

ADA Compliant Transcript
WIOA: Implementing Change
October 20-23, 2015

Title Slide
Connecting the Dots
from Foster Care to Employment & Independent Living

Presented by
Alice Worrell, Office of Workforce Development, and a
Panel of Connecting the Dots Pilot Program Counties

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Meet the Panelists

- Tim Dinger, Hamilton County Dept. of Job and Family Services
- Latoya W. Harris, Summit County Dept. of Job and Family Services
- Mindy Hughes, Lake County Dept. of Job and Family Services
- Candace James, OhioMeansJobs|Cleveland-Cuyahoga County

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Programs Previously Operated in Silos (a chart displays programs)

- US Health and Human Services Chaffee Funds & TANF Funds
- 88 Public Children Services Agencies
- 87 County JFS Offices (some overlap)
- Independent Living Program
- CCMEP/TANF Summer Youth Program (starts 07.01.15)
- US Department of Labor WIOA Funds
- 20 Ohio Workforce Development Boards (some overlap)
- CCMEP/WIOA Youth Program

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What Happens Without Support?
National statistics, after emancipation show:

- Only 46% graduate from H.S. within 4 years of emancipating (half general graduation rate)
- Median earnings for H.S. dropouts = \$23,452/yr.
- Only about 2% earn a bachelors degree
- Poverty rate is 3 times national rate
- 22% experience homelessness
- 40% of adult homeless population spend time in foster care

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National statistics, after emancipation continued:

- 81% of males arrested by age 24
- 54% report at least one mental health problem, including post-traumatic stress
- Less than 50% are employed full time
- 48% of females become pregnant by 19

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High Cost of Poor Outcomes

- More than 24,000 teens leave foster care (emancipate) without being adopted each year in the U.S.
- Personal trauma, hardship, lost potential
- Research shows that providing better support to these young adults would save more than \$5.7 billion over their lifetime
- In Ohio, 900 – 1,300 teens emancipate each year

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Pay Now or Pay Later?

- Is your local area investing in these young people?
- What prevents your local area from doing more?
- What are your plans for Program Year 2016?

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Connecting the Dots Goals

1. Prevent and reduce the incidence of early pregnancy and parenthood
2. Improve educational, employment, and earnings outcomes
3. Better support foster youths' transition to adulthood
4. Break down program and funding silos so cross-program strategies are effective

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Important Service Components. A chart displays components:

- Youth voice and engagement
- Career exploration, work readiness, and work experience (before HS graduation)
- Educational supports (tutoring, dropout prevention, test prep, etc.)
- Career exploration, work readiness, and work experience (before HS graduation)
- Vocational mentoring
- Coordinated delivery of servi

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Engage Youth and Young Adults

- Hire a former foster youth
- Make youth voice part of all planning and service delivery
- Include youth in decisions that are about them
- Create a welcoming environment where they feel they belong
- Support youth to actively participate in and lead meetings about their lives

- Encourage youth to invite friends
- Interpret lack of follow-through as a need for more support

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Reduce Program Silos and Coordinate Services

Six critical elements (according to Jim Casey, founder, Annie E. Casey Foundation)

1. Integrated system design
2. Blended funding streams
3. Synchronized policies
4. Meaningful youth involvement (voice)
5. Strategic case practice
6. Collaborative planning

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Developing Successful Partner Relationships

1. Start with buy-in from agency Directors
2. Disseminate information from Directors to front-line staff
3. Deliver on what you promise
4. Document the service delivery flow upfront
5. Assign a key contact from child welfare, WIOA, and contracted service providers
6. Other

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Is Your Local Area Ready?

- How would you characterize relationships between WIOA youth program and children services in your area?
- What are your plans for Program Year 2016?

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Develop Processes and Procedures for

- Outreach and recruitment
- Assessment
- Individual opportunity plan (CCMEP)
- Referrals among partners
- Information sharing
- Regular case conferences

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Address Potential Obstacles, including

- Performance standards (WIOA excludes from denominator youth in custody who move)
- Policy issues
- Transitions in Medicaid, SNAP & mental health
- Homelessness & resulting crises – county examples
- Trauma-informed care

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Other Keys to Success include

- Develop champions among staff, employers, the media
- Participate in & prioritize attainment of independent living & work skills for youth (especially in residential centers)
- Intensify pre-employment skills training
- Provide on-the-job training and/or work experience
- Provide education on healthy relationships and responsible parenting

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Other Keys to Success continued

Build the capacity of service providers

Provide comprehensive case management

Help youth develop resilience in spite of circumstances

Find and support mentors

Make child welfare staff aware of youths' academic progress & high school credit recovery needs

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Lessons Learned (panelists from Each County describe)

- What I'm proudest about
- Most important advice
- If I had to do it over again, I would _____

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Next Steps

- What actions does your local area need to take by 12.31.15?
- Who will be responsible for these actions?
- What technical assistance would be helpful?

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Questions and Answers

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