



Project LIFE

A partnership of UMFS with and funded by VDSS

Western Region Independent Living eLink February 2012

A page of information, connectivity, and support for adults
working with older youth in foster care.

*If you would like more information on the Casey Life Skills Assessment,
the National Youth in Transition Database, Virginia's Independent Living Program, Education
Training Vouchers, in-service training for resource parents, Transitional Living Plans, and/or
youth engagement,
contact Norma at nwood@umfs.org or (540) 798-9908.*

Project LIFE is now accepting referrals to provide consultation or training for youth on a variety
of subjects. Specific topics are indicated on the referral form.

Please access the referral form here: [Project LIFE Youth Referral Form](#)

Calendar Items

Youth Advisory Council

Saturday, April 7, 2012

1 -4pm

Site TBA

Christiansburg, VA

Planning is under way for a Youth Advisory Council meeting in the Christiansburg area.

Beginning Project LIFE's Youth Leadership Institute training and planning a regional activity to
involve more youth are on the agenda. Watch your email for more details.

Contact: Norma Wood, nwood@umfs.org, 540.798.9908.

New River Valley Teen Living Skills Planning Meeting

February 2012

Exact meeting location and date TBA

Open to public and private agencies as well as community partners with youth placed in the
New River Valley. Bring your calendar and ideas as we continue to plan learning events for
youth ages 14-21.

Contact: Mary Flanary at mflanary@depaulcr.org for more information.

New River Valley Teen Living Skills Workshop

Tuesday, February 21, 2011

4 -6pm

New River Community College - Dublin Campus

5251 College Drive

Dublin, VA 24084

Meet in Edwards Hall, Room 238

Campus tour, FAFSA practice, scholarships and more.

Contact: Mary Flanary at mflanary@depaulcr.org or 540.381.1848

Please register youth attendance by February 15th.

Slots available for CSU and CSB youth - ASK ABOUT IT!

SUPER SATURDAY - FREE FAFSA COMPLETION with the EXPERTS!

Saturday, February 4, 2012

10am -2pm

The Crossroad Institute (Galax)

Wytheville Community College

Saturday, February 11, 2012

10am -2pm

Gate City High School

Grayson County High School

Marion Senior High School

Northwood High School (Nottoway)

Patrick Henry High School (Washington)

Pulaski High School

Bring your applicant, their social security number or driver's license, along with any W-2 or Tax information from 2011 to a site nearest you and get their FAFSA completed accurately. Check for updated Super Saturday locations and more detail on the VASFAA website at www.vasfaa.org

2012 Independent Living Network

At the IL Committee/Training Group meeting in January, Trevor Boggs of Wise Co. DSS suggested we use the name "IL Network" for the group. I believe it is going to stick! Thanks, Trevor!! This is a dynamic group made up of Independent Living Coordinators, Social Workers, and Community Supporters with a focus on Older Youth meet to support each other, brainstorm around youth needs, receive state updates, and plan skills trainings for youth 14-21.

Both the Abingdon Area Network and Wytheville/NRV Area are talking about plans for a possible overnight event for area youth in June. Get in on the excitement! We will also be learning about Project LIFE's new Leadership Institute for youth and hearing from Best Practice, Kim Gilley about Permanency -- attend one of the following meetings:

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

10- 12noon

Community Room

Wythe County Public Library

300 East Monroe Street

Wytheville, VA 24382

OR

Thursday, March 15, 2012

10- 12noon

Large Conference Room

Western Regional Office

190 Patton Street

Abingdon, VA 24210

Watch for details on the November Meeting which will be a One Day Regional Retreat.

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

10am -3pm

CRAFFT/FACES/Project LIFE Collaborative Training

Saturday, March 17, 2012

10am -4pm

Wytheville Community College

OR

Saturday, March 31, 2012

10am -4pm

Mountain Empire Community College

Foster Parents and Youth 14-20 will share a day of training at the

2012 FAMILY ACADEMY. Mark your calendar and spread the word to your foster parents and their youth. The intent is for youth to accompany their foster/adoptive parent to their own track at the Academy. (Youth may attend without foster parent if staff person attends with them). Youth workshops will include: Permanency, GALs, and Money Management.

Other News & Events

Synthetic Drug Workshop for Staff

Friday, February 24, 2012

9 -10:30am

Western Region Training Center

450 Commerce Drive

Abingdon, VA 24210

Register through the Knowledge Center at <https://covkc.virginia.gov>

Contact: Rebecca Keen at (276) 623-0134 x222

KUDOS to Western Region Staff !

The Western Region was the first to fill all their slots for the state-wide youth conference in Virginia Beach, March 2-4. Way to go!!

Casey Life Skills Assessment Website Re-Build. . .

Project LIFE has received word that the new format for the Casey Life Skills Assessment website is currently being piloted in several states (obviously, not Virginia) and will be rolled out sometime in March 2012. Watch for it!

Great Expectations Community College Program Meetings

Each community college in the Western Region has a Great Expectations Coach available to support youth as they navigate their community college admission and experience. Most programs hold monthly meetings. Get linked with your community college's Great Expectations coach!

New River Community College

Lois Davis, ldavis@nr.edu or (540) 674-3600

Wythe Community College

Vicki Delp, wcdelpv@wcc.vccs.edu or (276) 223-4871

Southwest Community College

Susan Hagy, susan.hagy@sw.edu or (276) 964-7304

Mountain Empire Community College

Jamie Davis, mjdavis@me.vccs.edu or (276) 523-2400

Virginia Highlands Community College

Criss Golden, cgolden@vhcc.edu or (276) 339-2558

NYTD

Please continue your monthly documentation in OASIS for youth who receive at least one service that meets the federally-defined IL service categories. The 12 Categories include: IL Needs Assessment, Post-secondary educational support, Employment programs or vocational training, Budget and financial management, Family support and healthy marriage education, Room and Board assistance, Academic support, Career preparation, Housing education and home management training, Health education and risk prevention, Supervised IL, and Educational financial assistance. ALSO, please continue to update youth education screens annually. For more information contact Norma Wood at nwood@umfs.org.

Project LIFE Best Practice Consultant

Best Practice Consultant Kim Gilley is available to prepare youth for participation in Family Partnership Meetings, facilitate FPMs for youth ages 14 and older, and conduct Family Finding (including Accurant searches). These resources are free to LDSS agencies. For more information contact Kim Gilley at kgilley@umfs.org or (434) 906-1269.

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

Contact Information

*Please send notices of upcoming events and activities for future monthly calendars.
Submissions and feedback are welcomed and encouraged.*

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