The Reproductive & Sexual Health Learning Community for STRTPs & Transitioning Group Homes

November 21, 2019
Information to Participate

Today’s slides can be downloaded in the “handouts” section of your control panel.

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

Presentation materials and handouts will be posted at www.jbayforyouth.org.
Presenters

Alexis Barries, JBAY, Subject Matter Expert with Lived Experience

Felicia Reyes, LA RHEP, Program Associate

Anna Johnson, JBAY, Senior Project Manager, Housing & Health
Agenda

- The Need for Senate Bill 89 and its Passage into Law
- The Los Angeles Reproductive Health Equity Project
- The Reproductive and Sexual Health Learning Community Goals, Topics & Timeline
What is a learning community?

- Provides a space and structure for organizations to align around a shared goal
- Connects people across geographies
- Facilitates shared learning
- Measures collective progress
- Identifies opportunities to improve the field through strengthened policies and practices
- JBAY has a strong track record of organizing effective learning communities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Promoting sexual health education and preventing unintended pregnancy;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Information about and access to rights and services related to pregnancy, parenting &amp; sexual orientation and gender identity;</td>
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<td>Sharing tools and youth-friendly resources for healthy discussions;</td>
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<td>Enhancing policy compliance;</td>
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<td>Providing training and support around issues experienced and SOGIE requirements;</td>
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<td>Integrating evidence-based practices; and</td>
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<td>Advancing systemic progress.</td>
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</table>
Seeking participation from:
5 LA STRTPs,
5 Bay Area STRTPs,
5 STRTPs from other geographic locations
What brings you to this work? What inspired you to join us this morning for this topic?

Please enter any comment or question in the control panel to get the conversation going.

We are building our community of practice starting now!
This project follows the passage of the California Foster Youth Sexual Health Education Act (Senate Bill 89, 2017).

- Improve Access to Sexual Health Education (WIC 16501.1)
- Inform Youth of Their Rights and Remove Barriers (WIC 16501.1(g)(20),(21))
- Develop Quality Sexual Health Training (WIC 16521.5)
- Require Sexual Health Education for Adults (WIC 304.7, 16206, 16519.5)
Subject Matter Expert with Lived Experience

Alexis Barries, Uplift Family Services Mental Health Service Provider & JBAY Advocate
WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR ALEXIS?

LEARN MORE ABOUT ALEXIS’ ADVOCACY WORK HERE
The Los Angeles Reproductive Health Equity Project

Felicia Reyes, Program Associate
Los Angeles Reproductive Health Equity Project for Foster Youth

To develop a resilient collective impact campaign.

Significantly reduce inequitable reproductive health outcomes experienced by youth in LA County foster care.

Increase access to reproductive & sexual health care & information for youth in LA foster care.

LA RHEP is generously funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.
CA has a network of sexual & reproductive health information & services to address adolescent needs

Highlights:

• Mandatory comprehensive sexual health education in public middle and high schools
• Consent rights that allow adolescents who need it to confidentially access care
• A network of clinics, specially trained to address adolescent needs
• Public funding streams for sexual health services to ensure free access
• Trustworthy information for teens and adult caregivers
Services + programs have effectively reduced pregnancy for teens overall

Teen birth rate in CA down **77%** since 1991

**Greatest** percent reduction in US, along with CT and MA

Yet, almost 50% of youth in foster care in CA will have been pregnant at least once by age 19

Source: Courtney et al., Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study: Conditions at Age 17 and at Age 19 (2014, 2016).
For CA youth in care, most of these pregnancies were not intended – this is about systemic barriers to education and care, not “filling an emotional void”

### Young women in foster care at age 17:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wanted to become pregnant:</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definitely no</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably no</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither wanted nor didn’t want</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably yes</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely yes</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

70%

### Young men in foster care at age 17:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wanted partner to become pregnant:</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Definitely no</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably no</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither wanted nor didn’t want</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably yes</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definitely yes</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

67%

24.3% report using contraception at last pregnancy

23.0% report using contraception at last pregnancy

Source: Courtney et al., Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study: Conditions at Age 17 (2014).
Prenatal Outcomes

Of foster youth surveyed at 17 who reported pregnancy:

- 42.7% had a stillbirth or miscarried
- 20.7% never received prenatal care
- 35.80% had a live birth

Source: Courtney et al., Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study: Conditions at Age 17 (2014).
Sexually Transmitted Infections

Percent of young people reporting STI diagnoses by age 26

- Young Women: 44%
  - In Foster Care: 23%
  - Not in Foster Care: 11%
- Young Men: 18%

Source: Child Trends, 2017 using data from Midwest Study by Courtney et al.
Demographics: Race & Ethnicity

90%+ youth in Los Angeles foster care are youth of Color.

- Los Angeles General Population:
  - African American/Black: 7.4%
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 0.1%
  - White: 10.7%
  - American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.6%
  - Hispanic/Latino: 61.6%
  - Other: 16.9%

- Los Angeles Foster Youth:
  - African American/Black: 29.2%
  - Asian/Pacific Islander: 0.5%
  - White: 58.7%
  - American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.6%
  - Hispanic/Latino: 10.1%
Demographics: Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity

• Nationwide, 22.8% of children in the foster care system identify as LGTBQ+

• A study of youth in LA’s foster care system found that the percentage of those who are LGTBQ+ is approximately twice that of youth not in foster care
  ○ *Often due to discrimination

• Within LA County, 83% of LGTBQ+ foster youth were black or Latinx
## Youth in foster care experience unique risks & circumstances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAGE</th>
<th>General Population Facts</th>
<th>Things to know about youth in care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Early Adolescence**| • Puberty/concern with body changes and privacy  
 • Development of first crush  
 • Sexual intercourse not common before age 13 | • Youth who have experienced trauma may enter puberty up to a year earlier than peers.  
 • Twice as likely to identify as LGBTQ |
| **Middle Adolescence**| • Dating/Experimentation with relationships and sexual behavior common  
 • 27% 15-17 year olds have had sex  
 • 11% report forced sex before age 19 | • About 20% of female foster youth and 7% of males report sexual molestation while in care  
 • 52% foster youth ages 15-17 report having had sex  
 • 49% report forced sex at some point before age 19 |
| **Late Adolescence** | • Ability to establish mutual trusting relationships                                     | • The majority of sexually trafficked youth are involved in child welfare  
 • Over 90% of foster youth are youth of color. |
Youth in foster care experience unique barriers to care

Structural Barriers to Care

- Logistical barriers, such as transportation
- Practices that actively infringe on youth rights and access
- Inconsistent access to comprehensive sexual health education & care due to placement change
- Lack of policies and training lead to agency & caregiver fear, as well as confusion about reproductive rights & responsibilities
Ensuring Access to Sexual & Reproductive Health Care for Foster Youth

- California Foster Youth Sexual Health Education Act (Senate Bill 89)
- Regulation changes clarifying that sexual and reproductive health care is a part of necessary medical care
- All County Letters clarifying rights and obligations
Questions

WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR FELICIA?

LEARN MORE ABOUT LA RHEP’S WORK HERE
Caregiver = 

Prudent Parent = 

STRTP staff = 

• Connect youth with information about their rights and services
• Help with accessing timely services
• Provide transportation to services
• Collaborate with case worker, probation officer, public health nurse and child and family team members
• Keep information and conversations confidential
• Much more!
Why STRTPs and Transitioning Group Homes?

- Serving expectant and parenting youth and youth with a history of commercial sexual exploitation
- More likely to have missed comprehensive sexual health education in school
- Higher risks of sexually risky behavior due to lack of knowledge and access
- Greater barriers accessing and using protection and contraception than peers
Does Your Organization Want to:

- Promote positive, healthy and comprehensive sexual health education and services among the youth in your care?
- Equip staff members with tools and training for challenging topics?
- Ensure policies and procedures comply with state law and reduce organizational risks?
- Reduce the risks youth and young adults in foster care experience related to unintended pregnancy, birth rates, and sexually transmitted infections?
Policy & Practice Topics

- Staff Training
- Prudent Parenting Standards
- Youth Rights
- SOGIE, LGBTQII
- Reporting
- Confidentiality
- Access to Resources and Services
- Barrier Identification
- Comprehensive Sexual Health Education for Youth
- Bias Identification
- Storage
- Transportation
Timeline: Outreach and Participation

- November – December: Circulate flyer and webinar materials to STRTPs and Transitioning Group Homes
- November – December 15: Submit Letter of Participation
- By end of 2019: JBAY to Confirm Participation
What is required to participate in the learning community?

- Authorization of Executive Director
- Identification of staff member to serve as project point of contact (POC)
- Willingness of project POC to spend a minimum of two hours each month through June 2021.
Timeline: Self-Assessment

Between January and March Kick-Off Meeting

- Self-Assessment of Policy Practice and Experiences
- Gather Youth Input
- Review historic and ongoing strengths, needs, & issues
Timeline: Kick-Off

March 2020

- Location: Los Angeles
- Transportation and Food Provided to Participants
- Community building, day-long training and topic review
- Materials Review
- Prioritizing of Future Training and Technical Assistance Topics
April 2020-June 2021

- Monthly
- 2 hours of participation
- Video calls in large or small groups based on technical assistance needs and topics,
- Sharing by organizations of best practices and how-to’s
- Guest speakers or trainers
Timeline: Post-Assessment

May-June 2021

- Self-Assessment of Policy, Practice and Experiences
- Gather Youth Input
- Review of any progress with historic strengths, needs and issues
- Guest speakers or trainers
June 2021

- Share practices, policies, materials, trainings developed and circulate with networks
- Assess opportunity for policy change at local and state level
- How to keep in touch ongoing
- Celebrate improvements and set ongoing goals

Timeline: Celebrate & Educate
Connecting to Available Materials and Specialists

- CDSS’s Healthy Sexual Development Project
- John Burton Advocates for Youth
- Learning Community Webpage
- Los Angeles Reproductive Health Equity Project
- All County Letters & All County Information Notices
Participation Process

Discuss Interest

Identify Staff from Administration, Training and Direct Care

Youth Participation during Self-Assessment

Submit Letter of Participation by December 15, 2019 to anna@jbay.org
WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR ANNA?

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LEARNING COMMUNITY HERE
SB 89 Policy Brief Webinar

Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 10:00am to 11:30am
Register below:
https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6538881814242355213

A webinar sharing the progress of SB 89 implementation in five Bay Area counties. The webinar will inform our collective understanding of best practices and obstacles to implementation.
Let’s Continue the Conversation

Anna Johnson, anna@jbay.org
Felicia Reyes, freyes@youthlaw.org
Alexis Barries, alexis@jbay.org