

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION WORKSHEET

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME

Community and Family Voice Subcommittee

SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Jude Dean

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Mickey Sampson

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SUBCOMMITTEE SCOPE

- Focus on the youth, foster parents, and bio parents as authorities with valued opinions
 - It is child specific – moving the model away from recognizing DHHS as the “expert”
- Expand the standards of training
- Fostering Normalcy not only for youth, but foster parents as well
- Promoting communication with all involved parties
 - Bio parent, foster parent, youth, and DHHS
- Identify the key strategies to make sure all voices are heard, especially those of young people
- Work to provide knowledge and skills to families and youth to ensure the success of the SFA
- Guiding principle of aiming for the standards of best practices; promoting expectations that might be higher than the minimum requirement
- Inclusion of Juvenile Justice youth in the work of the Subcommittee

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION ISSUES

- Looking at wrap around models that acknowledges the voice of youth, foster parents and bio parents as a valuable resource
 - Acknowledging them as experts
- Examining the Youth Bill of Rights work
 - Focusing on language for the statute
 - Will be shared with youth, Children’s Summit, and various other youth systems
- Connect with community resources

ISSUES THAT MAY OVERLAP WITH OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES

- Will be reviewing the work of the Normalcy Subcommittee to see what can be contributed
- Will also look at partnering with the Availability of Resources Subcommittee
 - Could benefit/assist in approaching community based organizations
- For Juvenile Justice youth – Look into training for probation officers and for group home placements

REQUIRED RESOURCES

- Will need to look into other states' research on best practices for this culture change
- Will need wrap around training and resources, best practices
- Will need to see current DHHS 90 minute training
- Examine the current DHHS Bill of Rights and other states' resources on the Bill of Rights
 - Information should be shared with members

ADDITIONAL MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

- Bring in additional voices through focus groups and surveys
 - Birth families
 - Mental health concerns, reliance on meds concerns
 - Community Resources
 - Diverse populations
 - Statewide representation
 - Group homes
 - Focus groups with youth for Youth Bill of Rights
 - Utilizing B2I youth input

NEXT MEETING DETAILS

- Using other methods besides in person meetings to bring others in
- Set up a Google – work on these things, meet one more time
- Start with once a month – sending out a Doodle

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NOTES

- In attendance:
 - Jude Dean, Mickey Sampson, Becca Brune, Cassy Blakely, Lisa Story, Deb VanDyke-Ries, Sandy Thompson, Jim Bennett, Chris Klingenberg
- Top of complaints of families, frustrated families – importance of this group to involve the families, the “5,000 ft./ground level” and taking back this to the rest of the subcommittees and to the larger Normalcy Taskforce
- Need to bring in more people, throughout the state, diverse group – but need to balance the challenge of constantly bringing in new people with only 6 months
- Can utilize Probation offices throughout the state for video conferencing – also available on weekends
- This group needs to be thinking of the differences throughout the state – need to work with the normalcy subcommittee especially
- This is the practical application of the SFA – what will it take day to day in the case of the young person, foster parent, bio family to make the SFA work and happen
- Lisa – balancing normalcy with the diverse needs of the kids in her home – if a youth is showing cutting behaviors or has issues with internet access – must balance normalcy with safety
- Scope: considering the diverse needs of the kids, this is normalcy...but if they are facing this issues/challenge, what needs to be considered – this group will work on that.
- Foster parent concerns with confidentiality – practical application again
- DHHS has gone away from a checklist
- We raise concerns
- A lot of this should start with the parents – why we need to build the capacity of the parents so they can be at the table
- How to balance the homes and families that are mixed with youth from multiple systems, placements are different, must consider different needs, rights of parents
- Guiding principles should work across the board
- Bob Marley shirt example – how to have the crucial conversations with parents – how to get at the culture shift for these conversations – we have this already throughout the wrap-around system but you have to be trained, work through differences
 - Sandy will share the wrap-around model
- Some discussion on the team and the importance of the two advocates
- Difficulty of the diagnosis they come into a placement with
- Need to keep a space for the youth also
- You make better decisions with more information you have – how can this group provide all the info, all the voices are at the table – best practices on sharing information, etc.
- Youth Bill of Rights
 - Utilize B21 rights
 - What about responsibilities section?
- Steering committee will put together a packet including DHHS

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION WORKSHEET

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME

Grievance Subcommittee

SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Sarah Forrest
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Kim Hawekotte
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SUBCOMMITTEE SCOPE

- Review current grievance and complaint processes available related to child-serving agencies and providers.
- Ensure grievance process(es) can be easily accessed and ensure there is appropriate guidance on what can/should be grieved, especially as it related to the Strengthening Families Act (SFA)
- Create communication plan so youth and families are informed
- Close the information loop between entities with grievance/complaint processes, so that all stakeholders are aware of issues
- Provide training to stakeholders on grievance process

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION ISSUES

- Youth are not accessing existing grievance processes and seem to be unaware of them.

ISSUES THAT MAY OVERLAP WITH OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES

- Content of Bill of Rights will impact grievance process
- Training – who should be trained and how
- Normalcy – may impact scope of who can grieve/complain and how that occurs

REQUIRED RESOURCES

- Statutes, rules and regulations, and administrative memos outlining current grievance/complaint processes at state agencies (DHHS CFS, Bridge to Independence, Ombudsman, OIG, etc.)
- Existing youth bill of rights – CFS, B2I, and updates in the SFA
- Other states' Grievance process for youth (especially California)
- If other states have a "triage" process for gathering complaints at a single source and then distributing them for follow up.

ADDITIONAL MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

- Representative of Ombudsman's Office;
- Representative(s) of FFTA and/or Group Home providers

NEXT MEETING DETAILS

- A phone call to be determined by Doodle poll

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SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION WORKSHEET

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME

Normalcy Subcommittee

SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

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Theresa Barron-Mckeagney
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SUBCOMMITTEE SCOPE

The purpose of the subcommittee is to provide a framework that will work for youth in different levels of care to provide the normalcy that each youth deserves. All youth deserve the opportunity to grow up with normalcy. The Subcommittee acknowledges that normalcy exists on many levels for youth in different settings. Juvenile Justice, Foster Care, and Mental Health populations all have different normalcy needs, but some needs should be established as non-negotiable rights. The Subcommittee will establish a framework for normalcy, identify the barriers to normalcy, and identify the rights that all youth have in creating normalcy.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION ISSUES

- Acknowledge normalcy on all levels in the continuum of care.
- Create a list of non-specific, non-negotiable rights for youth at all levels of care.
 - Youth maintain family connections in a way that is productive and safe for the youth, family, and community.
 - Many youth come into the system after experiencing abuse/neglect. It is not normal to be abused, neglected, isolated or without a support system.
 - Youth experience as much school stability as possible to allow the youth to continue learning and accessing the natural supports in the school.
 - Schools often provide youth with their primary social group and opportunities to access pro-social supports.
 - School involvement supports outcomes.
 - Moving schools adversely affects the educational and social progress of youths.
 - Youth experience a sustainable and durable routine that allows access to natural supports.
 - Get to know the youth and his/her morals, values, and traditions.
 - Access to technology on a continuum that allows the youth to attain the necessary technological skills balanced with the need to keep the youth and the community safe.
 - Youth need to learn healthy ways to interact with technology.

- Some programs (such as Microsoft Office) are necessary to know for employment.
- YRTCs use a program called “Unjammed” so that kids can learn technology in different settings.
 - Biological parents support the normalcy related decisions.
- Incorporate Normalcy planning into the existing planning that already occurs (HHS case planning, agency treatment plans, Probation re-entry plans, etc.)

ISSUES THAT MAY OVERLAP WITH OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES

- Community and Family Voice – Biological parent voice and communication is an important part of determining what normalcy looks like for children
- System of Care Group can help with cultivating relationships with biological parents.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

- Meetings, survey monkey, conference lines

ADDITIONAL MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

- Biological Parent Voice

NEXT MEETING DETAILS

Tom to send possible dates for a Doodle Poll

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SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION WORKSHEET

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME

Training Subcommittee

SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Ashley Brown
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Tracy Pearson
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SUBCOMMITTEE SCOPE

- Identifying the training needs and topics to ensure that SFA is successful throughout the State.
- Identifying and communicating with the necessary audiences involved in child welfare and juvenile justice.
- Promoting a universal training that is fluid enough to be utilized by a system wide audience.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION ISSUES

- Implementing a timeline for training and identifying standing timelines already established among system entities.
 - Partner with DHHS and their RPPS training distribution.
 - Focus on foster & bio parents, youth, supervisors and caseworkers, and legal providers with rollout to broader audiences such as community members and organizations with a goal of
- Identifying modes to allow for training accessibility for all involved individuals and entities
 - Tailored training modules and information for varying levels of the system
- Identifying the various mediums for training distribution
 - Use of a portal to host information - Utilizing technology, etc.
- Training topics mentioned:
 - Execution of RRPS, definition of normalcy, requirements and changes for Judicial/legal representatives
- Outreach Audience:
 - Foster families, bio families, legal representatives (judges, GALS, etc.), youth, supervisors, caseworkers, education representatives, kinship homes, tribal representatives, probation, FCRO, etc.

ISSUES THAT MAY OVERLAP WITH OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES

- Would want to partner with the Community & Family Voice Subcommittee, as our work could overlap with Youth Bill of Rights, to ensuring that training is provided to youth.
- Work with the Grievance Subcommittee regarding training over grievance procedures for youth.
- Will need to team with the Normalcy Subcommittee to ensure education is provided on how “Normal” is different for every family.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

- Will need to research the work being done in other states for SFA training.
- Need to look into if training would need to be approved prior to rollout and who would need to approve training.
 - Ashley will look into this at the DHHS level.

ADDITIONAL MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

- Angie Pick
- Someone from Administration within DHHS
 - Potentials: Nathan Busch or Stacey Scholten
- Corrie Kielty – CASA Association
- Contact Educators/School counselors
- NCAC

NEXT MEETING DETAILS

- Friday, April 15, 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00pm.
 - Ashley will reserve a space at KVC

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NOTES

- Ashley, Tracey, Stacey, and Nathan have put together training material and have a PowerPoint presentation that can be shared to child placing agencies, etc.
 - Ashley will forward information to Amanda
 - Hoping to have training completed by the end of the year
- Will need to follow up on DHHS internal training
- Will CCFL be involved in the training process?
- Need to ensure that all agencies are on a similar timeline
 - Will need to promote staff awareness – potential for sending out a “save the date” type of acknowledgment.
- Outreach to Judges, GALs, etc.
 - Attend the various County Eyes of the Child meetings so they are aware of the SFA/RPPS.
 - Present training information at the Statewide Eyes of the Child conference in September. This would ensure to catch any outliers that were missed over the spring/summer.
 - Provide training at the Bar Association meeting in the fall
 - Would be a good opportunity to catch any loose ends
 - Appleseed would be a good resource for reaching out to the legal parties
 - SFA/RPPS material could be included in the initial training for GALs
- Education representatives needs to be included
 - Educators, counselors, youth, etc.
- Need to address what training topics need to be covered.
- Need to explore other avenues to reach out to youth
 - Identify communication and education that is at an audience appropriate level.
 - Needs to be fun in order to engage the youth.
- All foundational information needs to be the same to ensure uniform practice across the system.
 - Ensuring that the training continues and is consistent even after the initial rollout.
- Look into other states to see how implementation is occurring
 - Ashley has access to the three states that she can consult with
 - Stacey may have North Carolina’s plan
 - Reach out to FFTA to see how training is being implemented
 - Utilizing conference call/video to reach out
- Verify when the rollout date is for various entities
- FCRO as oversight and will need to be aware of this information
- Utilize technology to make training materials easily accessible.
 - Potential to have a portal to access basic training modules.
 - Who will host/administer this? Where will the funding/resources come from?
 - Recording live training and utilizing YouTube channels.
 - Many agencies already have YouTube channels.
- Will need to involve kinship & unlicensed kinship foster families.
- Need to address how to reach tribal youth.
- Overall, a team effort is necessary to make the SFA successful

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION WORKSHEET

SUBCOMMITTEE NAME

Trafficking Subcommittee

SUBCOMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Nathan Busch

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Jason Feldhaus

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SUBCOMMITTEE SCOPE

- Prevention of sex trafficking through focusing on youth missing from placement and application of normalcy.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION ISSUES

- Coordinated response to youth missing from placement;
- Reduce youth missing from placement by application of normalcy;
- Culture change within system from “problem youth” to system ownership.

ISSUES THAT MAY OVERLAP WITH OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES

- Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force
- SFA Training subcommittee
- Community and Family Voice subcommittee
- Normalcy Subcommittee

REQUIRED RESOURCES

- Survivor survey results
- Redacted Youth Missing From Placement tracking

ADDITIONAL MEMBER SUGGESTIONS

- Probation
- Youth Homeless Services
- ICWA Specialist
- Department of Education
- 3 Youth
- State Patrol Clearing House

NEXT MEETING DETAILS

- Monthly afternoons.

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