

Friday, October 3rd

8:30-9:45AM

Registration & Continental Breakfast

10:00-10:45AM

Opening Plenary Session

Charlotte Osterman, Institute for Human Services

11:00AM-12:30PM

Youth Track Workshop

- Youth Speak Out Preparation (Part I)

Adult Track Workshops

- Independent Living Outcomes and Evaluation
- Ohio Job Corps 101
- Resources for College Admission and Financing a College Education in Ohio
- Youthful Offenders: Working Together to Provide Services with TANF, WIA, and DYS
- COHHIO Youth Empowerment Program: Advocating for the Needs of Homeless and Transitional Youth

12:30-2:00PM

Luncheon & Keynote Speaker

"Life Skills Are a Juggling Act"

Tom Sparough

2:00-3:30PM

Youth Track Workshop

- Youth Speak Out Preparation (Part II)

Adult Track Workshops

- Champions for Education: The Role of Foster Parents and Staff
- Aging Out and Moving On: 3D's for Success
- Independent Living Outcomes and Evaluation
- MyPlace, an Innovative Independent Living Program
- Youthful Offenders: Working Together to Provide Services with TANF, WIA, and DYS
- Outside the Box: Challenging Unrealistic Expectations Placed on Youth

3:30-3:45PM

Break

3:45-5:00PM

Youth Speak Out Plenary Session

With invited State Policy Makers

5:15-7:30PM

Reception & Pizza Party

4th Floor Pool Terrace

8:00-10:00PM

Social Networking for Youth & Game Night

With Adult Support

Saturday, October 4th

7:30-8:30AM

Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30-9:30AM

Opening Plenary Session

Jenny Glover, Foster Care Alumna

9:30-11:00AM

Youth Track Workshops

- Who Do You Trust? Who Trusts You?
- COHHIO Youth Empowerment Program: Uniting Youth for Social Change

Adult Track Workshops

- MyPlace, an Innovative IL Program
- Evaluation of IL Needs of Emancipating Foster Youth in Toledo: A Pilot Study

Combined Workshops (Youth & Adults Welcome)

- Aging Out and Moving On: 3D's for Success
- Motivating Success in Teens
- Play By The Rules
- Starting from Scratch: Recipe for Success
- Resources for College Admission and Financing a College Education in Ohio

11:15AM-12:45PM

Youth Track Workshops

- Who Do You Trust? Who Trusts You?

Adult Track Workshops

- Evaluation of Independent Living Needs of Emancipating Foster Youth in Toledo: A Pilot Study
- Outside the Box: Challenging Unrealistic Expectations Placed on Youth

Combined Workshops (Youth & Adults Welcome)

- Foster Care Alumni of America Resource Fair
- Motivating Success in Teens
- Play By The Rules
- Starting from Scratch: Recipe for Success
- Ohio Job Corps 101

1:00-2:30PM

Closing Luncheon & Keynote

"An Offer You Can't Refuse"

Dave Leedy

Workshop Descriptions

Youth Speak Out Preparation Part I & II

In preparation the Youth Speak Out plenary session, youth will discuss major policy barriers and solutions regarding: higher education, housing, healthcare, transportation, and workforce. An overview of recent legislative forums will be provided along with a report from OACCA outlining the policy recommendations on these issues. Youth will have the opportunity to participate in strategic sharing of their own experience to inform these discussions.

Independent Living Outcomes and Evaluation

The presenters will highlight a research project being conducted by Ohio State University and the Lighthouse Independent Living Program in Cincinnati, looking at the 3 major domains of program evaluation: structure, process, and outcomes. Participants will learn about possible ways of evaluating their program efforts on the client, program and system level, using recent Lighthouse ILP outcomes as well as findings from other recent studies. Issues that complicate research in this area will be discussed as well as a description of the next phase of the research project.

Presenters: **Mark Kroner** LISW, Director, Lighthouse Training Institute, Lighthouse Youth Services, 513-487-7130, mkroner@lys.org. **Alvin Mares** Ph.D., M.S.W. Assistant Professor, College of Social Work, The Ohio State University, 614-292-6940, mares.2@osu.edu.

Ohio Job Corps 101

The U.S. Department of Labor Job Corps program helps students 16 to 24 obtain high school diplomas, GEDs, prepare for college, and receive vocational training. These programs are no cost and provide students with stipends during their education. Job Corps also provides students with on-site housing. The programs are self-paced, meaning that students can spend anywhere between eight months and two years in the Job Corps. Watch an informational video, review eligibility requirements, and speak with admissions representatives to see if Job Corps makes sense for you.

Presenter: **Tim "Doc" Snodgrass**, Quality Assurance Coordinator, OHIO OA/CTS Del-Jen Education & Training, 614-221-5237, snodgrass.timothy@jobcorps.org

Resources for College Admission and Financing a College Education in Ohio

Participants will learn about college admission and financial aid application processes. Special emphasis will be placed on resources available at all the University System of Ohio institutions, including community colleges and adult career centers. An interactive conversation will be facilitated using resource materials given to the participants.

Presenters: **William Russell**, Associate Director Workforce Development, Ohio Board of Regents, 614 752-9487, wrussell@regents.state.oh.us. **Carlos Bing**, Administrator Financial Aid & Access Programs, Ohio Board of Regents, 614 466-4818, cbing@regents.state.oh.us

Youthful Offenders: Working Together to Provide Services with TANF, WIA, and DYS

This workshop will provide details on how multiple funding streams are used to provide services pre and post release to youthful offenders. This project is designed to serve the "neediest youth" in Ohio. Many of the individuals served have been connected in some way to the foster care system. This project has been highlighted on a national level several times within the last twelve months.

Presenters: **Gerry Cain**, Special Projects Youth Administration, Workforce Development, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Gerry.Cain@jfs.ohio.gov. **Kevin Shepherd**, Parole Services Manager, Ohio Department of Youth Services, Kevin.Shepherd@dys.ohio.gov. **Mark Jackson**, Project Manager, Alvis House, Inc., Mark.jackson@alvishouse.org.

COHHIO Youth Empowerment Program: Advocating for the Needs of Homeless and Transitional Youth

The COHHIO Youth Empowerment Program has worked since 2000 to meet the needs of homeless and transitional youth. YEP focuses on issues that affect the housing and educational stability of youth. Learn how YEP was able to be successful in changing major policies and laws while gaining funding increases on national, state and local levels.

Presenter: **Angela Lariviere**, Youth Empowerment Director, COHHIO, 614 -280-1984, angelal@cohhio.org

Champions for Education: The Role of Foster Parents and Staff

Youth in foster care need all the champions they can get and this is especially true regarding their education. Their foster parents and agency staff should play a critical role as advocates for education that prepares these youth for a successful transition to productive adulthood. The presenter will focus primarily on the role of foster parents of youth with disabilities, surrogate parents, IEP development as part of transition planning with the schools.

Presenter: **Ann Guinan**, Assistant Director, Procedural Safeguards, Office for Exceptional Children, Ohio Department of Education, Ann.Guinan@ode.state.oh.us

Aging Out and Moving On: The 3D's For Success

Aging out of the foster care system can be a "Rite of Passage" for some, but the "Worst Nightmare" for others. What is the difference? For some youth, independence is the ultimate goal, but too little thought goes into the increased responsibility, lifestyle changes, and the need to identify future goals. On the other hand, as some people consider these issues, they become afraid of leaving the "security blanket" of social services. There are no correct or incorrect views, but aging out of the system is inevitable. The presenter will draw on his time as a "Ward of the County" and share lessons learned about skills development, choosing a direction, and understanding the need to have faith in one's self. He will also share his Self-Help Guide and other insights from his own mistakes to assist others who are aging out of the Foster Care System.

Presenter: Jermaine Crayton, Education Consultant, Seminars By Design, 440-821-6479, www.seminarsbydesigns.com, jmannforty@aol.com

Evaluation of Independent Living Needs of Emancipating Foster Youth in Toledo: A Pilot Study

Preliminary findings from a recently completed, 9-month study of independent living needs of emancipating foster youth in Toledo (Lucas County) will be presented, along with the multidimensional methodology used and unique collaborative approach utilized by the Toledo Community Foundation, Lucas County Children Services, and OSU College of Social Work in planning and conducting this pilot study. Specific recommendations for foster parents, agency staff, and community service providers will be discussed, along with possible on-going collaboration between the foundation, county, and community service providers in addressing some of the gaps in services identified by the youth and through the survey of independent living and transitional service providers moving forward.

Presenters: **Alvin Mares** Ph.D., M.S.W. Assistant Professor, College of Social Work, The Ohio State University, 614.292.6940, mares.2@osu.edu. **Sarah Harrison**, Program Officer, Toledo Community Foundation. **Amy Galvan**, Independent Living Coordinator, Lucas County Children's Services (LCCS). **Keith Robinson**, Post Emancipation Supervisor, LCCS.

My Place, an Innovative Independent Living Program

Starr Commonwealth staff will share some "Best Practices" as it relates to helping youth successfully transition out of care in Ohio. The "MyPlace" Program promotes healthy living for adolescents who have no other placement options, as well as for those still in need of Life Skills. Young adults in Starr's MyPlace program live on their own in one of 16 fully furnished apartments, including single-teen parents and youth aging out of the system who aren't quite ready for complete independence. MyPlace residents must attend school, work, or both to remain in the program. These clients tend to be highly motivated and have a great deal of focus, as they realize that they are approaching the exit from the system. While the clients live independently, Starr staff remain on-site 24 hours a day and provide individual and group counseling in addition to life skills management. Come to learn about this new program in Columbus from a panel of MyPlace youth.

Presenters: **Kenny Wiggins**, Associate Director, **Linton Matthews**, Associate Director, & **Shameikia Smith**, Independent Living Clinician, Starr Commonwealth, Matthewsl@starr.org

Outside the Box: Challenging Unrealistic Expectations Placed on Youth in Independent Living

This workshop will provide each participant with information to enhance their awareness concerning the changing teenage culture. The workshop will also provide resources to meet the challenges faced by youth today and provide tools to work with youth in foster care and independent living programs. This workshop will challenge youth workers and professionals to confront negative stereotypes and biases that they may encounter and/or have when working with youth. It will also focus on developing realistic approaches in order to work with the changing culture of youth today, which includes discussing life span development, looking at stressors, and the impact of outside sources such as the media. Finally, research and latest trends will be presented to the audience in order to increase their knowledge of the changes for youth today

Presenters: **Marion Bernard**, PCC /Regional Director, and **Shawn Thornton**, MSW, LISW-S Dayton/Cincinnati Assistant Treatment Director, Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth, 800-499-7239, thorntons@safy.org

Who Do You Trust? Who Trusts You?

The workshop that we will present to the youth will give these individuals a variety of ideas and methods of how to handle complex situations. Values' voting is a game where we test the influence of peers, we ask the youth questions to test their values and they have agreed or disagree. After this game we will explain in depth about having values and how they affect relationships and your identity. Our next step will be giving the youth a speech on "Trust" because it is used to pick your friends and enemies and to make intelligent decisions throughout their lives. Next we will have audience active role plays with the youth addressing real life situations that they encounter daily. The role plays only place the stage for the next speech "Vision and Fear" because these are two things that will affect these individuals and anchor the majority of their lives decisions. For a finale we will have an open forum with the youth and we will have one of our organizations recent success stories speak to these youth. A wide variety of activities and discussions that we will offer will keep our audience interested and thinking differently.

Presenter: **Tourea' D. Young**, The Way of Life, Inc., 614-754-0031, young.tourea@thewayoflife4students.com

Motivating Success in Teens

This dynamic workshop will engage adults to apply a set of principles and practices that will support positive youth development. Adults who care for and support teenagers will learn about new concepts and approaches to increase trust, promote a positive outlook and sustain relationships that create positive change. Adult caregivers will also learn about their own triggers and how to manage themselves and their teenagers to achieve positive relationships and outcomes.

Presenter: **Susan Evans**, State Director & Therapist, Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth, 419-339-1605, evanss@safy.org

Play by the Rules

This important workshop will focus on preventing sexual abuse by making sure that children, teens, and young adults, as well as professionals, understand what the law considers sex to be and what factors make sex a crime. With the federal Adam Walsh Act as a backdrop, this session teaches participants about attitudes and behaviors that blur the difference between affection and sex, force and consent, and how to make good decisions and be responsible for their own behaviors. Youth and adult participants will also learn about cultural influences with regard to words, music, dancing, employment settings and other environments that can contribute to sexual offending behavior. The goal of this presentation is to empower participants with knowledge and information to stop sexual abuse before it happens.

Presenters: **Bonnie Budin & Efrain Soto**, Play By The Rules, Inc., 216-521-1961, playbytherules1@yahoo.com

Starting From Scratch: A Recipe for Success

The best recipes are the ones that start from scratch, because you can control the quality of the ingredients; if you use good ingredients, you can have a very successful dish. Such is life. Young adults preparing for custody termination are often faced with the task of forming their own family and support network "from scratch". This workshop, aimed at youth and their adult supporters, proposes to help them understand the need to choose the people they bring into their lives wisely, so that they can break the self-destructive patterns they experienced earlier in life and give themselves a better chance at a successful future. Most importantly, the time to start forming that support network is NOW, while the existing structure is in place, so that when termination occurs, the youth are not left standing on their own. Two of our foster care alumni will, also, share their experiences in starting from scratch, what helped them, what they've learned and what their adult supporters might have done to better prepare them.

Presenters: **Eric Henz**, Project Manager and **Deidre M. White**, Case Aide, Cleveland Christian Home, Agape Outreach, 216-651-3244, ehenz@cchome.org & dwhite@cchome.org

COHHIO Youth Empowerment Program: Uniting Youth for Social Change

The COHHIO Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) is a statewide advocacy group that is lead by a council of homeless and transitional youth ages 12-24. YEP Youth are given leadership training and opportunities to participate in community service, community awareness, civic engagement and advocacy activities. YEP supports and encourages youth to put their own ideas into action and are able to make significant changes to local state and national policies. Come here from YEP youth and staff to learn how you can make a difference in your community.

Presenter: **Angela Lariviere**, Youth Empowerment Director, COHHIO, 614 -280-1984, angelal@cohhio.org

Foster Care Alumni of America (FCAA) Resource Fair

The workshop will be a one-room resource fair, with staff stationed at each table to offer hands-on assistance with writing a resume, filling out a FAFSA form, and much more. FCAA will have brochures for the following services and opportunities:

- Education: ETV funds, Gear Up, Trio, Ohio Board of Regents, Mapping Your Future, GED Preparation. Youth will receive hands-on assistance with filling out the FAFSA and using paper forms.
- Employment: Dress for Success, Ohio Job Fairs, Working Permits For Teens Over Age 14, Job Corps, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, City Year, and much more. Youth will receive hands-on assistance with creating their own resumes and cover letters.
- Physical and Emotional Health: Medicaid, Ohio Association of Free Clinics, free membership in FCAA. Youth will receive a check-list of "what to bring" to obtain Medicaid and the information needed to follow up on Medicaid requests (e.g. Social Security number, case number).
- Military and ROTC
- Miscellaneous Resources: HEAP, WIC, Food Bank, DMV (photo ID), Name Change Forms, and much more

For more information and to register, visit www.oacca.org today!