

Ohio Family and Children First Youth and Young Adults in Transition Steering Committee

Strategic Planning Report for Governor Strickland September 2010

Dear Governor Strickland,

We are pleased to submit to you the Youth and Young Adults in Transition Strategic Planning Report. Per your request on September 30, 2009, the OFCF Cabinet Council formed the Youth and Young Adults in Transition (Y/YAT) Steering Committee comprised of youth, state agencies, associations, providers, and other key external stakeholders. Over this past year, the committee went through a sound strategic planning process to determine how Ohio could best align and consolidate policies, efforts, and resources for youth and young adults, ages 14 to 25. In addition, the committee identified major gaps for this particularly vulnerable and often overlooked population.

This Progress Report contains recommendations on how Ohio could improve certain resources, services, and supports for youth and young adults as well as become the leader in the country for this population. As you know, this population has a direct impact on Ohio's current and future economy. The committee recognizes that not all of the recommended strategies can fiscally be addressed right now, but believes there are specific recommendations within this progress report that could begin to make a significant impact on youth and young adults, their families, and Ohio's economy. The committee also recognizes that youth need to be engaged with this work. The Y/YAT Progress Report was developed with youth and young adults at the table throughout the entire planning process providing critical voice to the report's recommendations.

The Youth and Young Adults in Transition Steering Committee is ready to move forward with implementing the Progress Report's recommendations. We look forward to the acceptance of the report and authorization to move ahead.

Sincerely.

Angela Sausser Short

OFCF Cabinet Council Director and Chair of the Y/YAT Steering Committee

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Executive Summary

Governor Ted Strickland requested the Ohio Family and Children First (OFCF) Cabinet Council to form the Youth and Young Adults in Transition Steering Committee with the purpose of aligning and consolidating policies, efforts, and resources; and identifying any major service gaps for this particularly vulnerable and often overlooked population. When the Steering Committee's charge is accomplished the Governor hopes that Ohio will be more efficient and effective in meeting the needs of youth and young adults in transition.

The Youth and Young Adults in Transition Steering Committee representing thirteen state agencies began planning in September 2009. Facilitators were obtained from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services to lead the committee through a structured planning process (refer to Appendix A for more information about the process). The Steering Committee expanded in January 2010 from state agency representatives to include youth, providers, associations, and other key external stakeholders (refer to Appendix B for more information about the committee and its members).

The target population is youth and young adults, ages 14 to 25 with particular emphasis on those most vulnerable. The focus is on youth and young adults who may be impacted or in need of any governmental system or service. The Steering Committee identified three priorities Ohio should focus on to become more efficient and effective in meeting the needs of youth and young adults in transition:

- 1. Establish a comprehensive system of sustainable resources by aligning agencies' processes and policies;
- 2. Communication; and
- 3. Empowering youth and families with tools for successful transition.

The Progress Report identifies targeted strategies with specific action steps under the 3 aforementioned priorities. Each action step includes a fiscal cost (\$ - no/low new funding required; \$\$ - moderate new funding, including staff time to implement; \$\$\$ - large investment of new funds, including implementation costs and staff time). The fiscal analysis assists the Steering Committee with focusing on strategies that are achievable and feasible, but while continuing to seek additional options for the other strategies.

Why We Should Be Concerned

Below are statistics that clearly show how vulnerable youth and young adults are in Ohio and across the country.

Education / Employment

- o 1 out of every 3 children (47,600 children) that enter Kindergarten in Ohio **will not graduate** from high school (Ohio Department of Education, 2009).
- o Approximately 1.2 million youth **drop** out of high school nationally each year, more than half of whom come from minority groups (Editorial Projects in Education Research Center, 2008).
- o Since the start of the recession, an additional 1.2 million 16-24-year-olds nationally have become disconnected from both formal schooling and work (Economic Policy Institute, May 2010 Briefing).
- o The class of 2010 will be entering a labor market with the **highest rates of unemployment** in at least a generation (Economic Policy Institute, May 2010 Briefing).
- o **Unemployment rates** for both college graduates and non-graduates younger than 25 are **nearly double their pre**recession levels (Economic Policy Institute, May 2010 Briefing).

Housing/Homelessness

- o On average daily, 250 unaccompanied youth are **homeless** in Ohio (Coalition On Homelessness and Housing In Ohio, 2009).
- o 22% of transition age youth nationally experienced homelessness after leaving foster care (Congressional Research Service. "Youth Transitioning From Foster Care: Background, Federal Programs, and Issues for Congress." May 2008).
- o Approximately 53,000-103,000 of the **homeless population** on a single day are between the ages of 18 and 24 (Burt, Aaron, & Lee, 2001).

Mental Health

- o Of the total population served by Ohio's **community** mental health providers 25% are between the ages of 14-25 (Ohio Department of Mental Health, 2009).
- o 54% of transition age youth nationally had clinical levels of at least one mental health problem and 20% had three or more mental health problems (Casev Family Programs, The Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study, 2003)

Foster Care

- o On average, 1,300 youth **emancipate** annually, after age 18, from Ohio's foster care system (PCSAO, 2007-2008 Factbook).
- Nationally, over 26,000 youth emancipate from the foster care system at age 18 each year (Congressional Research Service. "Youth Transitioning From Foster Care: Background, Federal Programs, and Issues for Congress." Adrienne L. Fernandes. May 2008)
- o Over 33% of transition age foster care vouth receive neither a high school diploma nor a GED, compared to fewer than 10% of their same-age peers (Casey Family Programs – The Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study, 2003).
- o By age 24, foster care alumni are less likely to earn a livable wage than the general population. Surveys of foster care alumni between the ages of 21-22 reveal doubts that, by age 30, they will be able to earn a middle-class income (Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth).

Juvenile/Criminal Justice

- o There are approximately 8,200 youth and **young adults** in Ohio's prison, representing 22% of the total incarcerated inmate population (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, 2009).
- o The daily **youth institution population** is 1,430 and 1,419 youth and young adults are on **parole** (Ohio Department of Youth Services, 2009).
- o 28% of transition age youth nationally have been arrested (Casey Family Programs – The Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study, 2003).

Poverty

- 33% of transition age youth had household incomes at or **below the poverty level**, which is three times the national poverty rate (Casey Family Programs – The Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study, 2003).
- o Young adults with disabilities are three times more **likely to live in poverty** as adults than their peers without disabilities (National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability, n.d.).

Priority #1: Establish a Comprehensive System of Sustainable Resources by Aligning Agencies' **Processes and Policies**

Strategies	Action Steps	Lead	Timeframe	Impact Expected
1. Formally appoint and maintain a statewide Youth/Young Adults Transition Steering Committee to ensure processes and policies across departments are aligned and updated into a comprehensive system (by doing the following: reviewing department websites, receiving input from the field, reaching out to nonagency partners, ensuring local involvement, etc.). This committee will identify and confirm state agencies' representatives and stakeholders for the formal Youth/Young Adults Steering Committee. The leader/chair could be appointed by the Governor. The committee could also have a coordinating (implementation) committee comprised of state department designees and stakeholders.	 Request the Governor to support legislation or issue an executive order to create the Steering Committee. The request will be made by the committee prior to September 2010, and will include language taken from the Executive Summary of this report. Funding: \$ 	Lead Governor's Office	September 2010	 Impact Expected Oversees the implementation of this plan. Assures cross-system coordination. Policies and efforts within and among state departments focused on youth and young adults in transition are aligned, coordinated, and consolidated. State resources at the state and local levels supporting youth and young adults in transition are maximized. Major gaps in policies, efforts, and resources for youth and young adults in transition are identified and addressed.

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b. Address the inconsistency of	1. Request the Ohio Family and Children First,	Ohio Family	September –	Policies and efforts
eligibility requirements across	and or the Family Engagement Committee, to	and Children	December	within and among state departments focused
departments and create a zone of	identify all current state-funded or	First		on youth and young
eligibility.	administered services for youth and young			adults in transition are
	adults and eligibility rules for each service.			aligned, coordinated,
	The Ohio Family and Children First should			and consolidated.
	provide stakeholders an opportunity to assist			Major gaps in policies, efforts, and resources
	in the development of this project.			for youth and young
	> Funding: \$			adults in transition are
	2. Request the Ohio Family and Children First to	Ohio Family	September –	identified and
	solicit existing resource maps from state and	and Children	December	addressed.
	county agencies that identify resources for	First		Youth needs are more effectively met
	youth and young adults, which also include			regardless of age
	information on eligibility of services. With			change (youth to adult).
	this information, we will promote the			
	development of a resource map specifically			
	for the population of transition age youth and			
	young adults. The resource map, or guide,			
	will be made available to state and county			
	agencies, private agencies, and the public.			
	Funding: \$			
	3. Request the Ohio Family and Children First to		Contombon	
	convene an Eligibility Workgroup with state	Ohio Family	September - ongoing	
	agencies and stakeholders to identify how	and Children	oligollig	
	access to services can be improved and how	First		
	eligibility for services for youth and young			
	adults can be bridged. This Workgroup could			
	lead to the development of interagency			
	agreements between departments.			
	➤ Funding: \$			
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c. Increase viable housing options for youth	 Request the Governor to support the establishment of tax benefit program for residential property owners who agree to lease residential living quarters to transitional youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, ages 18-25. Funding: \$\$ Request the Governor to support a state fund for agencies to provide independent living services to disadvantaged youth and young adults. Examples of these services include: job training, life skills training, and supportive housing programs. Funding: \$\$\$ Request the Ohio Department of Development, in collaboration with Ohio Family and Children First, to support focusing a portion of the Continuum of Care (CoC) program on serving youth and young adults. Funding: \$ 	Governor ODoD, Ohio Family and Children First	September – December – December September – December December – December	 Will promote the availability of quality housing options for youth and young adults. Will improve the outcomes of disadvantaged youth and young adults of transitioning into adulthood. Will promote the availability of quality housing options for youth and young adults.
d. Support pooled resources and public-private partnerships to service youth and young adults in transition by maintaining an active inventory of funding resources for youth and young adults in transition.	 Request the Governor to require the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council to annually report on how their respective departments have used, or not used, available federal and state dollars to serve youth in transition. The report must be distributed to relevant stakeholders in the public and private sectors. Funding: \$\$ (initial), \$ (ongoing) Request the Ohio Family and Children First to explore and seek public and private 	Governor Ohio Family and Children First	Every January beginning in 2011 September - ongoing	State resources at the state and local levels supporting youth and young adults in transition are maximized.

	dollars to support a comprehensive system of services for youth in transition. Funding: \$	
e. Create comprehensive transition planning and case management systems for youth in transition	1. Request the Ohio Family and Children First to require each local Family and Children First Council to identify and promote a Transition Navigator (currently employed by a public agency). Each Transition Navigator should be listed on the Ohio Family and Children First website under county profiles. The Transition Navigator's duties are to be a resource to public and private agencies and the public about available resources and services for youth and young adults in their communities. The Transition Navigator will have an instrumental role in the development of the youth and young adult in transition program (see below).	 Major gaps in policies, efforts, and resources for youth and young adults in transition are identified and addressed. Policies and efforts within and among state departments focused on youth and young adults in transition are aligned, coordinated, and consolidated.
	 ➤ Funding: \$\$ 2. Request the Governor and the Governor's Workforce Policy Advisory Board to develop a comprehensive youth and young adult in transition program at each One-Stop Center. (There is a Center in each county, and 90 total in the state, operated by Ohio's 20 Workforce Investment Boards.) ➤ Funding: \$\$ 3. Request the Governor to support funding to authorize the Ohio Family and Children First to develop a transition case management Governor, Governor's Workforce Policy Advisory Board September - Septembe	

Priority #1 Implementation Sub-Committee:

Kim Hettel, Co-Chair	Mark Mecum, Co-Chai	r		
Carrie Anthony	Kevin Shepherd	Rob Manning	Angela Lariviere	Teresa Lampl
Gina Felton	Kathe Shelby	Joani Moore	Jean Stevens	Margo Izzo
Sari Kelpacz	Rhonda Tatum	Vanita Nevis	Shannon Teague*	Steven Oster (auxiliary)
Mozelle Mackey	Jamie White	Lawrence Parson	Coretta Pettway	Teresa Kobelt (auxiliary)
John Magee*	Doris Edelmann*	Leslie Paull	Susan Ignelzi	Ron Cothran (auxiliary)

Priority #2: Communication

Strategies	Action Steps	Lead Timeframe	Impact Expected
	Re	Responsible	
a. Develop a communication plan	Governor's Office to create and send out a survey to all state agency communication's departments on how they are currently communicating with their customers. Some of the elements will consist of aligning methods of consistency of messaging and identifying multi-media best practices, polices, and products: • Texting • Social networking (i.e. Facebook, Myspace) • Email • Phone • Best practice link • Face to face in schools, nontraditional schools • Find a way to tap into online schools • Funding: \$	vernor's Office mmunication partment and iority #2/#3 b-Committees	 Policies and efforts within and among state departments focused on youth and young adults in transition are aligned, coordinated, and consolidated. State resources at the state and local levels supporting youth and young adults in transition are maximized. Youth are aware of resources, services, and supports in their own community. Youth develop positive peer relationships.
	with youth serving organizations to effectively use technology (i.e. blogs, wikis, FaceBook, MySpace) to transport youth message. [Collaborate with Priority 3] Funding: \$\$ 3. Create an Ohio Means Youth website that would be a portal to link and expand an existing transition website) which includes all services available to youth in transition Com Dep Priority 3 Sub- Sub- Sub- Sub- Sub- Sub- Sub- Sub	vernor's Office mmunication partment and iority #2/#3 b-Committees vernor's Office Priority #2 b- Committee/ iority#3 Submmittee	

 ,			-
 Mymissiontransition.com 			
 Reentrycoalition.ohio.gov 			
 State map with county programs and state 			
programs			
 Clickable 			
 Specific county resources 			
 Cross systems 			
Link to existing resources to inform youth			
and families about the legislative and			
advocacy process, and their rights. Post			
these resources on the website.			
Funding: \$\$			
4. Develop a resource directory as part of the	Governor's	March 2011	
website (ex., Google Format). Identify	Office/ Priority		
successful programs and inform providers so	#2 and Priority		
replication can occur via website. (Best	#3 Sub-		
Practice Link, Video, Contact Data.)	Committees		
Funding: \$\$			
5. Include resources for youth who wish to	ODE/ODOD,	March 2011	
pursue owning their own business	/OJFS Priority #2		
(entrepreneurs). Link with ODE and ODOD's	and #3 Sub-		
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Office.	Committees.		
• •			
Funding: \$\$			
6. Create link to Ohio's Here to Help –	Priority #2 Sub-	April 2011	
connecting persons to other state agencies,	Committee /OJFS		
resource sharing, ODJFS.			
Funding: \$			
7. Create link to ODOD's Ohio Means Home	ODOD/ Priority	April 2011	
website.	#2/3 Sub-	11pi ii 2011	
 Target Youth and Young Adults leaving Ohio 	Committees		
and encourage them to stay or return.			

Teams. Network identify and property phones. Funding: 9 Develop Street Temple Common School Library Identify	Priority #2/#3 Sub- Committees/OD E/OJFS Cards for Youth goes to all counties from YEP ty centers Cammittees/OD E/OJFS Priority #2/#3 Sub- Committees/OD E/OJFS Priority #2/#3 Sub- Committees/OD E/OJFS Ommunity partners (i.e. ds, Foot Locker), to implement a out.	April 2011 April 2011
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Priority #2 Implementation Sub-Committee:

Eric Troy, Co-Chair* Teresa Applegarth Kathy Bachmann Ruth Satterfield*

Adrian McMann, Co-Chair

Lisa Dickson* Terri McIntee*

Hannah Phillips Crystal Ward Allen

Empowering Youth and Families with Tools for Successful Transition Priority #3:

Strategy/Action	Action Steps	Lead Responsible	Timeframe	Impact Expected
a. Empower youth and families to	1. Promote youth input/involvement in state,	OFCF Cabinet	January 2011	Youth voice
self advocate	regional and local initiatives that impact			strengthens final
	Y/YAT through state department policies			product, empowers
	and FCFCs.			youth
	Funding: \$	OFCF Sub-Committee,	December 2010 -	Youth /family are
	2. Develop Guidelines and Supports to	YEP & OFCF (Kathy and	July 2011	empowered to self advocate at all
	promote youth and family involvement in	John)	July 2011	levels.
	the delivery of services and supports.	John		Policies/ efforts
	a. Develop guidelines, training			within/ among state
	opportunities, and resources for youth and			departments
	family serving organizations to promote			focused on Y/YAT are aligned,
	engaging and empowering youth and			coordinated &
	families. (OFCF Family Friendly Checklist on			consolidated.
	website, link to Family Engagement activities)			Resources at the
	Funding: \$			state and local levels supporting youth
	b. Provide resources to support			and young adults in
	development of self advocacy skills for			transition are
	youth and family.			maximized.
	Funding: \$			Youth-serving
	3. Standards will be developed and shared			organizations
	with youth serving organizations to	Collaborate w/ Priority 2	January 2011	understand how to communicate
	effectively use technology (i.e. blogs, wikis,	group		effectively w/
	FaceBook, MySpace) to transport youth			youth/families
	message.			Resources are
	[Collaborate with Priority 2]			available, youth/
	Funding: \$\$			family have tools for
	4. Provide training resources for agencies who	OFCF Sub-Committee	December 2010-	advocacy skill
	serve Y/YAT to support effective	of Gr Sub-Committee	ongoing	development
	communication and understand youth		ongoing .	

 culture. a. Recommend that local FCF councils "prepare and train" youth and family members to represent issues on committees, groups and planning events. ➤ Funding: \$\$ 5. Create a youth-friendly format to provide youth with opportunities to give input/feedback to government officials 	OFCF Cabinet directors OFCF Sub- Committee/OFCF Cabinet (Diana, Denise, Maggie,	December 2010	 Increase access to information for youth. Governor values youth involvement, local/state organizations develop local youth councils
 (language, terms, translations). ➤ Funding: \$ 6. Provide links to existing resources to inform youth/families about the legislative and advocacy process, and their rights. Post these resources on the transition website. [Collaborate with Priority 2] ➤ Funding: \$\$ 	Vernita) Collaborate w/ Priority 2	February 2011	
7. Recommend that all youth serving organizations create a link to youth specific resources on their website.Funding: \$	OFCF Cabinet	March 2011	
8. Create a Governors Youth Advisory Council as a stand-alone entity to advise the governor. This Advisory Council should have representatives in the way that cabinet members represent each state department on OFCF Cabinet. The Youth Advisory Council will advise on methods to facilitate and encourage communication between youth stakeholder groups. > Funding: \$\$	OFCF Cabinet, OFCF Y/YAT Steering Committee	March 2011	

b. Equip youth with necessary skills for living, working, learning independently	 Recommend state departments promote workforce development activities to address access and utilization of resources for Y/YAT across state/local systems. Funding: \$ 	OFCF Cabinet, OFCF Agencies, OFCF Sub-Committee	March 2011	 Staff have skills/knowledge to effectively work with Y/YAT Youth have access to supportive services and resources to
	 Develop website or clearinghouse of transition support services. Include resources for youth who wish to pursue owning their own business (entrepreneurs) [Collaborate with Priority 2] Funding: \$\$ 	Collaborate with Priority 2 Group	February 2011	meet their needs.
c. Create community connections for youth	 Develop a template for youth-serving entities to use to build a community map based on youth definition of community. [Collaborate with Priority 1] Funding: \$ State departments support creating a transition plan for youth serving entities that: Incorporates community connection and ownership for the youth. Identifies youth's alternative support 	Collaborate with Priority 1 Group Collaborate with Priority 1 Group	November 2010 February 2011	 Y/YAT have access to information/ resources specific to their community. Major gaps in policies, efforts, and resources for youth and young adults in transition are identified and addressed.
	system, rights and resources to support youth, including their identified family. c) Includes the areas of living, working, and learning. [Collaborate with Priority 1] Funding: \$\$-\$\$\$			

d. Promote access to higher education/adult training/ tech training and employment opportunities	 Ohio Board of Regents to create a timeline that maps out Steps to Apply for College in a youth-friendly format and post on transition website. Explore opportunity for electronic application for college/university admission. Funding: \$\$ Institutionalize career exploration and planning, beginning in middle school, no later than 8th grade (possibly reinstate the Career Passport Program, or similar process). Funding: \$\$ Recommend that each school district create a plan to increase access to, and use of, the Ohio Career Information System and Individual Academic Career Plan, including specific requirements for districts with low graduation rates. Funding: \$\$ Develop a communication plan to promote local systems, youth families, and other. 	Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) OFCF Cabinet and ODE OFCF Cabinet and ODE FCF Y/YAT Steering Committee and	March 2011 July 2011 September 2011 March 2012	 Application process is streamlined/facilitated for all youth Youth/families have knowledge and know options School personnel and youth access available tools and supports for career planning. Youth, families, schools have options and youth individual needs are met more effectively. School systems are knowledgeable about evidence-based and promising practices that offer the best results for students. Application process for youth is facilitated.
	local systems, youth, families, and other interested parties, to promote their awareness of student options regarding flexible credit, field projects, and options focused on differentiation to serve all learners in the mixed-ability classroom. Funding: \$	ODE		Barriers for youth are reduced, opportunities are increased.
		OFCF Cabinet Director;	May 2012	

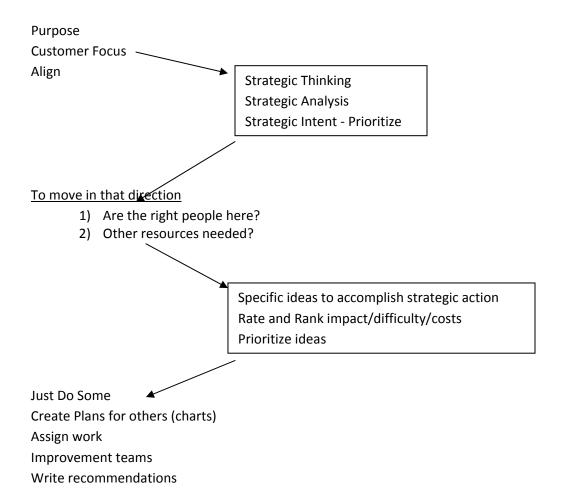
5. Promote Regional Transition Councils (RTC)	ODE and Rehabilitation		
be responsible for collaboration and	Services Commission		
coordination of resources, and for the			
collection and dissemination of evidence-			
based and promising practice that support			
successful transition into adulthood (which			
goes beyond high school graduation).			
Recommend youth participation on the RTC.			
Funding: \$	OBR	December 2012	
6. Continue work on Electronic Transcript			
Funding: \$\$\$			
7. Consider waiving application fees for at-risk			
youth	OBR	December 2012	
Funding: \$			

Priority #3 Implementation Sub-Committee:

Kathy Coate-Ortiz, Co-Chair	Diana McIntosh, Co-Chair	Lisa Dickson, Co-Chair*
Melissa Cardenas	Kara Waldron	Doris Edelmann*
John Magee*	Alex McFarland	Fawn Gadel
Ruth Satterfield*	Shayla Key	Maggie Jaster
Dee Sturgill	Sue Beck	Terri McIntee*
Eric Troy*	Lisa Dickson	Denise St. Clair
Shannon Teague*	Vernita Provitt	

Appendix A: Strategic Planning Process

The Ohio Department of Administrative Services' facilitators used the below strategic planning process with the Steering Committee.



Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

The Steering Committee (Internal Members) was asked to identify the strengths (S), weakness (W), opportunities (O), and threats (T) related to youth and young adults in transition. Once compiled, the committee identified the highest priorities in each section (indicated with an asterisk (*) and statements repeated by more than once with a number.

Strengths:

- Resources we have available *
- Transition planning is required for students with disabilities is mandate by law- be in place by the age of 14 *
- Many things going on, services available *
- Youth Councils, Youth leadership & Organizations *
- **Passion & Dedication ***
- Starting collaborative efforts due to resource demands (3)
- Federal funding streams and regulations (1)
- Wealth of Federal funds available for some programs (community based) (1)
- Pockets of strength in parts of ohio (1)
- Recognized; there is a need and we are now together (1)
- System that are in place
- Regional structures for statewide implementation → emphasis on consistency (1)
- Community based programs (1)
 - o YMCA
 - o Recreation Programs, Etc...
- Education mandated to serve youth on IEP's (1)
- Emergence of retirees into Volunteerism (1)
- Customer service driven (1)
- Program planning is very good and uses inter-agency coordination (2)
- Good Referral and Monitoring based (1)
- Effective partnership (2)

Weaknesses:

- Systems are isolated *
- Eligibility criteria vary from agency- to agency or services within the same agency.*
- **Different eligibility requirements ***
- Silos persist→ many agencies aren't aware of the many programs and services offered by others. *
- Empowering youth to self-advocate and manage their own transitions.*

- Ensuring consistency among regional structures → emphasizing a minimum level of service delivery, efforts to improve those who aren't quite 'there" *
- Infrastructure- complicated, federal requirements, expensive and do not easily integrate. *
- Poor job opportunities/availability-lots of competition.(2)
- Housing
- Inadequate consumer input (2)
- Politics and procedures aren't consumer friendly (1)
- Questionable social skills (3)
- Stigma of labeling
- Need for instant gratification (by youth)
- Stringent outcomes-reduce agency risk (for special populations) ← taking
- High cost of medical care \rightarrow also not integrated (1)
- Poverty + cycle of poverty thinking (1)
- Budget Constraints (3)
- Communication gaps (2)
- Workforce dev needs (1)
- Information not always available to those in need, in a manner that they can use (1)
- Libraries closing- bad for youth (1)
- Lack of regionalization hurts small county service availability (2)
- Multi-agency reporting requirements over cap and need coordination. (1)

Opportunities:

- Emergence of community college/recognized ability to communicate, to many, very quickly.*
- Universal healthcare *
 - o Corporate responsibility
 - Free Prescriptions, \$400 scripts
- Reduce duplication of effects *
 - Moving special needs programs previously separated back into the school district
- Race to the Top Funds → excellent opportunity to coordinate services, use data to plan strategically (2)
- Emphasizes partnership among agencies to best serve students (2)
 - o Family Councils
 - School Nurses
- Small business development-green technologies, community gardens (1)
- Business involvement (better) (1)

- Bring communities into schools (1)
- Youth leadership; development (1)
- Shift in culture.(1)
 - o \$102 menu
 - Not have to spend \$
- Aging out leaders pass on skills and knowledge (2)
- Workforce development opportunities (2)
- Change legislative mandates (1)
- Massive opportunities for varied work environments (1)
- Federal Funding and foundation funding (2)
- A crisis can promote discussions that may not have otherwise taken place (1)
- Flexible work schedule and work sites (1)

Threats:

- Difference in youth culture: give up too easy, different work ethic, no tenacity *
- Risk of losing youth/young adults *
- Sustainability of funding streams and resources- what happens when stimulus money and grants disappear? *
- Changes in political environment- emphasis on and support for these efforts to be sustained? *
- Preparing youth for the reality of today's work environment→ increasing challenges in ensuring benefits, job security and etc... (2)
- Increased poverty (1)
- Teen pregnancy (1)
- Complexity of multiple systems (1)
- Lack of public awareness and understanding (1)
- Technology cannot replace the human element (1)
- Legislation, unfunded mandates (2)
- How do we educate employers and break down barriers for those with disabilities? (10
 - o High needs doesn't necessarily mean higher cost for them
 - Myths of absences, needed accommodations
 - o Acclimating employers to ADA requirements
 - o Providing incentives to employers
- Potential expansion of the Autism Scholarship Program to all disabilities \rightarrow what will this mean for districts and service providers?
- Counties entering fiscal emergency-effects county seats (1)
- Option for post-secondary education for students with higher needs → how are they being prepared? (1)
- Completing priorities (1)

- "Hidden" consumers or consumer groups (1)
- Further economic deterioration (1)

Strategic Intent

The Steering Committee was asked to identify the strategic intent for youth and young adults in transition. Below are the responses from the small groups.

- 1. Finding ways to institutionalize inter-agency collaboration all the way down to the local level.
 - a. A systemic approach—we tend to lose the fluency "in the trenches"
 - b. Communicating the plans and strategies to the local level is critical, especially communities that support the educational system
 - c. Don't deliver the message in silos, show why the approach will benefit from them, how it fits the local need.
- 2. Electronic database/resource that is continually updated, displaying resources, services and programs available
 - a. Accessible by agency staff and youth
- 3. Educating individuals—the law, resources, and programs are there—how can they be updated throughout the state to more effectively serve youth?
- 4. Building continuity to enable seamless service delivery from one system to another
 - a. E.G- high school to higher education
- 5. Support Families- Whoever youth define as their family
- 6. System Navigation-Simplify better collaboration between agencies
- 7. Support community integration
- 8. Empower, involve and listen to youth
- 9. Create a structure that keeps the youth to excess the necessary and the appropriate services.
- 10. Create a system or structure that allows agency partners to know how to access necessary and appropriate services.

Critical Issues

The Steering Committee brainstormed key critical issues impacting youth and young adults in transition.

- System isolation and inconsistency regarding eligibility services and resources.
- Comprehensive communication and information process.
- Empowering families and youth to self-advocate.
- Sustainable resources for youth.
- Equipping youth with necessary skills for independence, job acquisition, financial, social interaction, etc.
- Creating community connections for youth.

- Communication information about transition services.
- Crate a system for continuous agency collaboration on youth/young adults in transition.
- Every initiative should involve outreach to include youth and family involvement.

Priorities

The Steering Committee collapsed the above critical issues into five priorities which will become the focus of the plan.

- 1. Systemizing and aligning agencies' processes.
- 2. Communication
- 3. Empowering youth and families with tools for successful transition to adulthood.
- 4. Sustainable resources for youth.
- 5. Exiting out of unique systems and connecting to services.

With the above priorities, the committee reviewed existing transition plans as well as the SWOT information to develop draft strategies for each priority. Plans reviewed included the Youth Empowerment Plan; the ODE Transition Regional Councils; and the Colorado Interagency Youth Transition Homelessness Plan. Committee members were asked to fold in existing plans or initiatives that their agency was involved with or aware of so to ensure all efforts were being incorporated and duplication was prevented.

The Steering Committee was then expanded to include key external members who could bring forward expertise, knowledge, and passion to help further refine the strategic priorities and strategies.

Appendix B: Steering Committee's Charter

Purpose

The purpose of Ohio Family and Children First's Youth and Young Adults in Transition Steering Committee is to align or consolidate youth transition resources, policies, services, and efforts among state departments.

Target Population

Youth and young adults ages 14-25 with particularly emphasis on those must vulnerable.

State Level Outcome

Youth transition efforts are streamlined, effective and efficient.

Objectives

- Align, coordinate, and consolidate policies and efforts within and among state departments focused on youth and young adults in transition.
- Align, coordinate, and possibly blend state resources at the state and local levels supporting youth and young adults in transition.
- Identify major gaps in policies, efforts, and resources for youth and young adults in transition.

Outputs

- Duplicative efforts for youth and young adults in transition are reduced.
- Improved accessibility for youth and young adults.
- Responsive service alignment for youth and young adults.
- Agencies report better coordination and cost effectiveness.
- Agencies more informed by youth and young adults of their needs and concerns with state level policy making.

Action Steps	Timeline
a. Convene Steering Committee	a. October 2009
b. Youth Panel presents to inform committee	b. October 2009
c. State plan developed and signed off by Cabinet.	c. January 2010
d. Shared with stakeholders for feedback and revisions.	d. February 2010
e. Plan implemented with at least one area of youth transition aligned or consolidated/planning continues.	e. February – August 2010
f. Feedback on alignment impact from local level is gathered.	
g. Feedback on alignment impact from state departments is gathered.	f. August 2010
h. Report on efforts aligned and future recommendations provided to Cabinet and Governor.	g. August 2010
	h. September 2010

Composition of the Committee

The Steering Committee will be comprised of representatives from state agencies that are directly involved in youth transition efforts, along with other state agencies' staff as identified. External stakeholders, including youth and young adults, will be asked to participate as well. See below invited committee representatives.

Committee Operations

A facilitator will guide the discussion and work of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will make policy recommendations to the OFCF Deputy Directors group for review. The recommendations will then be shared with the OFCF Cabinet Council for discussion and approval for submission to the Governor's Office.

Committee Members

Internal:

Melissa Cardenas, Ohio Board of Regents Kelly Bernard, Ohio Board of Regents Mozelle Mackey, Ohio Department of Aging

Joani Moore, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction

Services

Ruth Satterfield, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction

Services

Vanita Nevis, Ohio Department of Development

Leslie Paull, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Eric Troy, Ohio Department of Education John Magee, Ohio Department of Education Kathe Shelby, Ohio Department of Education Kara Waldron, Ohio Department of Education Dee Sturgill, Ohio Department of Education Kathy Bachmann, Ohio Department of Health Rhonda Tatum, Ohio Department of Health

Carrie Anthony, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Teresa Applegarth, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Gina Felton, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Kathy Coate-Ortiz, Ohio Department of Mental Health

Robin Moore-Cooper, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission

 $Coretta\ Pettway,\ Ohio\ Department\ of\ Rehabilitation\ and\ Correction$

Kimberly Hettel, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Kevin Shepherd, Ohio Department of Youth Services Rob Manning, Ohio Department of Youth Services Hannah Phillips, Ohio Department of Youth Services Vernita Provitt, Ohio Department of Youth Services Sari Klepacz, Office of Budget and Management

Lawrence Parson, Office of Budget and Management
Shappon Taggue, Ohio Bonefit Bank

Shannon Teague, Ohio Benefit Bank Amy Rohling McGee, Governor's Office Angela Sausser Short, Ohio Family and Children First, Chair

External:

Rosita, Youth Adrian. Youth

NaShawn, Youth

Shayla, Youth

Alex, Youth

Jean Stevens, Guernsey County Juvenile Court

Crystal Ward Allen, Public Children's Services Association of Ohio

Sue Beck, Ohio Secondary Transition Improvement Grant

Susan Ignelzi, Ready to Launch

Angela Lariviere, Youth Empowerment Program Maggie Jaster, Youth Empowerment Program

Chris Filler, OCALI

Lisa Dickson, Foster Care Alumni of America, Ohio Chapter Doris Edelmann, Montgomery County Children Services

Diana McIntosh, Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery

Services Board

Margo Vreegurg Izzo, Nisonger Center, OSU

Jessica Lodermeier, Henkels and McCoy

Terri McIntee, State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children Liz Henrich, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health

Authority

Teresa Lampl, Ohio Council for Behavioral Health and Family

Services Providers

Mark Mecum, Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies

Denise St. Clair, National Center for Adoption Law and Policy,

Capital University Law School

Fawn Gadel, National Center for Adoption Law & Policy, Capital

University Law School