

ENGAGING OLDER YOUTH

Hon. Daniel Cahill
District Judge
State of Kansas

THE KANSAS PROJECT

PROJECT SCOPE

- Participating Counties:
 - Wyandotte (Urban)
 - Allen (Rural)
 - Finney (Frontier)
- Target Population
 - Youth over the age of 12 in out of home care
- Hearings
 - Review Hearings
 - Permanency Hearings

EXPECTATION/GOALS OF PROJECT

- ◉ Collect Data on:
 - Time to permanency
 - Mental Health
 - Healthcare
 - Youths opinions of time in custody
 - Sibling connections
 - Placements that are close to home
 - Judicial opinion of youth involvement and impact on judicial determinations ⁵¹

COLLECTING BASELINE DATA

- ◉ Department for Children and Families- Well-being indicators:
 - Snap shot in time
 - Children 12-18
- ◉ Youth Survey
- ◉ Court Observation
- ◉ Judicial Surveys

INTERVENTIONS

Slide 4

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You may want to reword this

spencerd, 4/9/2014

ACTIVITIES/INTERVENTIONS

- Youth Packets
 - Youth Friendly Calendar
 - Youth Friendly Notices
 - Youth Court Report
 - Foster Youth Bill of Rights
- Peer to Peer Training
- Judicial Training on Engaging Youth
- Guardian *ad litem* training
- Revision of Supreme Court Order 174-
Permanency Hearing Orders

YOUTH PACKETS- YOUTH CALENDAR

- Important dates.
- Important people and phone numbers.
- What is a court hearing.
- What is a GAL.
- How I should dress and act in court.
- Who prepares me for court
- Definitions.

YOUTH PACKETS- YOUTH FRIENDLY NOTICES

- Informs youth of right to attend their court hearings.
- Assures youth that the caseworker will make arrangements for them to attend.
- Gives the caseworker's and GAL's contact information.
- Informs the youth of the Youth Court Report and that they may use it instead of attending their hearing.

YOUTH PACKETS- YOUTH COURT REPORT

- Cover sets guidelines for the report.
- Report is divided in to seven sections:
 - Family and Permanent Connections
 - Needs and Concerns
 - Education
 - Health
 - Hobbies
 - Life Plans/Career/Work
 - Court

YOUTH PACKET- FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

- Youth Bill of Rights was developed by the Kansas Youth Advisory Committee (KYAC).
- Areas it covers:
 - School
 - Court
 - Care
 - Privacy
 - Placement

PEER TO PEER TRAINING

Initial Training:

- All ages trained together
- 6 hours long
- Agenda
 - A complete review of materials
 - Mock Hearing

Revised Training:

- Divided age groups- 11-14 and 15-18
- Training shorted to two hour sessions.
- Agenda
 - Introductions to KYAC and Regional Youth Advisory Council (RYAC)
 - Prezi Presentation- provides a map of the court report
 - Mock Permanency Hearing

JUDICIAL TRAINING

- Met with the judge in each county.
- Provided the ABA Bench Cards on age appropriate engagement.
- Reviewed developed materials and allowed opportunity for feedback.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM TRAINING

Two GAL trainings:

- Initial training
 - ABA Bench Cards on Youth Engagement
 - Review of EOYP materials
 - Judicial Expectations
- Revised Training
 - Review of Supreme Court Rule 110A
 - Independent Investigation and Successfully Engaging Youth
 - Analyzing Best Interest of the Child
 - Best Practices for Guardians *ad litem*
 - GAL Role and Ethics in Cases with Older Youth

REVISION OF SUPREME COURT ORDER 174- PERMANENCY/REVIEW HEARINGS ORDERS

Addition findings added to mandated Orders.

- The Court further finds the youth did receive notice/ did not receive notice of the court hearing.
- the youth appears in person and through the youth's guardian *ad litem* appears not in person, but has submitted a report through the youth's guardian *ad litem*, does not appear and is unable or unwilling to submit a report, does not appear and does not submit a report as the youth was not provided with a court report.
- The youth, if unable to attend the court hearing, may submit a report to the court through the guardian *ad litem* by

NEXT STEPS

CONTINUOUS REVIEW OF OUR WORK

- Data Collection
 - July of 2014
 - January 2015
- Roll out results statewide
- Offer the project to judges outside of Allen, Finney, and Wyandotte Counties

QUESTIONS
