



# Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group

## Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022 – 9:00am to 12:00pm  
Virtual Meeting

### Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols, and Introductions

DCYF Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart welcomed attendees, walked through virtual meeting protocols and initiated introductions.

### Esperanza: Homework Recap Activity and Share Out

Members engaged in a large group homework recap activity and provided feedback.

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| <b>Discussion</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family connections are important and necessary.</li> <li>• Want to implement feedback from others into the story telling and case study.</li> </ul> |
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### Assessment Center Model Presentation

National Assessment Center Association Executive Director, Molli Cook and the IF Project’s Strategic Consultant, Bonnie Sultan provided an overview of the assessment center model and participated in a large group discussion.

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| <b>Discussion</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three process core components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Single point of contact- centralized coordinated contact for youth who are struggling</li> <li>○ Screening and assessment- evidence based</li> <li>○ Case management</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All assessment centers are a front end approach; trying to prevent system involvement.</li> <li>• Why would we send a kid somewhere else for service when they can be treated/served at the facility doing the assessment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In small communities, makes sense to link services. Need better ways to stream line services for families. Neutrality piece is always at the head of conversation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How are assessments shared regarding confidentiality? How do agencies come together with different funding services? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In framework there is a difference between screening and the assessment process. Most assessment centers look at behavioral health, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) concerns, basic needs, and trauma for screening purposes. Tools vary between centers. When connecting services, that is part of the mapping process, on the front end and back end. The assessment center can be an advocate to identify gaps in services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What are the number of beds and length of stay? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ That depends on the center and capacity. Centers will stay involved until the family feels supported and centers are no longer needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• You can find more information on the Assessment Center Framework <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• All work at DCYF needs to be intentional to reduce racial disparity. One of the principles of the framework is intentional equity. Are there services in the community designed to best serve the youth we serve?</li> <li>• We do not listen to what the children and youth need. Need to do better to serve the youth and reduce barriers to services. The kids are always saying they are not listened to. Feel the youth are constantly put into boxes. Need collaboration.</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• Can we set up another time to talk with Bonnie and Molli more in depth? Interested in how to serve families that do not need to be involved with the department.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes. Have a lot of resources for prevention services on coordinating and streamlining supports.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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**Youth Risk and Protective Factor Domain Conversation: Aggression**

Founder of Relevant Engagement Rashad Norris shared insight and engaged in group conversation regarding the Domain of Aggression.

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| <p><b>Discussion</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our approach to addressing this topic is remaining strengths based and individualized needs based. Teaching new skills to deal with anger and frustration and teaching youth empowerment.</li> <li>• Would like to flip the script of aggression with young people</li> <li>• Staff have micro-aggressions that they project on to the young people that we need to address. These rehabilitation centers feel like detention centers. The youth get aggressive when aggression is put on them.</li> <li>• Witnessed an interaction between youth and adults at a facility where biases, micro-aggressions, and cultural issues were present. Had to meet with the youth to break down the issues that were brought up between them and staff.</li> <li>• Adults need to do better in service to young people. Need to look at how the environment is harming the young people and how the adults are impacting the environment. This is a problem that will not be swept under the rug.</li> <li>• Have been able to provide trainings to some facilities where the youth and staff have requested it.</li> <li>• Bring culture to the environment, such as using specific language to relate to the youth.</li> <li>• Researched Axiology value system and use part of the model when working with youth.</li> <li>• Four pillars of the Honor Education and Respect Others (H.E.R.O.) program: <i>Awareness, Knowledge, Skills and Self Advocacy/Action</i>. Youth can earn education credits when engaging in the program. Show youth that there are multiple different pathways available to them and future employment, education, alternative schooling, etc.</li> <li>• Thank you for describing how environment impacts people. Environment is something that we can control and better</li> <li>• Can you share a bit more regarding institutional micro-aggressions?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is the small things that are done or said that the individual is not aware they are doing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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**Youth Risk and Protective Factor Domain Conversation: Drugs and Alcohol**

DCYF Behavioral Health Project Manager Robert Hopkins and Lead Interventionist with Seattle Children’s Hospital, Shemonta Dean, shared insight and engaged in group conversation regarding the Domains of Drugs and Alcohol.

- [Presentation](#)
- [POST Study FAQ](#)
- [DCYF POST Flyer](#)
- [DCYF Preventing Opioids through Supported Transition](#)

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| <p><b>Discussion</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the Preventing Opioids through Successful Transitions (POST) Study, which is a study focused on preventing opioid overdose. The pilot study has been completed, we are now starting to test the study.</li> <li>• Like to ask the individual first off, what has changed in their mind, when leaving the institution.</li> <li>• Model being used is called Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (ACRA).</li> </ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have two groups: Medium intensity group and High intensity group. Focus on how to support the youth once in the community and connect them to appropriate resources</li><li>• Need to tighten up services in the institution to better support the individual when being sent back to the community.</li></ul> |
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### **Wrap Up Activity**

Members participated in a reflection activity and provided feedback on the two Youth Risk and Protective Factor Domain conversation topics, Aggression and Drugs and Alcohol.

- [Wrap Up Activity Feedback](#)

### **Closing Remarks/Adjourn**

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| <b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The next Community Transition Services Stakeholder Group meeting will be on February 3 from 9:00am to 12:00pm.</li></ul> |
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