IT TAKES A VILLAGE:

Collaboratives Supporting Foster Youth to & through College

November 10, 2016
Information to Participate

• Call-in information
  • Phone number: (702) 489-0008
  • Access code: 928-441-384

• To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel, type your question, and click “send”

• Presentation materials and audio will be posted at www.thpplus.org
Today’s Presenters

SARA GOLDWARE | Education & Career Dev’t Division Manager
Beyond Emancipation

MARIE HUGHES | Education Services Manager & ILP Supervisor
Family Care Network

GABRIELLE RIDLEY | Guardian Scholars Program Coordinator
Orange Coast College

TRACY SCHIRO | Assistant Social Services Director
San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services
Foster Youth & Post-Secondary Ed – Why the Push to Collaborate?

Current and former foster youth are among the nation’s most disadvantaged populations when it comes to post-secondary education outcomes.

College-age foster youth are often involved with multiple systems/institutions/programs.

EXTENDED FOSTER CARE!
Foster Youth & Post-Secondary Ed – Why the Push to Collaborate?

The extension of foster care to age 21 provides a tremendous opportunity to improve post-secondary education outcomes for foster youth...

The CalYOUTH Study found that compared to youth who had left care, youth participating in EFC were:

- Twice as likely to be enrolled in school
- Of those enrolled, more likely to be attending school full-time (63% vs. 42%)
- More likely to have completed a high school diploma (70% vs. 52%)
- More likely to have completed a vocational certificate or license (17% vs. 7%)
- Of those enrolled, nearly twice as likely to be using financial aid to cover education expenses (66% vs. 33%)
- More likely to report being involved in a campus support program (31% vs. 6%)

But this takes teamwork!
Highlighted Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALAMEDA COUNTY</th>
<th>ORANGE COUNTY</th>
<th>SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>506 NMDs</td>
<td>336 NMDs</td>
<td>67 NMDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAFYES district</td>
<td>CAFYES district</td>
<td>Nearby CAFYES district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one</td>
<td>More than one</td>
<td>Single-college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community college</td>
<td>community college</td>
<td>community college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>district, multiple</td>
<td>district, multiple</td>
<td>district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>campuses per district</td>
<td>campuses per</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>district</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal State, UC</td>
<td>Cal State, UC</td>
<td>Cal State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-provider</td>
<td>Multi-provider</td>
<td>Single-provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>county</td>
<td>county</td>
<td>county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider-led</td>
<td>College-led</td>
<td>County-led</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collaborative</td>
<td>collaborative</td>
<td>collaborative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JOHN BURTON FOUNDATION
Alameda County College Bridge Collaborative

The Alameda County College Bridge Collaborative is managed by Beyond Emancipation (BE)

BE provides a transformational environment for transition-age youth who have experience in the foster care or probation placements so they can live healthy, productive and connected lives.

• Education
• Employment
• Coaching/Case Management
• Housing
B2b Program

• Since 2010, a partnership between B:E and Laney College that provides comprehensive support to current and former foster and probation youth on Laney’s campus.
• Staff located on campus part-time
• Coaching/case management
• Weekly skill-building and coaching workshops
• Expanding partnership to other Peralta Colleges in the current school year
Collaborative Goals

1. **Connecting more youth to college** through engagement with the K-12 community, child welfare system, foster parents and other caregivers

2. **Connecting foster youth already in college to campus support programs** to support their retention, with a specific focus on the Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Education Success Program on the four Peralta District campuses

3. **Improving the rates of persistence and graduation of foster youth** at post-secondary institutions, with a specific, but not exclusive focus on the community college system
Collaborative Members

- County Agencies
- K-12 Districts
- Colleges
- Community Based Organizations
  - ILP/Aftercare
  - Legal Organizations
  - Transitional Housing Providers
  - Youth Advocacy/Leadership Organizations
## Collaborative Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Systems</th>
<th>Colleges</th>
<th>Community-Based Orgs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alameda County Office of Education, Foster Youth Coordinating Program</td>
<td>Berkeley City College</td>
<td>Bay Area Youth Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alameda County Social Services Agency</td>
<td>Cal State East Bay Renaissance Scholars</td>
<td>Beyond Emancipation/ILP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland Unified School District</td>
<td>Chabot College</td>
<td>California Youth Connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College of Alameda</td>
<td>Civicorps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laney College</td>
<td>East Bay Children's Law Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Merritt College</td>
<td>First Place for Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UC Berkeley Hope Scholars</td>
<td>Fred Finch Youth Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>West Coast Children’s Clinic, Youth Advocate Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John Burton Foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2014</td>
<td>Collaborative forms with five founding members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>Fostering Connections to College Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2015</td>
<td>Fostering Pathways to College Listserv Launches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| September 2015     | Foster Youth Alliance receives capacity building grant from the Hellman Foundation  
                        Collaborative members encourage Peralta to apply for CAFYES funding and are partners in the proposal development |
| October 2015       | Peralta College District Receives CAFYES funding                       |
| February 2016      | First Collaborative meeting with expanded membership                   |
| March 2016         | Collaborative hosts College Day at ILP                                 |
| April 2016         | FYA transfers convening role to Beyond Emancipation                    |
| June 2016          | Collaborative meets to develop 2 year plan                             |
| September 2016     | Collaborative approves two year plan                                  
                        Hellman provides additional bridge funding to BE                |
Value of the Collaborative

• Communication and coordination across systems to link existing individual efforts
• Providing access to college staff to a large network of foster youth providers
• Information sharing across county systems, CBOs, and colleges
  • Fostering Pathways to College Listserv
Two-Year Plan Highlights

• Provide training on college going culture, college access, and available campus supports to foster parents, relative caregivers, group home staff, Child Welfare Workers, and Probation Officers

• Engage with local school districts to ensure appropriate college-ready goals for foster youth within LCAPs

• Host College Days to connect foster youth directly to college staff

• Provide an outreach and recruitment network for CAFYES programs

• Create a “Deep Dive” Financial Aid Guide and Training Series for foster youth to better understand the financial aid process

• Regular meetings to foster collaboration and communication between colleges and CBOs
Challenges

• Many providers serving foster youth
• Seven community colleges, 1 CSU, 1 UC within the county
  Disparities in resources to serve foster youth
  Bureaucracy at large community college district
• Large numbers of foster youth spread out throughout state
• High cost of living
Next Steps

• Establish clear leadership and accountability structure
  • Steering Committee
  • Workgroups
• Engage additional stakeholders
• Move forward on two year plan
# Highlighted Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALAMEDA COUNTY</th>
<th>ORANGE COUNTY</th>
<th>SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 506 NMDs</td>
<td>• 336 NMDs</td>
<td>• 67 NMDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CAFYES district</td>
<td>• CAFYES district</td>
<td>• Nearby CAFYES district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More than one community college district, multiple campuses per district</td>
<td>• More than one community college district, multiple campuses per district</td>
<td>• Single-college community college district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cal State, UC</td>
<td>• Cal State, UC</td>
<td>• Cal State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Multi-provider county</td>
<td>• Multi-provider county</td>
<td>• Single-provider county</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provider-led collaborative</td>
<td>• College-led collaborative</td>
<td>• County-led collaborative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Orange Coast College – Guardian Scholars Program

What is Guardian Scholars?

• The Guardian Scholars program is a comprehensive program of financial aid, life coaching, mentoring, housing and personalized attention

• It enables emancipated foster youth to successfully engage in attending a college, university or vocational school, which fits their educational preparedness, degree objectives and long-term career goals

• OCC Guardian Scholars was founded in 1999 and was one of the first such programs in the country
  • The Guardian Scholars model originated at California State University, Fullerton in 1998
Who We Are and What We Do

- OCC Guardian Scholars is a campus support program for current and former Foster Youth
  - 375 self-identified foster youth on campus
  - 80 currently active in the program
  - Of the Fall 2015 class:
    - 82% were in foster care
    - 10% are special circumstance admit
    - 8% are juvenile probation youth
It Takes a Village
Collaboratives, Partnerships, Consortums, & more!

- Guardian Scholars Advisory Committee
- Coast District Collaborative
- Foster Youth Outcomes Workgroup
- Juvenile Justice Commission
- EOPS & FYSI Region 8
- John Burton Foundation CAFYES Learning Community
- Southern California Higher Education Foster Youth Consortium
- Orange County Network
- Building Bridge for College Success Committee
Orange County Foster Youth Outcomes Workgroup

• Membership
  • Orange County Department of Education-Foster Youth Services
  • Orange County Social Services Agency
  • College representatives
  • Housing programs
  • Department of Mental Health
  • Community Partners

• Objectives
  • Education, Employment, Housing, Transition, Permanency
Orange County Foster Youth Outcomes Workgroup

• Activities & Efforts
  • Bi-monthly Meetings
  • Professional Development/Training Opportunities
  • Linking Key Partners
  • Sharing Resources

• Impact
  • 80% high school graduation rate for OC Foster Youth(!)

• Contact
  • Alma A. Nichols, Secretary I to Jaime Muñoz, PMII Transitional Planning Services Program, OC SSA Children & Family Services, Alma.Nichols@ssa.ocgov.com
Foster Youth Outcomes Workgroup ➔ Building Bridge for College Success Committee
Building Bridge for College Success Committee

• Est. March 2016
• Membership
  • Orange County Department of Education-Foster Youth Services
  • Orange County Social Services Agency
  • Orange County Network (OCC, GWC, CSUF)
• Goal
  • Developing and strengthening pipeline from K12 through 4-year University
Building Bridge for College Success Committee

• Activities & Efforts
  • Quarterly Meetings
    • Sharing best practices and current events
  • Outreach & Education
    • Orange County College Preview Days
    • Financial Aid/FAFSA workshops
    • College Application workshops
    • Campus Tours
  • Developing strategic initiatives
    • Junior Scholars
  • Sharing resources
Impact

• Timely connection to information and resources
• Open channels of communication
• 4 Transfers to CSUF in the past two semesters
  • one Guardian Scholars Scholarship recipient
• 38 new students in the fall
• Momentum
Advice

• Get involved
• Be strategic in partner selection
• Connect with people who are already doing the work  
  • particularly ILP coordinators, Department of Education FY Liaisons, SSA/DCFS Supervisors in the TAFY unit, and college programs
• Establish a mission at the outset with clear, measurable goals and explicit timelines
• Celebrate successes
• Remember that this work doesn’t happen overnight
"It's not about perfect. It's about **effort**. And when you implement that effort into your life... every single day, that's where transformation happens. That's how change occurs. Keep going. Remember why you started."
Highlighted Communities

**ALAMEDA COUNTY**
- 506 NMDs
- CAFYES district
- More than one community college district, multiple campuses per district
- Cal State, UC
- Multi-provider county
- Provider-led collaborative

**ORANGE COUNTY**
- 336 NMDs
- CAFYES district
- More than one community college district, multiple campuses per district
- Cal State, UC
- Multi-provider county
- College-led collaborative

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**
- 67 NMDs
- Nearby CAFYES district
- Single-college community college district
- Cal State
- Single-provider county
- County-led collaborative
Transition Age Youth Financial Assistance Program (TAY-FAP)

Why TAY-FAP?

• Increased awareness that local foster youth face financial barriers to attending post-secondary education, and often times lack personal connections and support systems as well.

• Most youth continue receiving assistance from parents until the age of 26 years, we felt a responsibility to the youth in our care to support them in pursuing their education.
Who is involved?

- Family Care Network
- Independent Living Program
- Department of Social Services
- College transition Specialist
- Local schools and colleges
- Probation
- County Office of Education
- Probation
Purpose of TAY-FAP

To provide financial support to ILP eligible TAY with needs related to enrolling in or maintaining enrollment in school or employment that enhances their ability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.
TAY-FAP Eligibility

Core Requirements for Eligibility

• Eligible for ILP** in San Luis Obispo County (this includes THPP, THP+ and THP+FC youth in SLO county) and:
  • Attending or enrolled in a California University (CSU or UC), California Community College or Vocational Program
  • Has exhausted all other financing options covered by Financial Aid, Chafee Grants, etc.
  • Funds will enhance TAY’s ability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency

**Exception: If a youth is currently receiving TAY-FAP funds and enrolled in school beyond the age of 21, they may receive funds continuing support until they graduate (not to exceed 24 years of age)
TAY-FAP Results

- Nearly 200 participants since July 2010
- 63 Currently enrolled
- 139 community college
  - 23 Bachelors degree
  - 19 Vocational degree
- 25 Confirmed graduates
- 3 attended Graduate school
- 2 in process of applying
- 3 attended Graduate school
- 2 in process of applying
Degree Completion Rate Comparisons

- National percentage of former foster youth who complete a degree is 2-3%
- SLO County TAY-FAP participants complete a degree at the rate of 18%
  - 7% will have completed a bachelors degree by May 2017
Youth Housed through TAY-FAP Support

• Helped to reduce homelessness by providing housing assistance to 26% of TAY-FAP participants
• 27% of participants were also in THP+-FC
• 19% of participants were also in THP+
What does TAY-FAP provide?

- Housing in a dormitory or apartment
- Transportation Assistance
- School supplies, textbooks, lab fees
- Urgent or essential needs
- Savings match <$100 a month
- Mentorship & Tutoring
- Case management support through age 24
Non-Financial Supports

Case Management Support

- Regular check-in (phone, email, in-person)
- Notes of encouragement and acknowledgement

- Linking to campus and community resources

- Monthly email reminders that include empowering quotes and thought provoking questions
Non-Financial Supports

Case Management Support
- Regular check-in (phone, email, in-person)
- Notes of encouragement and acknowledgement
- Monthly email reminders that include empowering quotes and thought provoking questions

Tutoring & Mentoring
- Support youth in obtaining tutoring through their school or one of our screened agency tutors
- Discuss study habits and strategies for success
- Link youth with a mentor through our agency or support them in connecting with a mentor in their area

Linking to campus and community resources
Annual Events

• College & Career Exploration Night
  • 14-24 year olds

• Financial Aid Night
  • High school seniors & college age youth through 24 years

• High School Winter Social Skills Camp
  • 8th-12th graders focused on goal setting and future planning

• ILP Awards Night
  • 14-21 years, Scholarships awarded

• High School Summer Social Skills Camp
  • 8th-12th graders focused on goal setting and future planning
Lessons Learned

• Partnering with the community
• Collaboration and role clarification
• Finding the teachable moments-looking for solutions
• Empowering & coaching youth to take responsibility and the lead on their lives
how to apply

1. Referrals can be made only after it has been determined by the TAY's Transitional Living Team (TLT) or ILP Case Manager that there are no other funding options available to the TAY. When possible, TAY needs for TAY-FAP support shall be included in their Transition to Independent Living Plan.

2. If the youth is a participant in SLO THP+, THP+FC, THP+ they may make their request through their program Case Manager or Social Worker to the TAY-FAP Coordinator in collaboration with ILP.

3. Request must be initiated in writing by the TAY needing assistance, using the TAY Financial Assistance Request Form.
   - For TAY placed in THPP or THP+, Financial Assistance Request Forms shall be given to their FCNI SWV or RS to be presented to the TAY's TLT.
   - For TAY served solely by the ILP Program, Financial Assistance Request Forms shall be given to their ILP Case Manager.

4. The youth will sign a TAY-FAP Agreement of Responsibility Form.

5. All approved TAY Financial Assistance Request Forms shall be forwarded to the FCNI TAY-FAP Coordinator for processing.
   - All payment requests must be approved by DSS and FCNI management prior to release of funds.

The Department of Social Services and the Family Care Network agree that the philosophy and practice underlying the TAY Financial Assistance Program is to empower TAY to achieve self-sufficiency and establish essential community connections to meet their needs.

resources

If you have looked into other funding options such as working, scholarships, grants and loans, but still are in need of funds, talk with your case manager and see if the TAY Financial Assistance Program would be a good fit for you. If you think it is, we can get you a request form today!

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) – www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Chafee Grant
  https://www.chafee.ca.gov
- Board of Governors Fee Waiver Application (BOGW) (for any CA Community/College)
- Federal Work Study Program (qualify thru FASFA)
- Visit your high school's career center or counselor’s office and/or website to find local scholarship opportunities
- Access Foundation Scholarship (THPP & THP+ only)
- http://www.finaid.org/
- http://www.fastweb.com
- California College Pathways
  http://www.cacollegetheways.org/
- http://cccso.edu/
  Click on Student Support tab

transitional age youth financial assistance program (TAY-FAP)

Family Care Network, Inc.
1255 Kendall Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
www.fcni.org • 805.781.9535

Revised: 8/14/15
TAY-FAP provides financial support to ILP eligible TAY with needs related to enrolling in or maintaining enrollment in school or employment that enhances their ability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.

**eligibility requirements**

- Eligible for ILP* in San Luis Obispo County (this includes THPP, THP+, and THP+FC youth in SLO county) and:
  - Attending or enrolled in a California University (UC or UC, California Community College or Vocational Program
  - Has exhausted all other financing options covered by Financial Aid, Chafee Grants, etc.
  - Funds will enhance TAY’s ability to achieve independence and self-sufficiency
  - Be willing to sign an agreement

- Funds are limited and availability is subject to change based on the funding of the program

*Exception: If a youth is currently receiving TAY-FAP funds and enrolled in school beyond the age of 21, they may receive funds continuing support until they graduate (not to exceed 24 years of age)

**financial assistance options**

- Housing in a dormitory, student housing or apartment
- Transportation needs
- School supplies, textbooks, lab fees, or other required school-related tools
- Meeting urgent, essential or emergency needs related to living (e.g., utilities, household items, furnishings, etc.)

**support**

- As an incentive to those participants that are enrolled in school and employed, TAY-FAP will provide a savings match, up to $100 per month per participant, payable to the participant at the end of the participant’s first year (Participant’s personal bank statement is required to verify eligibility for this savings match. This does not apply to Participants in THPP, THP+FC and THP+.)
- TAY-FAP participants who are interested in a mentor may request one through the TAY-FAP Coordinator.
- Those youth who are interested in case management support beyond the age of 21 may request support by contacting the TAY-FAP Coordinator.

**independent living plan**

When possible, your needs for TAY-FAP support shall be included in your Transition to Independent Living Plan (TIP). This encourages planning, exploring other resource options, team participation, and minimizes crisis or emergency requests.
# Budgeting Form and Teaching Tool

## Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recd</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Estimated Amount (I plan to earn)</th>
<th>Actual (I actually earned)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Estimated Amount (I plan to spend)</th>
<th>Actual (I actually spent)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housing Costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entertainment and Fun</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income minus Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Income (from page 1)</th>
<th>Total Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question & Answer

Click on the “Questions” panel, type it and hit “Send”
Future Questions

• Sara Goldware | Beyond Emancipation  
  sgoldware@beyon deemancipation.org  
  (510) 667-7683

• Gabrielle Ridley | Orange Coast College  
  guardianscholars@occ.cccd.edu  
  (714) 432-6877

• Marie Hughes | Family Care Network  
  mhughes@fcni.org  
  (805) 781-3535

• Tracy Schiro | San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services  
  tschiro@co.slo.ca.us  
  (805) 781-1600