



# Project LIFE

A partnership of UMFS with and funded by VDSS

## Eastern Region Independent Living eLink February 2012

*This monthly newsletter highlights Eastern Region events, activities and trainings provided by Project LIFE, Virginia Department of Social Services, and other community partners for youth in foster care, social workers, foster parents and/or private providers. If you would like to add trainings, events or other announcements to this newsletter, please email Melissa Peele by the 25th of every month. We reserve the right to edit submissions to fit Project LIFE newsletter guidelines.*

### Calendar Items

#### Eastern Region Youth Advisory Council

Monday, February 27, 2012

6 - 8pm

UMFS Tidewater Regional Office

815 Baker Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Youth in foster care ages 14-21 who are interested in leadership and advocacy are invited to attend. This meeting is an opportunity for youth voices to be heard as we plan for the upcoming year. For more information, including transportation concerns or arrangements, or to RSVP, contact Melissa Peele at (757) 409-0242 or [mpeele@umfs.org](mailto:mpeele@umfs.org).

#### Eastern Region Independent Living Coordinators Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

11:30am - 1pm

Virginia Beach Department of Social Services

3432 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Independent Living Coordinators meet to plan regional events and discuss issues and concerns regarding independent living services. These meetings provide an opportunity to network with other Independent Living Coordinators and receive training and support. For more information or to RSVP contact Rosiland Gaines (757) 437-3286 or Marquita Edwards (757) 437-3518.

## Post Secondary Education Workshop

Saturday, February 18, 2012

10am - 2pm

Tidewater Community College, Whitehurst Bldg  
1428 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23323

Foster youth age 14-21 invited to learn more about college and vocational preparation. FAFSA forms will be completed and campus tour. Lunch will be provided. For additional information contact Melissa Peele at (757) 409-0242 or [mpeele@umfs.org](mailto:mpeele@umfs.org). Register youth at: [www.vaprojectlife.org/youth-register](http://www.vaprojectlife.org/youth-register).

## Private Providers Roundtable Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

12pm - 1:30pm

Location: TBD

Regional private providers, LDSS social workers and Independent Living Coordinators meet to discuss topics that impact services for youth ages 14-21. Networking and sharing opportunities available. Refreshments will be provided. For more information or to RSVP contact Melissa Peele at (757) 409-0242 or [mpeele@umfs.org](mailto:mpeele@umfs.org).

## Family Academy

Saturday, March 24, 2012

8:30am - 4pm

Location: TBD

Foster youth age 14-21 and Resource Parents are invited to attend this collaboration event hosted by CRAFFT, FACES, Project LIFE and One Church One Child. Adult registration is \$10, youth is free. Register at [www.facesofvirginia.org](http://www.facesofvirginia.org).

## News and Notes

### Casey Life Skills Assessment Training

Training available for public and private agencies caseworkers, social workers, supervisors, youth and resource parents. Refresher courses available. Please contact Melissa Peele to schedule training.

### NYTD Overview Training

Please contact Melissa Peele to schedule NYTD training for your agency. Training is open to social workers and supervisors with Local Departments of Social Services in the Eastern Region.

For more information about Project LIFE, visit us at [www.vaprojectlife.org](http://www.vaprojectlife.org).

*Project LIFE is a partnership with the Virginia Department of Social Services and UMFS.  
Project LIFE's overall goal is to support permanency for  
older youth through coordination and enhancement of independent living services to youth in  
and transitioning out of foster care by creatively collaborating with departments of social  
services, private providers  
and community stakeholders. Funding for the project is provided by the  
Virginia Department of Social Services*

## Contact Information

Send news and events to [mpeelee@umfs.org](mailto:mpeelee@umfs.org).

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