

VDSS - Youth Services (Independent Living)

Highlights – May 2023

Youth Services Program Training Tools

Youth Services Training tools are being added to [FUSION – Services For Older Youth](#) page.

Currently posted:

[How to Document IL Services in Oasis](#)

[How to Complete Chafee and ETV Quarterly Reports](#)

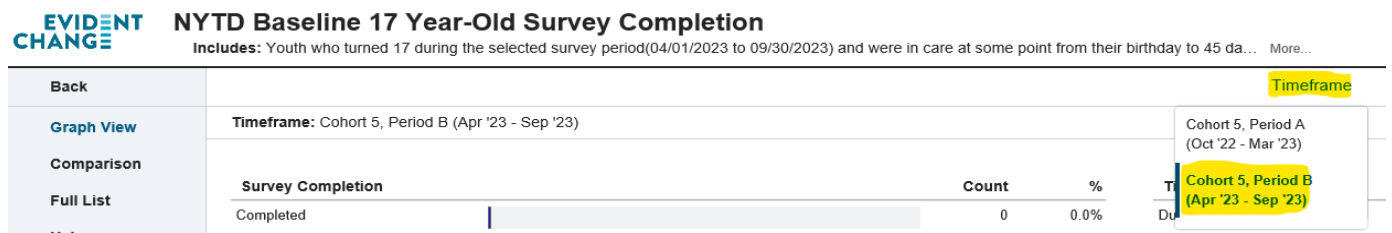
****** NEW ETV Student Orientation**

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

More trainings tools to come.

NYTD PART B

April 1, 2023, began **Period B** of the NYTD 2023-Cohort 5 reporting. LDSS workers will need to select the appropriate time frame in SafeMeasures to be able to view their **Period B** list.



As always if you have any questions please reach out to monica.cabell@dss.virginia.gov or any Youth Services team member.

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

GOAL SETTING



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..

Participants will be compensated.

Participant interest form link:

[The Schooling Experiences of Youth Study \(google.com\)](#)



[in Virginia's Child Welfare System](#)

For more information contact: Dr. Jamie Cage, jlcage@vcu.edu

(enlarge flier for eligibility and contact information)

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

The study focuses on learning about the experiences of young adults who have experienced disconnection from their 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 flyer to eligible young adults.

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 May Newsletter. **PLIFE latest Newsletter**.

Contact your **Project LIFE** Regional Consultant for any Independent Living training and/or group ideas or needs! - [Project LIFE - Our People](#)

PLIFE May Youth Conference - Another successful Youth Conference in the books! Your Youth really missed out if they were not there. Youth were able to hear about state updates and provided invaluable feedback, money management, dinner etiquette, participate in a Youth vendor fair where they could learn more about services available just for them, have fun and expand their support circle.

Follow Project LIFE to keep up to date for the FALL conference date and location [Conferences – Project LIFE](#)

JOIN US! Youth Services Team CHECK-INS

We'll be back in September!

TRAINING AND EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

National Foster Care Month 2023 Virtual Event

a virtual event recognizing May as National Foster Care Month! Hosted by the Children's Bureau and the Capacity Building Center for States, this event will highlight this year's theme of supporting the mental health needs of children and youth in foster care and their caregivers. Participants will hear about some of the challenges child welfare workers face in addressing youth and family mental health and learn innovative strategies to support the mental health needs of children and youth in care.

Save the Date!

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

[**Register Now!**](#)



Join Think of Us for a National Town Hall event to hear directly from Aysha E. Schomburg, Associate Commissioner of the Children’s Bureau & guests from CMS, HUD, and SAMHSA for a special discussion around interagency investments to ensure youth leave care with strengthened relationships, holistic supports, and opportunities.

Associate Commissioner Schomburg has committed to centering lived experience differently and this town hall will feature priorities for transition-aged youth.

This is a virtual event on
Wednesday, May 10, 2023
at 4:00pm EST

[RSVP HERE](#)

A [national webinar](#) will be hosted by the Children’s Bureau in collaboration with CMS!

This webinar will provide an overview to the changes made by the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act and the State Health Official Letter issued by CMS. Following the CMS overview, the Children’s Bureau will provide information on the action steps states can take to collaborate on the implementation.

A critical component of the webinar will be to provide information on how the implementation of the SUPPORT Act can be used to address the inequities and health disparities experienced by young people as they transition out of foster care.

Leaders from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF) will be presenting.

Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023

Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. EST

[Register Now](#)

Meaningful Lived Experience Integration

(Panel Guest States: Vermont, Indiana and your very own **VIRGINIA**)

Finding ways to effectively integrate lived experience and expertise are key to effectively providing support and resources to youth, young adults, and families in child welfare. It is the opportunity to partner with those who hold the experience with those who have the power to make changes to make an effective system for reform.

On behalf of the Children's Bureau, the Capacity Building Center for States will be hosting a peer event, "Meaningful Lived Experience Integration" on **May 16th, 2023, from 2:30pm - 4:00pm** EST. This event will provide participants with an opportunity to:

- Hear from a panel of Lived Experience partners regarding experiences they have had in system change efforts and the strategies and supports necessary for meaningful integration.
- Hear from a panel of state representatives sharing their experiences with, and approaches to, meaningful integration of lived experience in their agency and their work.
- Engage in peer discussions to explore strategies, resources, and creative approaches to integrating lived experience.

This invitation is open to Chafee/Independent Living (IL), Education and Training Voucher (ETV), National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Coordinators, youth and young adult leaders, and other key staff members who collaborate and partner with lived experience partners to further the work in your agency.

[Meeting Registration - Zoom \(zoomgov.com\)](#)

May 19th Professional's Day: Are you a professional (social worker, clinician, or educator) working with children in foster care? Join us for a day of Professional Training on Trauma and Attachment on May 19th in Constance Hall at ODU in Norfolk ([registration required, click here](#)).



- **May 20th Community Day:** Have you ever thought of fostering or adopting? Are you currently a foster or adoptive parent? Want to learn more about being an advocate for children in the foster care system? Then our Community Day Event on May 20th in Constance Hall at ODU is for you! We will have workshops and activities for all to learn about foster care and adoption. Learn how to license as a foster parent, what's involved with adoption from foster care, and learn about local resources to support youth and families involved in the foster care system. This event is a one-stop shop for everything foster care. Free and open to the public and Family friendly.

Complete the online form to register and receive more details on the event.

[Our Foster Care Aware Event - Tidewater Friends of Foster Care \(tidewaterffc.org\)](#)
