

# Reducing the Use of Congregate Care through Family Group Decision Making



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## *Agenda*

- I. Introduction to the Problem
- II. Challenges Within Child Welfare
- III. Resources to Assist Older Youth
- IV. Growing Leadership of family finding and FGDM for Older Youth

## Introduction to the Problem

- Overview of the Transitional Youth Workgroup
- Congregate Care Analysis: A State Roundtable Charge
- What is Congregate Care

## Congregate Care Analysis: Statistical Data

Age groups most likely to be placed in congregate care as a **FIRST** option

- 16-18 Year Olds
- 14-15 Year Olds

Why might this be?

## Congregate Care Analysis: Statistical Data

- Gender
- Age
- Race

## Congregate Care Analysis: Statistical Data

### **Challenges Older Youth Face**

- Physical Challenges
- Intellectual Challenges
- Mental Health Challenges
- Substance Abuse Challenges

## Congregate Care Analysis: Statistical Data

### **Challenges Older Youth Face**

- Behavioral Challenges
  - ✓ Runaway Behaviors
  - ✓ Truancy
  - ✓ Incurability

## Congregate Care Analysis: Statistical Data

### **Family Engagement**

- Visitation (Less than 50% of the time)
- Family finding (40% of the time with maternal family and 30% with paternal family)
  - \*Caseworkers reported that when family finding was done, it was done minimally 62% of the time

## Congregate Care Analysis: Statistical Data

### **Family Engagement**

- Relatives/Kin considered (48% of the time with maternal family and 36% of the time with paternal family)
- Relatives/Kin involved in the youth's case planning (45% of the time with maternal family and 32% of the time with paternal family)

## Congregate Care Analysis: Statistical Data

### **Family Engagement**

- Family Group Decision Making
  - ❖ 47% of the time offered
  - ❖ 73% of the time offered after the youth was in care

## Anticipated Outcomes of Congregate Care

Engage participants in discussion

## In Summary

- Older youth being place for behavioral challenges
- Visitation with family occurs less than 50% of the time
- Relatives/Kin need more consideration prior to placement in congregate care
- Maternal family is engaged more than paternal family

## In Summary

- Family finding is done less than 50% of the time
- FGDM is offered less than 50% of the time
- 63% of cases had more than 4 relatives/kin were listed in the file as having a relationship with the child. 11% of those had more than 7 relative/kin listed



Older Youth Need Meaningful Connections

## Challenges Within Child Welfare

- Setting the Culture
- Leadership Matters: *Administrators, Supervisors, Managers*
- Turnover
- Competing Priorities

Creating a Legacy



## Resources to Assist Older Youth

- Family Finding and Family Group Decision Making Benchcard
- Congregate Care Considerations
- Youth Court Guide
- APPLA and Permanency Chart
- Independent Living
- Older Youth Poster
- <http://www.ocfcpacourts.us/childrens-roundtable-initiative/state-roundtable-workgroupscommittees/transitional-youth-workgroup>

Panel: Growing Leadership of family finding  
and FGDM for Older Youth

**Moderator: Honorable Michael Sholley**  
*Court of Common Pleas of Snyder and Union Counties*

## Panel Members

**Moderator:** Honorable Michael Sholley, Snyder and Union Counties

<b>Kate Croll</b>	Emergency Placement Supervisor, Monroe County
<b>Kate Haydt</b>	Permanency Supervisor, Monroe County
<b>Stephanie Salvatori</b>	Independent Living Caseworker, Lycoming County
<b>Lucy Johnston Walsh</b>	Guardian ad Litem, Cumberland County
<b>Ginny Dickerson</b>	Coordinator, It Takes a Village, Inc.



Older Youth Need Meaningful Connections