



Preparing Youth in DCS Custody for Transition to Adulthood

3/17/2015

GAL Training

1



What Do You Think Happens to Youth Who Age Out of Foster Care?

3/17/2015

GAL Training

2

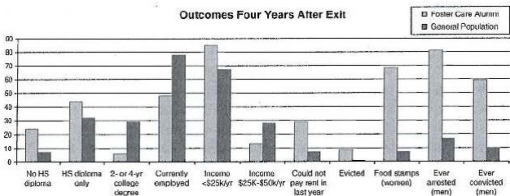


Figure 1 Outcomes Four Years After Exit. Illustration by Catherine Conner.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

3

Can WE Make A Difference?



- Although young people in foster care are often significantly impacted by trauma, the latest brain research shows that the teen years are a time of increased opportunity to **rewire the brain** and develop **resilience** and **promote healing**.
- If young people in foster care are given opportunities to exercise their still-developing brains—**by planning their own lives and making their own decisions**—they have more success
- **Positive Youth Development**
- **Build connections to families friends, communities**

3/17/2015

GAL Training

4

So, what makes the difference?



- Something intrinsic (nature/nurture/both)
 - How Children Succeed and Outliers
- Timing
- Those special people (advocates)
 - » Resource parents
 - » Teachers, Coaches, Co-workers, etc...
 - » Case managers, CASAs, GALs, etc...



3/17/2015

GAL Training

5

So What Does Child Welfare Do?



- Critically important to this is ensuring young people in foster care experience the benefits of improved foster care services before they turn 18 in order to make an informed decision about taking advantage of extended care.
- Plan for their future and develop necessary skills
- By extending foster care to 21 and doing it right, we'll make sure that more young people have opportunities to succeed in school, work, and adult life.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

6

Quality Practice



- **Engagement**-FSW begins with engaging the young adult and building a helping relationship.
- **Teaming**-As engaging, FSW begins to build a team around the young adult.
- **Assessment & Understanding**-FSW must have a thorough understanding of the strengths and concerns of the young adult before the team can plan.
- **Planning**-Team develops a plan for independence, permanency, self-sufficiency as well as strategies to assist the young adult for safety and well-being.
- **Implementation**-A (transition) plan is implemented.
- **Tracking & Adjustment**-FSW tracks to determine whether the services and support are helping the young adult meet his/her goals.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

7

Quality Practice



- Believe in them; build confidence, bring hope and encouragement.
- Continually provide young people with opportunities to connect with their families and communities.
- Provide information, skills and supports they need to drive the direction of their own lives.
- Actively engaging youth in developing life skills that will prepare them for successful transition.
- Relating to youth as resources rather than just recipients of services.
- Valuing the individual strengths and uniqueness of each youth.
- Frequently discuss with young people their strengths, interests talents, goals and aspirations.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

8

Internal Philosophical & Cultural Shift



- What can we do to help prepare this youth to be successful after 18?
- What skills does this person need to have to be successful after 18?
- Who are the young person's caring adults? What roles do they have?
- When young people actively participate in their own planning and service provision, they are equally invested in the outcomes.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

9



Independent Living and Transition Plans

IL and Transition Plans: Who?



All youth in DCS custody ages 14-16, regardless of permanency goals, placement or adjudication will have an **Independent Living Plan**.

Transition Plans are required for youth 17 & older, regardless of permanency goals, placement or adjudication.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

11

IL and Transition Plans: What?



The **Independent Living Plan** is a part of the permanency plan primarily focused on making sure the youth is gaining the skills needed to live successfully as an adult.

The **Transition Plan** is a part of the permanency plan primarily focused on specific resources needed and steps a youth and the team needs to take as they transition to adulthood.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

12

**IL and Transition Plans:
When?**



- **IL Planning** occurs with youth ages 14-16. The IL plan maintains the same review and update schedule as the permanency plan.
- **Transition Plans** start at age 17 and are revised as needed. The Perm plan (which contains the Transition Plan) must be reviewed by the Court within ninety (90) days of the youth exiting DCS custody. (T.C.A. 37-2-409)

3/17/2015

GAL Training

13

**IL and Transition Plans:
Why?**



The purpose of IL and Transition Planning is to give youth the skills, connections and opportunities to be successful adults.

It's the Law: Transition Plans are required in T.C.A. 37-2-409.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

14

**IL and Transition Plans:
How?**



- The Strengths, Concerns, Outcomes and Action Steps are determined by using Casey Life Skills Assessment results (CLSA), and
- Feedback from the youth and Child and Family Team members should be included.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

15

IL and Transition Plans: How?



- The plan must be personal to the youth and detailed, driven by their **hopes, dreams, goals** and specific needs.
- The plan should include specific actions that will help a youth achieve their goals.

3/17/2015

GAL Training

16



IL Plan Topics (14-16)
1. IL Life Skills*
2. IL Social Skills*
3. IL Communication
4. IL Health
5. IL Finances
6. IL Employment
7. IL Housing
8. IL Transportation
9. IL Education
<i>* IL Life Skills & Social Skills are required; others strongly encouraged as needed</i>

Transition Plan Topics (17+)
1. IL Life Skills
2. IL Social Skills (Legal & Relational Permanency)
3. IL Communication (Essential Documents)
4. IL Health
5. IL Finances
6. IL Employment
7. IL Housing
8. IL Transportation
9. IL Education
<i>If needed:</i>
■ Parenting (for child)
■ Immigration Status

3/17/2015

GAL Training

18

Steps to a Successful Transition



- Engage youth as a partner in planning
- Engage families and supportive adults
- Engage community partners
- Partner with your IL Specialist
- Work with the team to create IL and Transition Plans that are personalized, with specific steps and resources outlined
- Successfully integrate the young adult into the community

3/17/2015

GAL Training

25

What does success look like?



3/17/2015

GAL Training

26

Measuring Success

- Transitional Surveys completed on time
- Life Skills Assessments are completed on time
- Number of youth achieving educational goals
- Achievement of permanency for older youth
- Quality of IL and Transition Planning and Casework as evidenced by File Reviews
- QSR Data
- Percentage of youth who age out who accept Extension of Foster Care Services
- Life Skill Survey Data
- NYTD Data
- OPPS Data

3/17/2015

GAL Training

27

Graduates



- FY'13- 121 - Number of EFCS young adults graduated with a High School Diploma or GED
- FY'14- 126 - Number of EFCS young adults graduated with a High School Diploma or GED

3/17/2015

GAL Training

43

Attendance in 2014



	<u>ETV</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Total</u>
• TN B.O.R 4 Yr Univ.	52	36	88
• Tennessee Community Colleges	113	70	183
• TN Tech Centers	17	24	41
• UT System	13	9	22
• Private 4 Yr Univ.	35	0	35
• Non-State Tech Colleges	32	0	32
•			
• Totals	262	139	401

3/17/2015

GAL Training

44

NYTD Data



- National Youth in Transition Database
- 529 youth participated in the 2014 17 year old A/B survey.
- Connections to adults- A/B survey
493-529=93%
- Have Children- A/B surveys
19-529=4%

3/17/2015

GAL Training

45

Next Steps



- Roll out Foster parent Teachable Moments training
- Increase use of Teen Outreach Program (TOP)
- Life Skill Development & increased use of IL Wrap funds.
- Implement Reasonable and Prudent Parenting federal legislation.
- Focus on earlier interventions with 14-16 year olds.
- Update the Provider Policy Manual
- Integrate preparation for adulthood with permanency efforts.
- Utilize NYTD data to inform practice
- Improve Quality Transition Planning (file reviews & coaching)
- Increase awareness of available services throughout DCS and in the community
- EFCS Quality case management and planning
- Strengthen youth engagement and build youth voice

3/17/2015

GAL Training

46

Youth Engagement/Voice



- Guide to being a Teenager in Care- Developed and being updated to meet new federal legislative requirements.
- TN Youth Handbook being updated
- Resource Parent "Teachable Moments" training has been developed and will roll out in 2015.
- Ongoing Youth 4 Youth Boards and expansion of boards
- Commissioner/YV youth meeting and Children's Panels
- Development of youth friendly website
- 3 DCS statewide webinars on Youth Engagement, Positive Youth Development and LGBTQ youth
- Youth Developed "Youth Engagement tools"
- 5 youth panels that spoke to over 150 participants
- Increase involvement of youth in policy development and review

3/17/2015

GAL Training

47

Contacts

DCS Website- Independent Living Section

http://www.tn.gov/youth/fostercare/il_resourcesandtools.shtml

- Dave Aguzzi
- Dave.aguzzi@tn.gov
- 615-532-9647
- Mike Leach
- Michael.h.leach@tn.gov
- 615-253-3503

3/17/2015

GAL Training

48
