VDSS - Youth Services (Independent Living) Highlights – April 2023

Youth Services Program Training Tools

Youth Services Training tools are being added to <u>FUSION – Services For Older Youth</u> page. Currently posted:

How to Document IL Services in Oasis

How to Complete Chafee and ETV Quarterly Reports

Use these tools as an individual learning opportunity or as a team during foster care unit meetings. More trainings tools to come.

VDSS - CWS3061W: Permanency Planning with Teens

Refresh your knowledge on how to effectively work with youth and young adults in foster care.

CWS3061W is a live webinar course, consisting of three sessions for three consecutive days.

In this course, participants will learn how to help teenagers identify and establish emotional connections and build the family support necessary for navigating the difficult transition into adulthood. Participants will learn about adolescent development and the need of permanency for teens. Participants will learn youth engagement models and the recommended strategies for sustaining well-being. Youth-specific recruitment methods will teach learners ways to involve teens in identifying their own permanency resources.

Next available training session The Virginia Learning Center (virginia.gov) - 4/26/23 -4/28/23 9:00am - 12:30am

Foster Youth to Independence Initiative – Next Steps

VDSS-Youth Service has plans to meet with Ruth White with the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare along with members from Virginia Supportive Housing, Richmond Development Housing Authority

and Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The hope is to begin a conversation of the housing needs of youth with foster care experiences in Virginia and the current challenges of accessing FYI Housing Vouchers. Following this conversation VDSS in connection with Project LIFE hopes to be able to bring another FYI Housing training to be able to move forward with the FYI Voucher process throughout the State.



JOIN US! Youth Services Team CHECK-INS

Come participate in a 30-minute open discussion with the Youth Services team about independent Living Services updates. *Bring your questions*. Click on link to join the meeting <u>VDSS Statewide Youth Services Check-ins w/ Project Life</u>. Registration not required.

Tuesday, April 4, 2022 @ 3:30pm – NYTD, Housing Support HB 349, ETV, Driving Program updates Tuesday, May 2, 2022 @ 3:30pm – Speakout Recruitment, iFoster, Driving Program updates

Life Skills Assessments and Transition Plans

SafeMeasures reports a decline in Life Skills Assessment and Transition Plan compliance. Timely completion of these tools helps to building youth adult partnerships and establishes engagement around the Youth's needs and priorities.

Does your LDSS need training on to increase your localities life skills assessments and transition plan completion rates? Connect with your **Project LIFE** regional consultant to schedule a training for your area. gmack@umfs.org



YOUTH VOICE NEEDED! VCU Schooling Experience Study – Please Share



This study to find out how teens who have been in foster care define and describe school stability, school engagement, and their educational experiences. We are interested in hearing about your experiences and what advice you would have to improve school stability and engagement and the overall educational experiences for other youth in foster care in Virginia.

Participant interest form link:

The Schooling Experiences of Youth in Virginia's Child Welfare System Study (google.com)

For more information contact: Dr. Jamie Cage, <u>ilcage@vcu.edu</u>

(enlarge flier for eligibility and contact information)

YOUTH VOICE NEEDED! VDSS and Child Trends Adoption Study – Please Share

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) needs your help with an important study we are carrying out in partnership with Child Trends, a national non-profit research organization. This phase of the study focuses on learning about the experiences of young adults who have experienced disconnection from their

Are you a young adult 18-26 with experience in the Virginia Commonwealth child welfare system? Have you experienced disconnection from your adoptive family?

Make your **Voice Heard**

Virginia DSS is seeking to learn about the experiences of young adults who were adopted and experienced disconnection from their adoptiv families.

Share your experiences, both good and bad, to help improve services and supports for youth and families post-adoption.

Interested in participating in a 1-hour interview? \$100 Visa gift card provided.

- Send a text message to (757)-767-4590 with the message "Interested in a PA interview" OR,
- Send an email to vdssstudv@childtrends.org with the subject line "Interested in a PA interview" · Include your name and best way to contact you.
- We will respond to set up a time to talk.

We will be interviewing people through early Spring of 2023.



adoptive families, including their experiences with post-adoption services that were helpful and/or unhelpful, as well as services they couldn't access that could have helped.

The interviews will last roughly 1 hour, and young adults will receive a \$100 dollar Visa gift card to thank them for their participation.

Please help recruit young adults who are eligible for this study by sharing the attached flyer to eligible young adults. See attachments for additional information and language.

Thank you very much in advance! If you have any questions about the study, or about the eligibility criteria, feel free to contact Child Trends at VDSSsurvey@childtrends.org

(enlarge flier for more information)



Project LIFE

Exciting events are happening this month. Get your youth involved. View and SHARE the Project Life March Newsletter. PLIFE latest Newsletter.

Contact your **Project LIFE** Regional Consultant for any Independent Living training and/or group ideas or needs! - https://www.vaprojectlife.org/our-people/

Project LIFE is hiring for an IL Consultant in the Western Regions. For more details view the March Newsletter or view the job post here.

Capacity Building – Center For States Voices of Lived Experience in Child Welfare – Kyle's Story



https://youtu.be/km0GILVLOB8