



Independent Living (IL) & Transition Planning Stakeholder Codesign Session

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2022- 2:00pm to 3:30 pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

DCYF Adolescent Programs Co-Design Manager, Lily Cory, welcomed attendees and initiated introductions.

Co-Design Process

Lily Cory invited attendees to develop community agreements, provided an overview of the Co-Design process thus far, and reviewed themes identified by lived experts.

- [Discussion Question Responses](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you said that parents were attending, was that foster parents, biological parents, or a combination? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is for young people who are in IL who are parents, themselves. • Is this specifically for foster youth? Are you referring to the housing vouchers once you turn 18 when you say IL? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IL is the skills our young people need to become an adult; such as driving a car, finding a job or apartment, basic living skills, etc. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will provide vouchers to get a dwelling, but they are separate from this conversation. ○ So, it is specific to foster youth and youth exiting juvenile rehabilitation (JR)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes ○ We are going through the process with JR to speak with youth regarding their lived experiences. Those conversations have not occurred yet.
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Feedback Activity

Attendees were invited to join breakout rooms to provide feedback on Independent Living Program Services, Transition Planning and Financial Capability and Preparedness.

- [Discussion Question Responses](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need more housing. • There needs to be a change to the format of 17.5 meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would you elaborate on that? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 17.5 is not where transition planning starts. Transition planning should be ongoing. Transition meetings used to be more fun, and would be held outside of the DCYF office. The process used to be more strengths based. I would like to advocate for the department to change this process. • Independent Living skills conversations should be occurring daily. Social workers should have regular check points with the caregivers to make sure these skills are being built up. • Another addition to what's missing from Financial Capability: a standardized curriculum for all providers in youth's life (DCYF, IL providers, and caregivers) to utilize and reinforce with youth • Smaller caseloads for IL workers • Absolutely! Although, some kids change placements so much that the consistency between those placements is difficult.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There needs to be state funding for IL! Washington should invest and not rely solely on federal funding for this service.• There are a lot of assumptions that youth should know how to do certain tasks based on their age. Pre-judged expectations of mile markers, based off how we were at their age.• One thing we talked about when working on crafting the financial capability bill was the opportunity to manage money, and even make mistakes. That's where the allowance idea came in.• I think it is also hard when young people live in group homes for the majority of their lives, and the group homes are restrictive to what freedoms they can have.• It's important to be inclusive. Don't make assumptions about ability levels of levels or experience/exposure practicing skills• We need to do these things side by side with our clients, instead of expecting them to do these tasks on their own.• There should be a listed point of contact for IL services that Caregivers/Youth can call for resources, listen on the DCYF website• It may be helpful to have an app for young people to reference over time.• Things privileged adults may take for granted (such as changing a tire, tie a tie). If you didn't get raised that way, how do you know? There is a YouTube channel called "Dad how do I?". (https://www.youtube.com/c/Dadhowdol).• Partnership (youth views it as a partnership as well) needs to happen as soon as kid comes into care. IL case worker needs to work with social worker directly on what needs/skills are. Some caseworkers are wonderful; some are not in touch with the youth.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We had this conversation with the lived experts. Youth said they were dodging the case worker because they thought the person was the social worker. Youth are done with the system and hurt by the system. There needs to be accountability.• Extended Foster Care (EFC) and IL services should be partnered.
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2022 Meetings, Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2022.
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