FROM ASPIRATION TO ACTION: ACHIEVING PERMANENCY FOR OLDER YOUTH

Beyond the Bench Conference 2015
Jorge Cabrera – Casey Family Programs
Theresa Peleska – County of San Diego CWS

A YOUTH’S STORY

SHANE’S STORY OF AGING OUT

WHAT IS A PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLE?

A PROFESSIONAL CASE CONSULTATION WHICH IS:

- Structured
- In-Depth
- Non-Blaming
- Relentless
PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES

MULTI-LEVEL STRATEGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Micro Level</th>
<th>Professional Case Consultation</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Real Time&quot; Learning Lab</td>
<td>Professional Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macro Level</td>
<td>Systems Improvement</td>
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ROUNDTABLE GOALS

- Expedite legal permanency for the child
- Stimulate thinking and learning about ways to accelerate permanency
- Identify and address systemic barriers to expedited permanency

GEORGIA PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES

EXTERNAL OUTCOME EVALUATION

One-Year Follow-Up (n=496)

- DCFS Custody Terminated: 1%
- Emancipated: 12%
- In Care: 53%
- Achieved Permanency: 31%
- Guardianship: 13%
- Adoption: 9%
- Reunification: 8%
**Georgia PRT Child Outcomes as of 6/30/11 n = 3,631 children**

- Achieved Legal Permanency: 41%
- Other Exits: 21%
- Remain in Care: 38%

Source: Georgia DFCS

**Types of Post-PRT Legal Permanency Achieved as of 6/30/11 n = 1,506 children**

- Adoption: 42.9%
- Reunification: 26.8%
- Legal Guardianship: 30.2%

Source: Georgia DFCS

**VALUES**

**URGENCY**
- Relentless insistence on permanency – no excuses

**TEAMING**
- Team supports the worker to expedite permanency
- Solution-focused and NON-BLAMING
- Concrete assistance with implementing action plan tasks

**OUTCOMES**
- Learning and accountability leads to positive outcomes

**OPTIMISM**
- Developing creative strategies in a demanding, yet supportive environment leads to increased hope and energy
PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES

TEAM MEMBERS
- Facilitator
- Permanency Consultants
  - Internal and external
- Transcriber
- Caseworkers
- Supervisors
- Others

PHASES
I. Welcome and overview
II. Present the case
III. Clarify and explore
IV. Brainstorm
V. Create permanency action plan
VI. Debrief roundtable

HOW WE GOT STARTED

JAMES’ STORY
- Entered into foster care at the age of one
- Placements: 6 licensed foster homes, 9 Foster Family Agency (FFA) homes, 8 group homes, and 22 stays at emergency shelter
- Incarcerated as an adult
DISCOVERY PROCESS

OLDER YOUTH LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

- Five Jurisdictions (Colorado, Connecticut, Michigan, San Diego County, Tennessee, Travis County TX)
- Goal to improve outcomes for older youth in the child welfare system

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO – LONG STAYERS

LONG STAYERS PROJECT

- Purpose: Identify factors that contribute to youth remaining in foster care for an extended period of time
  - Youth 11 years or older at removal
  - Experienced multiple placement moves first year
  - Birth mothers with chronic substance abuse and issues with domestic violence
  - Minimal father engagement
  - Multiple hotline referrals prior to removal
  - Minimal amount of case plan activities completed

OUR PATH TO PERMANENCY

IMPLEMENTATION – RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- Permanency Values Training - Internal
- Integrated Approach - Group Homes/Foster Family Agencies/CWS
- Permanency Roundtables (PRT)
PERMANENCY MESSAGE

LAUREN FREY

WHY PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES?

PERMANENCY IS THE PRIORITY
• Sole purpose of this case consultation is to focus on permanency
• Innovative
• Realistic planning
• Future focused

INITIAL SELECTION

CRITERIA WAS PLANNED AND DATA DRIVEN
• Round 1: Youth ages 11-15 in out of home care for three years or more and current placement in group home care
• Round 2: Youth ages 6-12 placed in group home care
• Round 3: Youth placed in FFA homes
**PERMANENCY STATUS**

**DEFINITION OF PERMANENCY STATUS**

- **Poor:** No plan, no connections, placement instability
- **Marginal:** Uncertain/developing plan and connections, temporary placement
- **Fair:** Implementing plan, committed caregiver identified, somewhat stable placement plan
- **Very Good:** Plan in place, committed caregiver, placement official and stable
- **Achieved:** Legal permanency attained (dependency terminated)

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**INITIAL PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES**

**DATA AND OUTCOMES**

Initial Permanency Roundtables - Rounds 1 and 2
October 2013 - August 2014
(n=51)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
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**DATA AND OUTCOMES**

Permanency Roundtables - Rounds 1 and 2
February 2015 - April 2015
(n=51)

<table>
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<td>Marginal</td>
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<td>Fair</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4</td>
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*Note: Cases included in “other” include AWOL, cases transferred to probation, and aging out.*
INITIAL PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES

FAMILY FINDING/ENGAGEMENT

- Of the 39 referrals made for family finding:
  - Fathers were located for 13 youth
  - At least one family member was identified for 29 youth
  - Family members continue to be engaged for 13 youth

YOUTH'S STORY

CHRIS' STORY

- In foster care since 2008
- Placements: 1 relative/NREFM home, 3 Foster Family Agency homes, 5 group homes, and 4 stays at emergency shelter
- Located and engaged father
- First visit to Idaho
- Current status

A YOUTH'S STORY

SAL'S STORY

- Entered into foster care at the age of one
- Placements: 7 licensed foster homes, 5 group homes, and 4 stays at emergency shelter
- Status of parents
- Placed in two prospective adoptive homes and was featured on the “Adopt 8”
- Impact of Family Finding and Family Group Conferencing
- Current status
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- Committed, involved leadership
- Social worker/supervisor values
- Importance of dedicated permanency staff
- Identification of systems barriers

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Conducting round four
- Facilitating follow-ups
- Expanding to include the County of San Diego’s Adoptions program
- Involving Continuous Quality Improvement Unit

OUR MESSAGE

Foster Care begins and ends with family (Lauren Frey)