



# Independent Living (IL) and Transition Planning Town Hall

## Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2022- 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Virtual Meeting

### Welcome and Introductions

DCYF Statewide Program Manager, Sherrie Flores, and DCYF Adolescent Transitions Program Manager, Gavyn Tann welcomed attendees and introduced the Independent Living (IL) and Transition Planning Redesign Project.

### Independent Living (IL) and Transition Planning Redesign Project

Attendees received an overview of the work that has been done, to date, and participated in a jamboard activity to generate feedback regarding the redesign project.

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many people are participating in the lived expert co-design sessions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 40 individuals have expressed interest, 20 in total have been participating.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are all current Independent Living (IL) Providers supposed to be participating in the general Stakeholder sessions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The invitation is there. If all want to come, then they are welcome to come and provide input.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Which of these co-design groups will have access to the data collected in the earlier phase of the process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The core advisory group would receive the data first. The information would then be sent out to all the groups. The goal is for everyone to have access to information and be able to provide input.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How do individuals get placed into Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth arrive at JR by committing a crime that is serious enough to get directly committed to JR. Another possibility is that a youth has lower level crimes that have built up, reaching a threshold that then places them into JR. The courts determine sentencing, and JR has 3 days after receiving commitment paperwork to get the youth settled into placement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Does the process vary by county? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, it varies by county. There is a static grid to follow, however, each court may vary in their decision making.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Could a judge sentence a youth who runs away often? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Runaway and truancy offenses used to be a large concern, leading to sentencing, however, we have moved away from that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Running away in Washington State is considered a status offense (not jailable) generally speaking.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Does a reentry plan include services post exit from JR? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, it should and it does. That is the connection piece we are hoping to improve on. We are focused on providing warm hand offs, identified early on, for better post-release support.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Could there be someone from Child Protective Services (CPS) in attendance during the initial Re-entry Team Meeting (RTM)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, and this can apply for any youth in care. The case worker should be invited and encouraged to attend.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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- In Region 3, it is not often CPS staff get invited to the re-entry team meeting. It would be beneficial for us to be involved for additional supports and services. We tend to come in at the last minute, and would like to get involved sooner.
  - We do consultation with facilitators on a monthly basis (there are only 6 facilitators right now). We will make sure someone from CPS is invited. What is the quickest way to find out who that is?
    - I am not sure who you would reach out to first, many of us have different roles in the office.
  - In Region 1 we meet with our friends at JR monthly (in addition to the RTM's that we are invited to) to help plan for/coordinate those transitions.
- Is it correct that young people are still working with their counselors to identify ways to engage with their communities when they leave JR?
  - Yes, that is correct. They have a counselor/case manager assigned to them to work on those steps. Counselors also have regular contact with family (family includes anyone who is identified as a positive support for the youth).
- Does the youth get to invite anyone to the RTM meetings?
  - Anyone the youth identifies as a positive support can be there.
- Are there community partners that are staples for the JR community?
  - Yes and no. It depends on the county and resources available.
- Does anyone talk about Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) program?
  - Yes, we have agreements with the program for housing supports across the state.
- Would like to see landlords/ apartment complex partnership.
- Are there any background check issues for youth from JR wanting to participate in the Young Adult Housing Program (YAHP) once they leave JR?
  - Not regarding eligibility, however, you still have to work with local landlords.
- Do youth have health insurance while in JR?
  - Yes, we cover all needs while in care.
- Do youth exiting JR face the same housing/education barriers similar to adults with justice involvement?
  - Yes.
- We are looking to build up resources in reentry domains: mental health, substance use, education, employment, use of free time, independent living services, parenting courses, housing supports, etc.
- Does anyone use host homes when leaving JR?
  - I would like more information around that. Host homes would be a good resource.
    - Host homes have been a great resource for JR youth in King County.
  - Recent legislation passed that allows host homes to receive state and federal funding.
  - There has been a lot of growth in that model, I'm not super up to speed but definitely can help make connections with providers if you all are interested.
- JR youth are eligible to participate in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) through the Housing and Urban Development (HUD). They will help with diversion funds, housing programs, and host homes.
- Will there be a meeting scheduled to discuss the contract?
  - Would a meeting or an email be better?
    - Email and then see if we need to discuss if possible. Not sure if everyone would feel the same on that idea.
- When you mentioned services, do you see an overlay? Are they provided by the state or an outside party? What do services look like for youth in JR versus child welfare?
  - Services are different between child welfare and JR, as there are not as many services for JR youth.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Needs look different between the systems as well.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Youth leaving JR tend to need housing supports the most, but this is the least available resource.</li></ul></li><li>● Was your question more around Full Time Employee's (FTE) versus contractors?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Contractors.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ We are trying to focus on obtaining more contractors because the work being done in the community is more sustainable. We received funding for contracts to build out services.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>● How much of the money involved is put towards higher education needs?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ We have some dedicated funding that evolved over the last couple of years. Trio at Centralia College is our largest connection right now, but we would like to build that out.</li></ul></li><li>● Are there any issues with contractors going through proper clearances to get into a JR institution? And what about contractors focusing on teaching life skills/independent living skills?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Contractors have been trained to talk about all options, build gaps, and be successful. We need someone on the inside that can connect the youth to someone on the outside based on interest and skills.</li></ul></li><li>● How difficult would it be to get providers into JR? Zoom?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Appropriate background checks and vetting, as well as training, would still need to occur.</li><li>○ We do have some zoom capabilities. Yes, contractors come in virtually and in person.</li></ul></li><li>● Is there a way to bring someone from the children's side to help with coaching in those areas? Visiting monthly/bimonthly.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Are you thinking like an IL regional lead? Or other staff?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ My idea would be a staff person that would have a dual role.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>● I am an IL provider working with youth on probation. I have found it takes longer to build rapport when we are pulled in towards the end of the process. Caseloads involving youth leaving JR require more time and investment than foster youth we have worked with through the DCYF contract. We have had to focus on getting school records for enrollment, and have found that the youth tends to have little support from the foster home. Something to think about.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ I appreciate that, thank you</li></ul></li><li>● Is there a possibility that someone could provide training to that point person on the outside, to better the handoff?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The inside person facilitating transitioning to the outside person would be great. An in-person hand off would be best.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Follow up/Next Steps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● If anyone knows of Foster Parents who would like to provide input, please direct them to Sherrie Flores (<a href="mailto:Sherrie.Flores@dcyf.wa.gov">Sherrie.Flores@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) or Gavyn Tann (<a href="mailto:Gavyn.Tann@dcyf.wa.gov">Gavyn.Tann@dcyf.wa.gov</a>).</li></ul>