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Meeting the Needs of Transition- Aged Youth: A Panel Discussion

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Agenda

- Learning Objectives
- Topic Introduction
- Panel Introduction
- Group Activity
- Questions from Moderator
- Q & A Session

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will receive first-hand knowledge about the challenges faced by youth as they age out of the child welfare system.
2. Participants will identify strategies to support successful transitions for youth aging out of the child welfare system.
3. Participants will have the opportunity to address questions to the panel about how best to engage and work with transition-aged youth.

Topic Introduction



What is the underlying challenge with transition-aged foster youth?

AND

Why is it important that we meet their needs?

In Simple Terms.....



**Foster youth exit the system of care
often lacking**

**self-sufficiency
skills**

**and without a permanent
support system.**



Statistics

- In CA 65% of youth leaving care do so without a home (Sorensen [V.O.I.C.E.S], 2009)
- 51% of youth are unemployed at the time of exit (Sorensen [V.O.I.C.E.S], 2009)
- Up to 40% of the homeless population are former foster youth, surpassing veterans (JIT, 2010)
- 1-5% of foster youth graduate from high school (Sorensen [V.O.I.C.E.S], 2009)
- 1-3% of FFY graduate from college (JIT, 2010)



Statistics

- 50 to 60% of children in foster care have moderate to severe health problems
(Sorensen [V.O.I.C.ES], 2009)
- 56% of foster youth report using hard street drugs
(Sorensen [V.O.I.C.ES], 2009)
- Approximately 70% of state penitentiary inmates are former foster youth.
(JIT, 2010.; Sorensen [V.O.I.C.ES], 2009)



Statistics

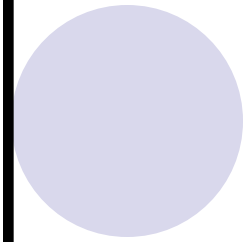
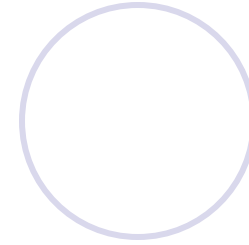
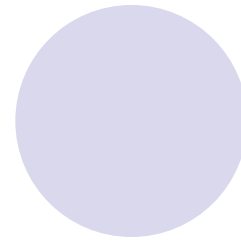
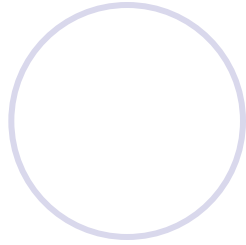
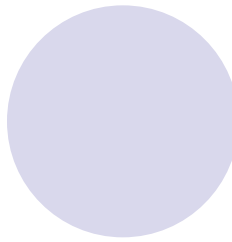
- In a study of current and former foster youth of Clark County, Nevada it was found that
 - 38% of former foster youth had children
 - 41 % reported spending a night in jail
 - 51% reported they had no health insurance
- (Reilly, 2003)



Statistics

Nationwide:	463,000
	28,931
California:	60,000
	5,188
San Diego:	6,000
	425

California Youth Connection, 2011; Courtney, Piliavin, Grogan-Kaylor, & Nesmith, 2001; McCoy-Roth, M., Freundlich, M., & Ross, T, 2010; Reilly, 2003; San Diego County Grand Jury (2009/2010); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Administration for Children and Families, 2010; Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2010

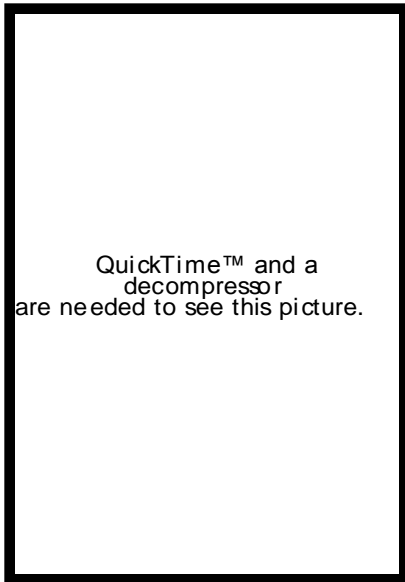


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Problem Trend

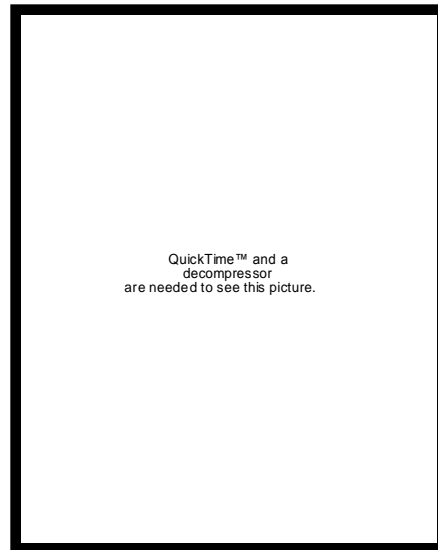
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Meet Our Panel



Mercediz
Hand

Letty
Trujillo



Silverio
Rodriguez

● Corey Nash

Activity: Find Your Suit

PART I

- This is where your playing card comes into play!
- Everyone please stand up, the only thing that should be in your hand is your playing card
- Please take a look at the suit on your card and move to the designated area as displayed on the screen
- Please leave your belongings behind
- Please refrain from conversations with peers who do not share the same suit as you
- There will be absolutely NO swapping of playing cards

Find Your Suit

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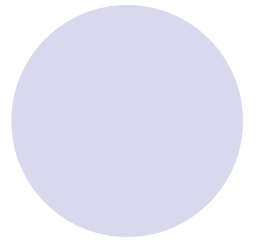
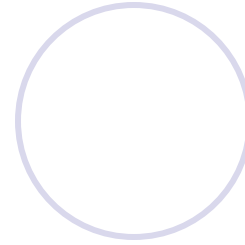
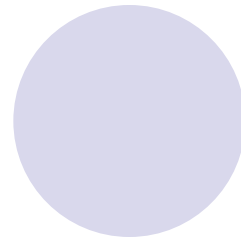
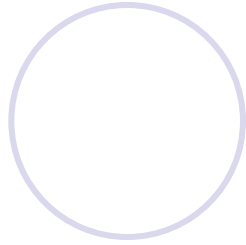
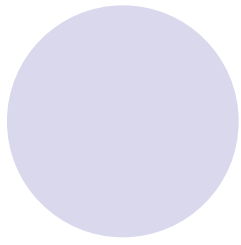


Activity: Reflection

What was this experience like?

Please feel free to shout out words that describe what you were feeling or are currently feeling?

- **Were you worried about your personal belongings?**
- **How does it feel to have to leave your belongings behind?**
- **Was anyone worried about what was going to happen next?**
- **How did you feel being separated from your friends or colleagues?**
- **How did you feel being placed with a group of strangers?**



Activity: Find Your Suit

PART II



Questions from Moderator

Four decorative circles are arranged horizontally at the top of the slide. From left to right: a solid light purple circle, an outlined light purple circle, another solid light purple circle, and a final solid light purple circle.

QUESTION No. 1

Was there a defining point in your life when you realized you were on your own and you had to fend for yourself?

How did you feel?

How did you manage?



QUESTION No. 2

What can professionals do to help youth as they transition out of foster care?



QUESTION No. 3

How can professionals help support youth who might act like they do not want their help, but who really need it?



QUESTION No. 4

What can professionals do to help facilitate positive relationships and mutual support among transitioning youth?



QUESTION No. 5

**What can one person do to
make
a difference for
transitioning youth?**

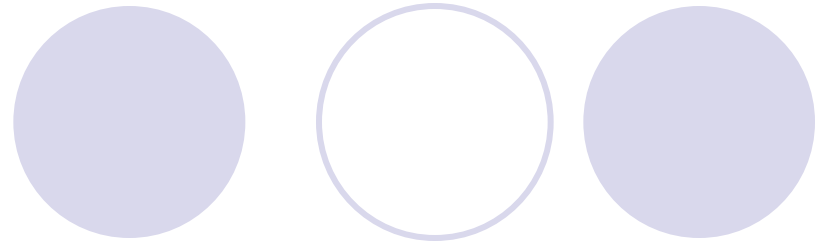
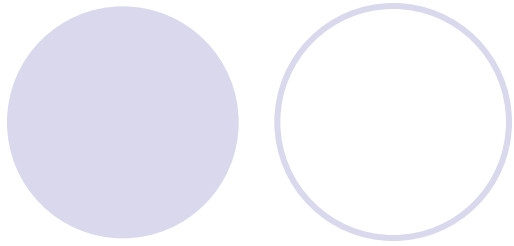


QUESTION No. 6

What is the most important thing you want professionals to know about youth aging out of foster care and/or transition process?

AND

One major recommendation you would like to make for professionals working with transitional age youth.



Q

&

A



San Diego Organizations

- **LEAP - Leadership Empowers All Possibilities**

- Local advocacy group composed of current and former foster youth.

- www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/programs/cs/commission_on_children_youth_families/ccyf_committees.html

- **JIT - Just In Time For Foster Youth**

- Provides transitioning foster youth with opportunities for self-sufficiency through emergency financial support, essential resources, and personal guidance.

- www.jitfosteryouth.org

San Diego Organizations

- **Guardian Scholars - Promises to Kids**
 - Provides scholarships to former foster youth.
 - www.promises2kids.org
- **San Diego Foundation**
 - Provides scholarships to former foster youth.
 - www.sdfoundation.org
- **Dollars for Scholars**
 - Provides scholarships to former foster youth.
 - www.mydollar.org

California Organizations

- CYC - California Youth Connection
 - State-wide advocacy group
 - <http://www.calyouthconn.org/>
- V.O.I.C.E.S.
 - Housing, education, employment and wellness services to transitioning youth in Napa and Santa Rosa, CA
 - Created and run by former foster youth
 - <http://www.voicesyouthcenter.org/>

National Resources for Transition-Age Youth

- **A Home Within** (www.ahomewithin.org): Matching qualified volunteer therapists with current and former foster youth
- **Foster Club** (www.fosterclub.com): On-line community and resources
- **Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative** (www.jimcaseyyouth.org): Opportunity Passports, Youth Leadership and Community Partnership Boards
- **National Foster Youth Action Network** (www.fosteryoutaction.org): Builds leadership and advocacy skills if current and former foster youth
- **National Resource Center for Youth Development** (www.nrcd.ou.edu): Builds capacity in states and tribes to meet needs of adolescents in foster care
- **UPS School-to-Career Partnership** (www.community.ups.com): Career development for transitioning youth



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