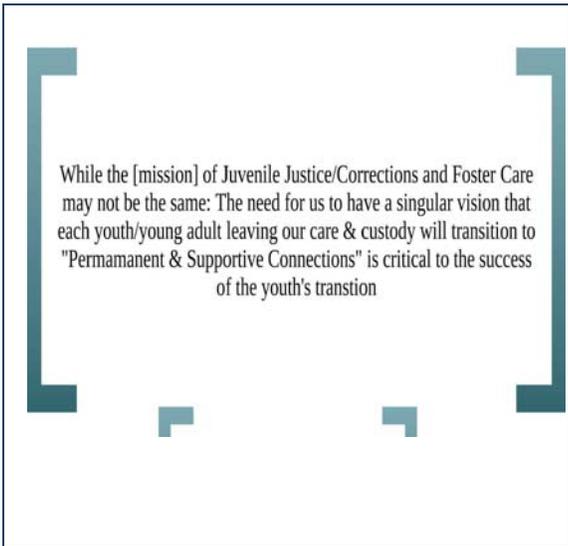


No Wrong Door. Building on the concepts identified in *Connected by 25* and *Multiple Pathways to Graduation* we recognize there are several pathways (or doors) for youth to enter a “system”.

A youth may enter a “system” such as the foster care system through maltreatment or enter the juvenile justice “system” when they commit delinquent acts. In many cases youth are involved with both the juvenile justice and foster care system; creating a population of youth identified as “crossover youth”.

For the purposes of this presentation, we are narrowing our focus to youth that enter through involvement with juvenile justice/corrections or foster care: and are now: “cross system” - being adjudicated both *dependent* and *delinquent*.

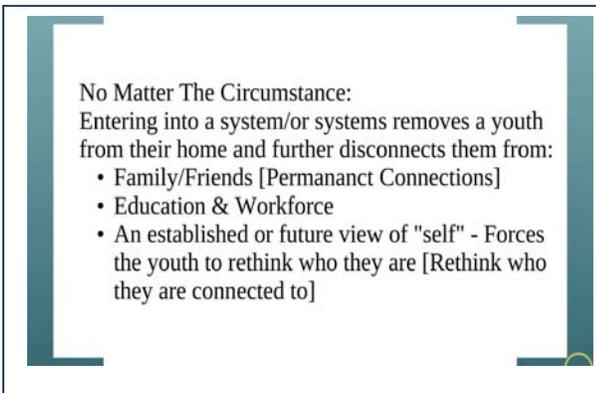
Youth Transitions Funder Group Publications: www.ytfg.org *Connected by 25: A Plan for Investing in Successful Futures for Foster Youth* Foster Care Workgroup
Multiple Pathways to Graduation: A Collaborative Philanthropic Initiative



Permanent & Supportive Connections: For youth transitioning from the foster care and/or the juvenile justice system- Stable family relationships and permanent connections are essential. The support networks that exist for many of us are not assured for youth who have spent time in the care and custody of a state agency.

Permanent and Supportive: Having an enduring family relationship that is safe and meant to last a lifetime

Note: We use the phrase “family relationship” with the understanding that “family” is to be defined by the youth. “Family” and permanent connections can be legal family members, informal family members, supportive adults and caring friends.



No matter through what “door” the youth enters the system; it is important to understand the majority of youth involved with these systems become disconnected from their families and communities, the education system and the workforce. Additionally many of the youth served by systems are pregnant and/or parenting. The ‘disconnect’ forces the youth to rethink:
 Are they a daughter/son; sibling; [student, employee] parent?
 Who can they “connect” to?
 What are the barriers [Severity of charges, family dynamics] ?
 Disruption to peer/social relationships?

[Rethink] Rule #1: Okay the only rule- Do not make it complicated

[In addition to services] Focus on Reconnect: Our real work is ensuring youth/young adults REMAIN CONNECTED or ESTABLISH CONNECTIONS to Family/Friends and Supportive Adults

Who does the youth consider significant in their life?
Ask this question early on in the process: and then continue to ask!

It is not about Us
It is not about the System
Who has the
Comprehensive View?

The same social skills that keep you connected with Family/Friends/Supportive Adults will be the ones you need to

- Obtain/Maintain Employment & Education
- Negotiate and Navigate
- Gain Entrance: Move from where you are to where you want to be

Can the youth identify people in their life they can turn to for support and guidance?

- 1- Who is helping you complete any requirements of your juvenile justice probation or supervision program [such as community service or attending special classes required as part of your juvenile justice involvement?
- 2- Who does the youth have regular contact with [telephone calls & letters/cards] while in the program/facility?

Who would you contact?

If you need a place to spend the night.

If you had a medical emergency

If you needed emergency financial assistance

If you need help registering for school or an vocational/technical program

If you want to get advice on a relationship

3- Work with the youth to ensure they have regular and consistent written communication with the identified family members and supportive adults [Anything written is a tangible memory]

4- Regular and Consistent communication will provide the opportunity for the youth to reveal [their person]

5- Regular and Consistent communication will provide the opportunity for the family & supportive adults to reveal [their person]

Bottom Line: No matter the circumstance - Youth ENTER our Care/Custody and LEAVE our Care/Custody....
[Who/Where will impact the future Why/How]