

NATIONAL CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW

Using the law to help children in need



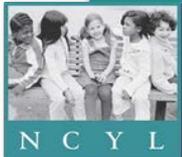
Ways Advocates, Providers, and Districts can Partner to Serve the Needs of Foster Youth

April 18, 2017

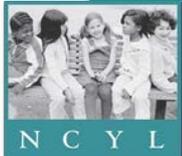
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Agenda

- **Overview of FosterEd**
- **Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Child Welfare Agency Partnership**
- **Policy Revision & Training**
- **Q&A**



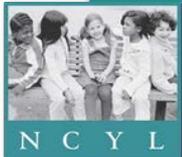
Overview of FosterEd



FosterEd

FosterEd partners with state and local education, child welfare and judicial agencies to implement a continuous cycle of data-driven interventions that provide educational stability and supports for system-involved youth.

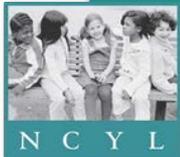
Project sites: California, Arizona, New Mexico, Indiana



FosterEd's Vision

Our vision is for the vast majority of students in the state's care to graduate from high school with the widest array of possibilities for their future.

In order to succeed, every young person involved in the state's system needs to be positively engaged in school and learning, empowered to take charge of their educational futures, and have meaningful relationships with caring adults who will consistently and effectively support the young person's educational trajectory once they have exited care.

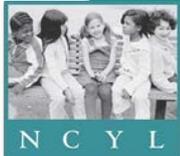


FosterEd Strategies

FosterEd has a three-pronged approach to improve educational outcomes for foster youth

1) Policy and systems change

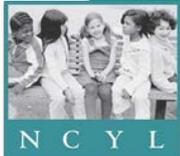
- Policies are effectively implemented at a system level to ensure that system involved students are receiving the benefits and supports to which they are entitled.
- Partnerships with child welfare agencies, county offices of education and school districts promote shared learning and practices that are precursors to youth success.
- Ex: transportation, records transfer, best interest decisions, effective adult teams, education addressed at Child and Family Team Meetings (CFT)



FosterEd Strategies

2) Cross-learning partnerships to scale and spread effective practices

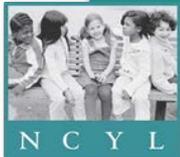
- Child welfare agencies, county offices of education, and school districts have the information they need to identify and monitor the educational strengths and needs of students in foster care.
- Examples of statewide shared learning efforts include:
 - Sharing policies and practices on effective use of data
 - LCAP implementation for foster youth
 - Stakeholder support resources, training and capacity building
 - California Collaborative for Educational Excellence's (CCEE) Early Adopter Professional Learning Network (EAPLN) implementation



FosterEd Strategies

Facilitating shared learning in Los Angeles County:

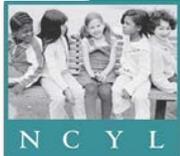
- **DCFS Regional Offices** - Ongoing series of education-specific trainings and case conferencing opportunities for social workers
- **Centinela Valley Union High School District** – Development of parallel child welfare/education services, implementation of District Foster Youth Strategic Plan
- **Westside Union School District** - Professional development strategies/training regarding foster youth needs/resources, capacity building strategies to support LCAP foster youth goals
- **Eastside Union School District** - Implementation of foster parent/caregiver trainings, capacity building strategies to support LCAP foster youth goals
- **Palmdale School District** - Development of education service framework, effective use of data, district protocols (transportation/best interest determination)



FosterEd Strategies

3) Direct support to children and youth

- Program design, iteration and implementation of a youth-centered, education teaming framework to serve the highest need system-involved students
- Youth served by FosterEd's Education Liaisons
- Provide coordination between child welfare agencies, LEA, and community providers to support the educational success of system-involved youth



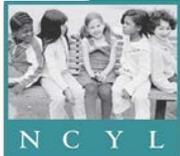
FosterEd Practice Framework

Education Team

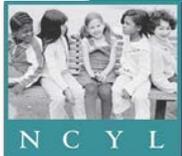


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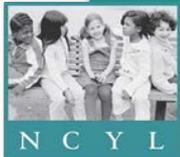


Partnerships to Help Foster Youth Succeed in School



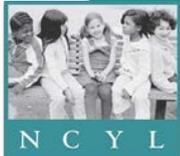
Oakland Foster Youth Advisory Committee

- The Foster Youth Advisory Committee is comprised of current foster youth, former foster youth, caregivers, advocates, and providers.
- Together we aim to improve OUSD programs and policies to serve the unique needs of foster students, and to involve caregivers and families, school board members, school administrators, and the public in supporting foster students.



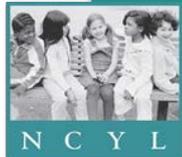
Oakland Foster Youth Advisory Committee

- **Demographics: There are over 300 Foster Youth in Oakland Unified School District**
- **In 2015, of over 200 OUSD foster students tested:**
 - 9% met English Standards, compared with 32% of non-foster students
 - 67% of foster students did not come close to meeting English Standards, compared to 44% of non-foster students
 - 4% met Math Standards, compared with 26% of non-foster students
 - 75% of foster students did not come close to meeting Math Standards.
 - Not a single foster youth in the district exceeded math standards



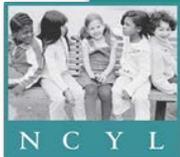
Oakland Foster Youth Advisory Committee

- **Committee Formation and Accomplishments:**
- In 2015 people started meeting with Directors of the school board about the need for providing support for foster youth in the LCAP process.
- Spring 2016 foster youth advocates got involved in the LSAC PSAC after staff organized a focus group of foster youth stakeholders
- May 2016: The LCAP PSAC adopts the recommendations advanced by Foster Youth advocates involved in developing the Foster Youth Advisory
- June 2016: Formal establishment meeting of the Foster Youth Advisory Committee (FYAC)
- Fall 2016: Full Presentation to LCAP PSAC on our Recommendations; the LCAP PSAC prioritizes two of the FYAC recommendations for the 2017-18 OUSD budget
- Spring 2017: Shared our report and presented to the School Board, current budget has OUSD increasing funding for foster youth support next year by \$300,000.
- We held our first foster parent phone drive.



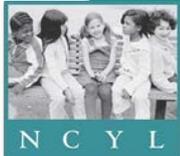
Oakland Foster Youth Advisory Committee

- Key Lessons:
- **Creating a forum for youth, alumni, caregivers, providers and advocates is hard work but rewarding.**
- **Grassroots organizing within the foster care community can be a successful strategy for changing perceptions, policies, and hopefully outcomes.**
- **You need partners internal and external to work towards change.**
- **Other Lessons Learned...**



Palmdale School District/FosterEd Partnership

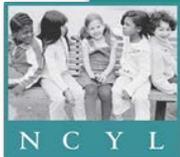
- **Palmdale School District**
 - Student population: 19,051 as of 4/10/2017
 - 16 Elementary Schools
 - 4 Intermediate Schools
 - Adding a 5th Intermediate school in 2017/18 school year
 - 2 Dual Immersion Schools (K-8th and K-5th)
 - Palmdale Learning Plaza- InterBaccalaureate World School (k-8th)
 - Palmdale Discover Center (Autism Program)
 - Oak Tree Community Day School (3rd-8th)
 - Yellen Learning Center (K-8th)
- **Foster Youth Student Population**
 - Approximately 1000 foster students throughout the school year
 - Approximately 650 foster students at any given point
 - 411 youth have enrolled since 2016-2017 school year began
- **FosterEd Education Liaison co-located at the school district, under the supervision of the district's AB 490 Liaison**



Palmdale School District/FosterEd Partnership

Needs Assessment:

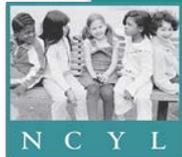
- Education Rights Holder information missing and/or not updated regularly at high rates for youth across the county
- Critical documentation with student-specific information (caregiver and Education Rights Holder contact information, previous school placement, Special Education information, etc.) rarely follows the child to new school placements
 - LA County DCFS 1399 forms
 - July 2, 2016 – April 14, 2017= 411 students
 - DCFS 1399s received at enrollment = 50
- Communication between DCFS and LEA was limited
 - Replacements
 - Services in place (i.e. mental health/wraparound)
 - School of Origin



Palmdale School District/FosterEd Partnership

The role of the FosterEd Education Liaison:

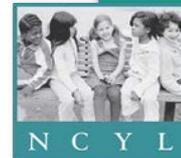
- Assist the AB490 Liaison with foster-youth related inquiries
 - Education Rights Holder information, Case Status, School Records Requests, birth certificates, CSW/SCSW contact information, etc.
- Referrals to School Based Mental Health Services
- Referrals to Tutoring (LACOE and/or school site)
- Home Visits with Student Engagement Advocates
- Participate in Teaming Processes
 - Individualized Education Plan Meeting (Education)
 - Social-Emotional-Academic Learning (SEAL) meetings (Education)
 - Child and Family Team (CFT)Meeting (Child Welfare)



Palmdale School District/FosterEd Partnership

Student Centered Supports:

- Student Engagement
 - Face to face check-ins
 - Foster Youth Support Plan
 - Education Team
 - Youth
 - Education Rights Holder
 - Caregiver
 - Parent
 - Children’s Social Worker
 - School Site Staff (Teacher(s), Counselor, School Psychologist, Administrator, Social-Emotional Learning Specialist)
 - Foster Family Agency Social Worker (if applicable)
 - Court Appointed Special Advocate (if applicable)
 - Minor’s attorney (via email as needed)

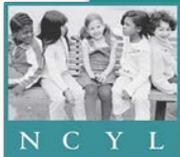


Palmdale School District/FosterEd Partnership

- **Other Services Provided**
 - Professional Development
 - Parent/Community Liaisons
 - School Counselors
 - School Psychologists
 - Middle School Staff Meetings

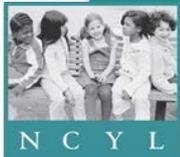
*Topics include – Navigating the Child Welfare System,
Foster Youth Education Rights & School Responsibilities*

- Planning Stages:
 - Facilitating groups for disruptive behavior with SELS
 - Planning ongoing groups for Caregivers regarding education



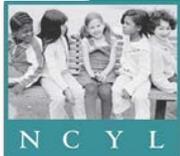
Successes and Lessons Learned

- **Streamlined processes at district and school site levels to better serve foster youth students**
- **Co-location of Foster Youth Education Liaison at school sites is critical for relationship building**
- **Culture shift to proactively identify and support foster youth education issues takes systemic and practice changes**
- **Foster Youth Support Plan and process provides early and comprehensive education support services**



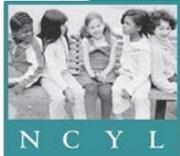
Westside Union School District/FosterEd Partnership

- **Westside Union School District**
 - K-8 School District
 - 13 School Sites
 - 200+ foster students
- **Capacity Building:**
 - Coordinated a Professional Development Day for certificated staff, which included presentations from FosterEd, LACOE FYSCP, Palmdale/Lancaster DCFS Regional office Administrators, LA County DCFS Education Unit, foster youth, and Parents in Partnership.
 - Participated and presented information about foster youth education at various district meetings, including, the Superintendent's Advisory Meeting, Westside Community Collaboration Meeting, and the Antelope Valley Curriculum Articulation meeting.



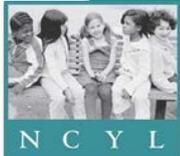
Eastside Union School District/FosterEd Partnership

- **Eastside Union School District**
 - K-8 School District
 - 5 School Sites
 - 100+ foster students
- **Capacity Building**
 - Developed recommendations and provided technical assistance for capacity building strategies to support LCAP foster student goals/activities.
 - Developed and implemented a series of parent/caregiver trainings around foster youth education rights and school responsibilities, and strategies to support foster youth education.



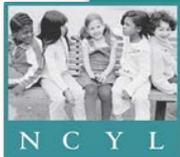
Child Welfare & FFA Trainings

- **Capacity Building:**
 - Provided training to Children's Social Workers in the Palmdale Regional DCFS Office, focused on improving foster youth education outcomes, including school stability, filling out/sending DCFS 1399 forms, travel reimbursement for caregivers, identifying and supporting appropriate ERHs, and increasing collaboration/communication with school districts.
 - Provided training to local Foster Family Agencies' staff and caregivers focused on improving foster youth education outcomes, including school stability, travel reimbursement for caregivers, identifying and obtaining academic supports for foster students, and school engagement.



Court Partners

- **Antelope Valley Dependency Court**
 - 1 of 2 Dependency Courthouses in Los Angeles County
 - 2 Dependency Courtrooms. A third one opening in 2017.
 - Initiated discussion with CLC, LADL, Supervising Judge, and CASA around creating a Court Education Liaison position for the Antelope Valley Juvenile Court.
 - Fostering interagency collaboration to improve collaboration and coordination of educational supports and services between foster youth education stakeholders and court partners.
- **CASA of Los Angeles (Antelope Valley)**
 - Trained CASA volunteers around foster youth education rights and supports.
 - Developed a CASA referral protocol to be implemented with the Palmdale School District.



Centinela Valley Union High School District

- **Co-developed district policies & infrastructure** to support high school students from enrollment to checkout/graduation
 - Foster Youth Strategic Plan – (will upload to Summit website)
- With support from county partners (Los Angeles Department Of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and other local Districts), **built staff capacity to understand and navigate local child welfare agencies** and understand and help **implement existing education laws benefiting foster youth**
 - Goal – ensure staff across CVUHSD understand the role they can play in promoting foster youth school stability, academic progress, and student engagement with the school community
 - Foster Youth Individual Success Plan – ensuring academic support needs are identified, provided, and progress is monitored regularly

April 29, 2017

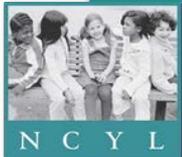
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CVUHSD (Cont.)

- **Served as a thought partner and cross-agency relationship broker**, facilitating appropriate and timely communication about student progress across and within child welfare and education systems and building systemic relationships & partnerships across districts and local child welfare leadership in the region (through a grant from the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence)
- Currently identifying and supporting **development of sustainability plans for piloted efforts via CVUHSD's Local Control and Accountability Plan**
 - Foster youth data obtained from CDE-Data Quest & newly-implemented foster youth flag in the student information system should help highlight the value of continued attention and investment



Q & A



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