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1. Provide the adults who work with youth in care the training, knowledge, support and job aids to assist them with their work, and to become more proficient in meeting the needs of youth.

2. Provide the youth themselves a voice and a role in decision making.

In care, casework is always willing to not only take on any job but also to learn new systems and technologies to help Child Care training programs to the next levels of excellence.

Outstanding Professional Staff

Mandy Parker joined PDP in June of 2014 and quickly experienced recognition in her position as Business Process/ Analyst. Mandy is a skilled web developer, whose work is a model for others. She takes on the work accessibility, programming, and web design and her diligence and attention to detail, make her a sought after expert contributing to successful PDP’s learning web development projects.

Outstanding Trainer

David Fortune is a model for others. His talents in web accessibility, coding guidelines and procedures—systems—all done while ensuring that there was minimal impact or disruption to PDP’s network and systems running smoothly, but can always be counted on to go above and beyond, whenever needed. David has received exceptional feedback for his participation in the active engagement training. He is an excellent facilitator who encourages participants to explore feelings, see data in new ways, and recognize how the skills being taught would support their work.

The Promise of Youth Engagement

Key provisions of the Chafee legislation, such as increased funding support, creation of foster care independence from age 18 to 21, support of youth to the age of 21, greatly increased in the utilization of the foster care system.

Organizations such as the National Center for Best Practices, the Brookings Institution, the J.K. Rowling Youth Opportunities Initiative, the Child Welfare Information Gateway, and the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections, among others, have collaborated to develop youth engagement practices, but also encourage the discovery of new strategies to promote even greater youth engagement.

Outstanding Team

The Information Systems and Programming (ISP) Team frequently goes above and beyond to keep PDP’s network and systems running smoothly, but never more so than in 2015. ISP was the advance team in PDP’s fall 2015 relocation from two offices and buildings into a consolidated space at 4 Tower Place.智慧化管理, across all parts of the organization, ensuring systems run smoothly, and improving numerous in-house coding guidelines and procedures. He is an excellent facilitator who encourages participants to explore feelings, see data in new ways, and recognize how the skills being taught would support their work.

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Building the Capacity of New York State Child Welfare Agency Staff to Prepare Foster Youth for the World of Work

Lauren B. Gates, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist and Director, Workplace Center, Columbia University, School of Social Work

As the labor market continues to evolve to fill the demands of a changing economy, the employment outlook is bleak for youth who do not have the education and experience required for the available jobs. Youth in the child welfare system are at the greatest disadvantage. They are more likely than youth in the general population to be without the preparation that leads to successful adult employment, including the education and training experiences, and are less likely to have the opportunity to gain the relational competencies and acquire the soft skills expected by employers. As a consequence, youth transitioning out of foster care often find themselves living in poverty and with the sense of purpose and meaning to life that work can bring. In response to the poor employment outlook, the Workplace Center, Columbia University’s School of Social Work, developed Young Adult Work Opportunities for Rewarding Careers (YA WORC). YA WORC is a developmentally appropriate, evidence-informed career readiness preparation program for youth with challenging life circumstances such as those in the foster care system to be without family.
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As an important new initiative, the Workplace Center will join with NYS Office of Children and Family Services and the Professional Development Program (PDP), Rockefeller College, to build the expertise of the PDP Youth Engagement Specialists to support the regions child welfare agencies in the implementation of YA WORC. The effort will include an intensive two-day training of the YE’s followed by ongoing technical assistance to help them train, mentor, and support their regional providers. In addition, the Workplace Center will offer technical assistance to child welfare agencies dedicated to the best fit between YA WORC and their existing operations and services.

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Engaging Youth Through Partnerships

Effective youth engagement is built upon systematic development of youth capacity to provide services to youth in care. PDP Child Welfare training department has been a leader in New York’s effort to support those who are preparing to youth in care to take self-sufficiently through the Statewide Youth Services Training (formerly the Adolescent Services Resource Network) project. The project support the efforts of local districts, provider agencies, OYF facilities and youth because to implement programs that help youth in care to identify work skills needed to transition out of care and into self-sufficiency, as well as, maintain permanent employment. In an effort to support the youth from across the state with providers and youth, the NYS Office of Children and Family Services charged PDP to build upon its successes and increase its presence within each of the OCFY regions.

As a result, foster care agencies will be able to:
1) Engage youth in a process to identify career interests, develop coordinated career/education plans, and access a network to explore career options, receive wraparound supports to overcome barriers to employment and ensure job retention.
2) Utilize a manualized curriculum for Career Club, a workplace center, developed Young Adult Work Opportunities for Rewarding Careers (YA WORC). YA WORC is a developmentally appropriate career preparation program for youth with challenging life circumstances such as involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice system.

Kathleen Costich worked for 15 years as an Administrative Assistant II supporting numerous Child Welfare contracts. She had excellent organizational skills and was a good problem solver, especially when working with people at all levels. Kathleen earned a degree from SUNY New Paltz in the Social Work program. Kathleen is the department’s go-to person when ouning new staff to travel policies, expenses reports, and other travel and travel policies and procedures.

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Youth engagement is an important strategy for preparing youth with challenging life circumstances such as foster care or juvenile justice involvement for successful adult employment. Youth transitioning out of foster care are at the greatest disadvantage. They are more likely than youth in the general population to be without employment experiences, the preparation that leads to successful adult employment, and they are less likely to have the opportunity to gain the relational and social supports to raise awareness to those issues and take action in the society through participation in the Youth in Progress regional teams. Youth In Progress strives to empower youth through the development of leadership and decision-making skills.

Earlier this year, PDP Child Welfare training department hired six regionally-based Youth Engagement Specialists (YES) to join the Statewide Youth Services Training Team. Each YES is located within each of the NYSOCFS Regional Offices. Currently, Carrie Gatius (Buffalo RO), Paul Taylor (Rochester RO), Aline Cusack (Albany RO), Anthony Absher (Spring Valley RO/Long Island Office) and Kevin Dunn-Walker (New York City RO) are part of this team. The effort supports the efforts of the local providers, agency directors, GRO facilitators, and youth because to implement programs that help youth to gain the knowledge and skills needed to transition out of care and into self-sufficiency, as well as maintain permanent employment.

The Workplace Center is the professional development program for youth with challenging life circumstances such as foster care on a trajectory that leads to economic self-sufficiency, as well as, maintain permanent employment and into self-sufficiency.

Youth In Progress regional teams. Youth In Progress strives to empower youth through the development of leadership and decision-making skills.

The Workplace Center has a dedicated staff since 2010, and the last made outstanding contributions to furthering PDP’s mission and organizational goals. Dunia has been a tackling multiple responsibilities in the past 15 years, and being able to accomplish the quantity and quality of work we expected. In 2015, Dunia put significant time and effort to complete a host of tasks to further PDP’s mission and goals. She is also working within her regions to ensure that the support and skill sets are raised awareness to those issues and take action in the society through participation in the Youth In Progress regional teams. Youth In Progress strives to empower youth through the development of leadership and decision-making skills.

As a result, foster care agencies will builds the capacity to

1) Engage youth in a process to identify career interests, develop coordinated career/education plans, and work to gain the support and skills needed to transition from school to work, connect with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services charged PDP to build upon its success and increase its presence within each of the OCFS regions.

2) Develop a strategic plan for connecting youth with providers and other community resources.

PDP Retirement

Barbara Barone

Barbara Barone provided project and logistical support with the PDP Evaluation Department, and Project Support Department at PDP. For 15 years, she maintained an excellent level of service to supporting NYS Child Welfare workers. After several years as an Educational Specialist, she advanced to the position of Manager for New York City Training. Her time at PDP was dedicated to ensuring the success of training for over 10,000 training.

Catherine Rentich worked for 15 years as an Administrative Assistant supporting NYS Child Welfare workers. She had excellent organizational skills and was a good problem solver, especially when working with new technology. She was able to set the department’s go-to person when orienting new staff to travel policies, expense reports, and other training and travel procedures and policies.

Marti Murphy was a valued member of the PDP Human Resources team for the past 15 1/2 years. She played an important role in the “HSLC world” in the past 15 1/2 years. She played an important role in the “HSLC world” in the past 15 1/2 years. She played an important role in the “HSLC world” in the past 15 1/2 years. She played an important role in the “HSLC world” in the past 15 1/2 years. She played an important role in the “HSLC world” in the past 15 1/2 years.

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Executive Director’s Award

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1. Provide the adults who work with youth in the care, training, knowledge, support and job skill to assist them with their work, and to become more proficient in meeting the needs of youth;
2. Provide the youth that they voice a role in developing services, training that includes critical life skills, leadership, and academic, and vocational resources to further their independence.

PDP’s programs and services help youth to transition in their independent role. For example, PDP’s Youth Engagement Specialist serves to offer a new approach to make the transition more effective. In addition to being mentors and role models to youth, they direct other activities such as planning Youth Voice events, Youth in Progress activities, and other programs. OCFS is substantially changing the foster care delivery system in New York State.

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