



Chafee Advisory Group Meeting March 9, 2023

Minutes

In Attendance: Tybeshia White, David Rosen, Kelly Nestor, Alice Foulkes-Garcia, , Konniesha Moulton, Amanda Martinez, Tosca Blandford-Bynoe, Dan Rhoton, Patricia Jordan, Jonathan Marsh, Niambi London, Rachel Barth, Safa Simmons, Chelsea Sutphin, Ifeanyi Pole

Absent: Hailey D'Elia, Randi Mandelbaum, Suzanne Kreie, Dr. Steven Kairys, Arian Craig, Mary Coogan, Janel Winter

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Mindfulness Exercise
- II. Meeting minutes approval
 - a. CAG members did not have any edits to its drafted December 15, 2022 meeting Minutes.
 - b. CAG's December 15, 2022 meeting Agenda and Minutes will be posted on DCF's website.
- III. Agency Spotlight—Dan Rhoton (Hopeworks)
 - a. Hopeworks propels young adults into long-term living wage careers that put them on the path for healing and financial stability.
 - b. Process overview
 - i. Technology training
 - ii. Career readiness
 - iii. Academic support
 - iv. Paid employment with partnering businesses
 - v. Permanent employee
- IV. ETV Strategy Team Presentation—Safa Simmons and Chelsea Sutphin (OAS)
 - a. Team consists of a multidisciplinary collaborative group that shares connections with youth with foster care experience and youth needing education, career, and employment support.
 - b. Subgroups
 - i. Educational Resources and Outreach
 1. Awareness of ETV funding and outreach to eligible students.

2. Subgroup's outcome included a Universal ETV Resource Guide for Eligible Students that include accepted Career and Technical programs, two-year colleges and four-year universities.
3. There is a large disparity regarding use of ETV funds for college versus career and technical programs. On average less than 6% of the funds are used for career and technical programs.
4. Outcomes and Next Steps
 - a. Outcomes for 2021-2022 Academic year-The Financial Aid and Education Resource Guide contains valuable information on federal and New Jersey state financial aid resources, information on applying for scholarships, as well as a list of available scholarships and college planning resources.
 - b. Next Steps Academic Year 2022-2023-Bring awareness to the NJFCS scholarship program and provide access to resources regarding education, career, and Scholarship programs. Targeted population is youth in need of building community connections and seeking support with career and educational goals.

ii. ETV Data

1. Examine data to inform policy and program changes.
2. Data was used to review ETV Eligibility Criteria and examine possible changes-NJFCS Program has always had an additional subcategory of eligibility under ETV: 18 months of out-of-home placement after age 14, which is not federally mandated
 - a. Considering the data within this ETV subcategory was low and ETV budget has not been a concern, the team decided that no changes to this subcategory were necessary at this time.
 - b. In the future, this group of ETV students would be considered for removal should budgetary issues arise.
 - c. Next Steps: Examine data around extending ETV up to age 26.
3. Data was examined on number of students on probation, following several semesters over past academic years. This data highlighted concerns about:
 - a. high numbers of youth on probation
 - b. number of students removed from NJFCS due to having 2 semesters below a certain grade
 - c. Outcome: OAS & NJFCS umbrella staff worked together to amend the probation policy:

- i. Students have 3 semesters, when at-risk for removal due to grades, rather than only 2 semesters which has historically been policy
 - ii. Benefits 1st year freshmen who struggle to adjust to stressors of post-secondary education
 - d. Next Steps: Discussions continue regarding ways to support the students who do not have PACES or DCP involvement, and are removed or at-risk of removal from the NJFCS program, as these students are particularly at-risk due to lack of formal supports
 - i. OAS & NJFCS umbrella staff will be amending annual Scholars surveys to account for questions to ascertain what supports are needed or what barriers may exist.
 - ii. Presented ETV Strategy Data subgroup: probation data comparing the spring 2022 semester to the fall 2022.

- V. Parenting Young People In Care (PYPIC) Survey Study-Jonathan Marsh
 - a. The purpose of DCF's PYPIC study is to understand the unique perspectives and needs of parenting youth with experience in NJ's foster care system.
 - i. Survey results will assist DCF in updating and improving the Department's policy, practice and programming to best meet the needs of young people and their children.
 - b. The PYPIC survey development will be informed by three key sources:
 - i. CAG expert input, suggestions, and feedback;
 - ii. The current state of empirical knowledge about adolescent parents who are served by child welfare agencies;
 - iii. Key constituents: Select DCF Youth Council members with appropriate wisdom, expertise, and/or lived experience
 - c. Jonathan presented national research on pregnant and parenting young people in care.
 - d. Based on the data from the national research on pregnant and parenting young people in care, Jonathan shared potential topics, themes, and questions that may be considered for inclusion in DCF's PYPIC study:
 - i. What do we want to learn from the parenting youth in care that we serve?
 - ii. What information will be most helpful for us to support them?
 - e. Next Steps:
 - i. CAG feedback
 - ii. Youth Council feedback
 - iii. Synthesis of CAG input, Youth Council input, and empirical knowledge

- VI. Chafee Advisory Group Discussion-Tabled for June 8, 2023 CAG Meeting
 - a. Membership
 - b. Recommendations
 - c. Planning for the next 5 years

- VII. Closing
 - a. 2023 Meeting CAG Meeting Dates
 - i. *March 9th
 - ii. **June 8th (in person)
 - iii. **September 14th (in person)
 - iv. *December 14th
 - *March and December 2023 meetings will be virtual via Zoom.*
 - **June and September 2023 meetings will be in person at DCF's Professional Center in New Brunswick.*

 - b. Volunteer for Agency Spotlight
 - i. Not discussed.

 - c. Announcements, resources, etc.
 - i. No announcements or resources were shared.

All ideas reflected are not endorsed by the agency.