

Governor's Parent/Foster-Parent Collaborative Council
Youth Subcommittee
DRAFT Minutes

Members:

Sarah Lewis fka Redmon, Chair
Angel Gonzales
Candice Richardson
Amber Castaneda - minutes

Call to Order: 10:35 a.m.

Sarah Lewis: Want the youth to have a voice. It is a big thing. They are the one living and breathing the system.

Discussion of who would be potentially good members for subcommittee:

Monica
Dumont Odem
Cory Gilepsi
Anita Alves
Rachel Levitt

Next Steps:

1. Documentation from OCS and making it more easily accessible to retrieve them.
 - a. Not knowing where to go to get important documentation when leaving the system
2. Making sure Youth have support and connections before leaving care.
 - a. All current support is professionals who work 9 to 5 Monday through Friday
3. Finding the connection, helping people make the connections. It is not the child's fault they are in foster care; it is due to their parents. This is only their way of life for the moment because they are not being taken care of properly or whatever got them in the system. It won't always be like that.
4. Helping people understand what foster care is. Not the youth's fault, but people tend to think it is their fault.
5. Support and connections
 - a. Big brothers, big sisters – specific programs for 14 – 21
 - b. Lifelong connections
6. Appl
 - a. Get rid of it or reduce numbers - just another plan permanent living arrangement until they turn 21
 - b. Not looking for permanent home or family anymore
7. Emancipation
 - a. No support
 - b. Can't get housing, sign lease, go to doctors' appointments
8. Clarifying what permanency is
 - a. People think adoption or guardianship
 - b. That is not all it is
 - c. More permanent connections: having someone check on you; holidays
9. Navigation

- a. Someone to help them navigate
 - b. Lifelong friends/programs
 - c. Navigator to help through foster system
- 10. Youth are more than just the foster system
 - a. You know other things
 - b. More than the foster system
 - c. Have options
- 11. Asking youth who they know
 - a. Ties to the community
 - b. Teachers, pastors, church, clubs, not necessarily family connections
 - c. Keeping these connections

Discussion about retreats and forwarding info to people who may be interested.

To-Do's:

- 1. Candice Richardson: reach out to Dumont and Cory to ask them if they would like to attend next meeting
- 2. Angel Gonzales: reach out to Monica and Anita to see if they would like to attend next meeting.
- 3. Sarah Lewis: reach out to Amanda, Anna and Rachel to see if they would like to attend next meeting

Next meeting: May 20th, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned – 11:27 a.m.