created and distributed to members
- Limited CWC CDSYT resources delayed next steps.

COYN ACTION AREAS

Three *Action Areas and Ten Strategies* emerged based upon a review of interview responses, an analysis of existing policy documents, and a scan of the shared expertise across the COYN members:

- Practice
- Policy
- Advocacy and Engagement

ACTION AREAS: PRACTICE

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1. *Develop a statewide network with a backbone organization*

- To be effective and to reach scale, the California sites should form a statewide network that encompasses coordination around core areas of work such as policy, communications, a community of practice, and a focus on research and data.

ACTION AREAS: PRACTICE

2. *Landscape map to identify where jobs are and where jobs will be.*

- *Many COYN members have already done this, but we need to remain vigilant in how we track the demand, not just the supply.*

ACTION AREAS: PRACTICE

3. Make eligibility regulations the problem of programs, not the problem of clients.

- *Increase administrative capacity of OY orgs to manage disconnected systems, secure gap funding, etc. so that clients' experience is seamless, even if administration of that experience is anything but.*

ACTION AREAS: PRACTICE

4. *Build data-sharing infrastructure.*

- *COYN members have made progress but none of us have achieved everything we need for truly comprehensive data-sharing yet.*

ACTION AREAS: POLICY

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5. *Local advocacy and political action around new local WIB membership/make-up.*

- *WIOA's reconfiguration of WIBs' make-up presents an opportunity to seat more members who represent the needs of OY.*

ACTION AREAS: POLICY

6. *State advocacy and political action around WIOA, AB86, LCFF, Career Pathways Trust etc.*

- *Opportunities exist at the state level for political action around:*
 - *CA WIB membership*
 - *WIOA administrative regulations*
 - *Implementation of AB86*
 - *Upcoming CA Legislative Session*
 - *State Budget*
 - *Legislative Vehicles*



ACTION AREAS: POLICY

7. *National* advocacy and political action around federal policy, national funding strategies, etc.

- *Opportunities exist at the national level for political action around:*
 - *WIOA*
 - *Public Comment on Regulations due June 15, 2015 (www.regulations.gov)*
 - *Performance Pilot Partnerships (P3)*
 - *My Brother's Keeper*
 - *National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention*
 - *Elementary Secondary Education Act*



ACTION AREAS: ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

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8. *Connect adult education providers and funds to WIOA providers and funds.*

- *Leverage existing AOYIF networks in order to:*
 - *Engage current partners including community colleges and school districts who were awarded planning grants for AB 86*
 - *Identify non-traditional partners (school based providers, charter schools, out-of-school time networks, other public agency partners (i.e. social services, probation) etc.)*



ACTION AREAS: ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

9. *Engage with regional/local WIBs around performance benchmarks and outcomes.*

- *“What gets measured is what matters” so engage local WIBs around what they plan to measure.*
- *Are there more integrated methods to capture outcomes through streamlined data sharing efforts at State and Local levels?*



ACTION AREAS: ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

10. Local advocacy and political action around new localized funding opportunities.

- *Recent State Legislation and Budget policies have led to the ability for increased local control. How can COYN members organize to become part of conversations related to Local Control Funding Formula, Health and Human Services Realignment, Proposition 47 and Career Pathways Trust Fund.*



WIOA ACTION STEPS

- Submission of Comments to Federal Regulations to Federal Administration through National Network and Congressional Champions. Due June 15, 2015
- Active participation in the State WIOA Implementation Workgroup
- Work with the State WIB on drafting State Regulations that meet the needs of OY and are flexible
- Engage Local WIB Director on membership
- Take Legislative Action on use of 15% of Governor's discretionary monies



AB 86/ADULT EDUCATION ACTION STEPS

- Connect with local AB86 grantees
 - <http://ab86.cccco.edu/portals/7/docs/0-Memo-IntenttoAwardAB86AdultEducation.pdf>
- Request copies of local plans
- Share with state agencies and to potential State Legislative champions recommendations for Adult Education Reform
- Engage Local public education and other elected officials on building a comprehensive adult education system that meets the needs of OY.



ADDITIONAL ACTION STEPS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Form a statewide network focused on policy issues related to COYN priorities
- Ensure that there is open and continued communication between practice work and impact on policy and develop policy priorities to help move forward good practice at the local level
- Become part of existing networks that have established policy and legislative advocacy tools that are aligned with COYN priorities

THANK YOU.

QUESTIONS?

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