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## Permanency for Older Youth – 2012 Resources

### **Permanency Enhancement Interventions for Adolescents.**

California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare.  
2012

Permanency Enhancement Interventions for Adolescents are defined by the CEBC as interventions to increase the timely achievement of permanency for adolescents by locating one or more adults that will care for the child or youth up to and beyond the age of 18. The interventions reviewed for this area are designed to address the various barriers to permanency for adolescents, including emotional or behavioral disorders that may be present in youth, no availability of a caring adult in the youth's life, and court or other legal delays to achieving permanency. (Author abstract)

<http://www.cebc4cw.org/topic/permanency-enhancement-interventions-for-adolescents/>

### **YPC [Youth Permanency Cluster].**

National Resource Center for Adoption.  
2012

Provides information, resources, curricula, and tools from nine Children's Bureau grantees that developed innovative programs to achieve youth permanency by connecting youth to permanent families through reunification, relative placement, and adoption.

<http://www.nrcadoption.org/resources/ypc/home/>

### **Permanency Planning Toolkit: A Framework for Serving Older Youth in Care.**

Copia Consulting. Texas CASA.  
2012

This toolkit pulls together resources, ideas and practice tools to enable CASA volunteers and others to actively address working with older youth in the child welfare system.

<http://copiaconsulting.com/preview/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Youth-Permanency-Toolkit.pdf>

### **No Place Like Home.**

Annie E. Casey Foundation.  
2012

*Casey Connects*

This journal issue focuses on the importance of healthy family relationships for children involved in the child welfare system and efforts to reduce the number of youth in congregate care and move them more quickly into lifelong families. The first article profiles efforts by Casey Family

Services to reduce the time children spend in foster care and find more permanent homes for children, including older children and children with special needs. It highlights the Lifelong Families model that works to ensure all children exit foster care to permanent families and get the support needed to sustain them. The following article discusses research on teenage brain development that emphasizes the right opportunities and family connections can help older youth heal from early trauma and move forward in a positive direction. It describes efforts by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative to provide services to help young people complete their education, prepare for employment, build savings and assets, and develop permanent family relationships. The third article explains how Casey's Child Welfare Strategy Group is helping jurisdictions successfully transition youth from congregate care to family settings, while working to build a broader research base on how group care affects young adults. The issue also includes a researcher's perspective on what permanence for a child really means.

<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Other/C/CaseyConnectsSpring2012/CaseyConnectsSpring2012.pdf>

#### **Foster Care Practice Model: Lifelong Families.**

Annie E. Casey Foundation.

2012

This page collects resources and materials related to Lifelong Families, a practice model that is intended to serve as a method of improving foster care practice within private child welfare agencies and advancing permanency outcomes for those in care, especially older youth in treatment foster care. Includes a brochure, video, forms, and case studies.

<http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/PublicationsSeries/LifelongFamiliesModel.aspx>

#### **The Challenge of Older Youth Adoptions From Foster Care.**

Swope, Heather.

National Resource Center for Adoption.

2012

*The Roundtable 25 (2)*

<http://www.nrcadoption.org/pdfs/roundtable/V25N2-2012.pdf>

<http://www.nrcadoption.org/pdfs/roundtable/ChallengeofOlderYouthAdoptions.pdf>

#### **Increasing Your Agency's Capacity to Respond to Prospective Parents and Prepare Older Youth For Adoption: Going Beyond Recruitment for 14 to 16 Year Olds.**

AdoptUSKids.

2012

The materials in this packet are intended to help support your agency in leveraging the Children's Bureau's 2012 National Adoption Recruitment Campaign that focuses on recruiting adoptive parents for 14 to 16 year olds in foster care. This packet gives you and your staff useful tools that can both inform your work and be shared with prospective adoptive parents who are considering adopting older youth.

<http://adoptuskids.org/assets/files/NRCRRFAP/resources/going-beyond-recruitment-for-14-to-16-year-olds.pdf>

**Focusing on Outcomes for Youth: Permanent Connections**

National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth.

2012

*The Exchange*

In this issue of *The Exchange*, we focus on ways to achieve and improve permanent connections for runaway and homeless youth. We talk to one organization that has made permanent connections a fundamental goal in all aspects of its services. We also hear about the benefits and challenges of housing young homeless couples together. And we look at how gender-specific programming can help boys and girls express themselves, build camaraderie, and learn to develop healthy, lasting relationships. (Author abstract)

<http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/book/export/html/1920>

**The Impact of Roundtables on Permanency for Youth in Foster Care.**

O'Brien, Kirk. Davis, Cynthia W. Jewell Morgan, Linda. Rogg, Carla S. Houston, Millicent.

2012

*Children and Youth Services Review* 34 (9) p. 1915-1921

Although the number of children in foster care has decreased in recent years, additional strategies are needed to help youth achieve legal permanency before they age out of foster care. One such strategy is the permanency roundtable, which convenes a team of professionals to facilitate the permanency planning process by identifying realistic solutions to permanency obstacles for youth. Nearly 500 youth went through the initial permanency roundtable process in Georgia in 2009. Just over half were male (57%) and over nine in ten (92%) were African American. At the start of the roundtables, the median age was 13, and the median length of stay in foster care was 52 months. One year after their roundtables, 31% of the nearly 500 children had achieved legal permanency. Statistically significant results were found for outcomes and predictors based on the age of children. Analyses are presented separately for three age groups: 0-6, 7-12, and 13-18. Recommendations, limitations, and future research are discussed. (Author abstract)

**Are Two Voices Better Than One?: Predicting Permanency in Minority Youth Using Multi-informant Mental Health and Strength Data.**

Toche-Manley, Linda L. Dietzen, Laura. Nankin, Jesse. Beigel, Astrid.

Polaris Health Directions (Langhorne, PA )

2012

*The Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research*

Among youth in child welfare ages 6-17 years, 40% meet the criteria for one or more DSM diagnoses. For minority youth in child welfare, poor mental health is compounded by limited access to care and racial disparity bias, leading to poorer outcomes. This paper uses data collected and analyzed by an automated behavioral health assessment system for a multiyear

study that focused on ways to improve case planning in child welfare. Youth, their caseworkers, and, in some cases, parents completed assessments that measured and monitored the youths' needs and strengths. More than 60 % of youth participating in the study were African-American; permanency rates after six months of case planning were found to be only one third. Predictive factors related to better behavioral health and permanency outcomes are identified and discussed, as well as the implications for improving case planning by incorporating the views of multiple informants, including the youth. (Author abstract)

**Highlighting Adolescents' Involvement with the Child Welfare System: A Review of Recent Trends, Policy Developments, and Related Research.**

Simmel, Cassandra.

School of Social Work, Rutgers University.

2012

*Children and Youth Services Review* 34 (7) p. 1197-1207

Nationwide, adolescents account for approximately 35% of the total child welfare out-of-home care population. Yet research on numerous aspects of adolescents' involvement with the child welfare system is lacking relative to research that focuses on infants and toddlers. This article provides a critical review of contemporary research, including current gaps in the research literature, and of federal policies that are pertinent to this adolescent population. In addition, this article contains a broad overview of the current demographics of the child welfare dynamics of this age group, based on information from federal and multi-state statistics, as well as from empirical qualitative and quantitative research investigations. Using the structure of the mandates of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997--or the promotion of safety, permanency, and well-being--this article presents the review of the current research within this format. For the domain of well-being, the focus is largely on the need for enhanced research investigations of adolescents' mental health challenges, as well as the lack of effective policy interventions for many child welfare involved adolescents afflicted with mental health difficulties. The article concludes with recommendations for future areas of research and policy focus for the population of child welfare involved adolescents. (Author abstract)

**RCT of a Mentoring and Skills Group Program: Placement and Permanency Outcomes for Foster Youth.**

Taussig, Heather N. Culhane, Sara E. Garrido, Edward. Knudtson, Michael D.

University of Colorado. Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect.

2012

*Pediatrics* 130 (1)

**OBJECTIVE:** To examine the impact of a mentoring and skills group intervention for preadolescent children in foster care on placement stability and permanence at 1-year post-intervention. **METHODS:** A randomized controlled trial was conducted with 9- to 11-year-old children who were maltreated and placed in foster care (n = 54 control; n = 56 intervention). State child welfare records provided information on number of placement changes, placement

in residential treatment, and case closure (ie, permanency). Rates of adoption and reunification were also examined. Analysis was by intention to treat. RESULTS: After controlling for baseline functioning and pre-intervention placement history, intervention youth were 71% less likely to be placed in residential treatment. There were no significant treatment differences in predicting placement changes or permanency for the total sample. Among a subsample of children living in non-relative foster care at baseline, intervention youth had 44% fewer placement changes, were 82% less likely to be placed in a residential treatment center, and were 5 times more likely to have attained permanency at 1 year post-intervention. More intervention youth had reunified 1-year post-intervention, and the pattern of findings suggested that intervention youth had higher rates of adoption. A significant interaction demonstrated that the intervention attenuated the impact of baseline behavior problems on placement changes. CONCLUSIONS: The findings suggest that participation in a 9-month mentoring and skills group intervention leads to greater placement stability and permanence, especially for children in non-relative foster care. (Author abstract)

**Information Packet: LGBTQ Youth Permanency.**

Yarbrough, Jesse. Ariyakulkan, Lyn.

National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections.

2012

This Information packet on LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or questioning) youth permanency provides a summary of the issue, a fact sheet, best practice tips, a description of a model program, a listing of websites and resources, an overview of relevant policy and legislation, and a topical bibliography.

[http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info\\_services/download/LGBTQ%20Youth%20Permanency\\_JesseYarbrough.pdf](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/info_services/download/LGBTQ%20Youth%20Permanency_JesseYarbrough.pdf)

**Permanency and Placement Planning for Older Youth with Disabilities in Out-of-Home Placement.**

Hill, Katharine.

2012

*Children and Youth Services Review* 34(8) p. 1418-1424

Despite their overrepresentation in the child welfare system, little is known about the permanency and placement experiences of young people with disabilities in out-of-home placement. Using state administrative data, this study examined the experience of older youth with disabilities in foster care, focusing on placement stability, permanency planning, and placement outcomes. Findings include that older youth with disabilities were more likely to experience longer time in out-of-home placement, and higher rates of placement instability than their peers without disabilities. Additionally, analysis found that only 60% of the youth in the sample had a concurrent plan on file, and that youth with disabilities have different placement plans than their peers without disabilities. Implications for research, policy, and practice are discussed. (Author abstract)

**A Systematic Review: A Quest for Effective Interventions for Children and Adolescents in Street Situations.**

Berckmans, Isabel. Losantos Velasco, Marcela. Pinto Tapia, Bismarck. Loots, Gerrit.  
2012

*Children and Youth Services Review*  
34 (7) p. 1259-1272

This review on interventions for children and adolescents in street situation (CASS) starts where Dybicz ended his review in 2005. In his conclusion Dybicz pleads for more empirical research addressing the effectiveness of interventions and capturing the voices of different actors involved in intervention programs in a culture and gender sensitive way. Our review began with a broad search for academic literature on interventions for CASS published between December 2004 and October 2011 in English, Portuguese and Afrikaans. We ordered the findings derived from 33 studies in an ecological broad-based integrative model to have an idea about what we can learn from the academic literature. In a second part of this article we attend to the effectiveness of interventions. One of the main conclusions of this review is that the reviewed articles could not give us a clear picture of what is meant by the long-term objectives of interventions for CASS, which is of paramount importance in evaluating them. Furthermore, we noticed that a Western discourse on childhood is predominantly used in the reviewed articles and in the programs described. Finally, we question whether this is the ideal to which we have to interpret the results of the programs. (Author abstract)

**Making Connections Happen: Youth and Family Engagement Strategies [Presentation Slides].**

Beck, Kelly.

National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness.  
2012

This slide presentation explains Family Finding and Engagement (FFE) is a process designed to build or maintain the youth's lifelong family support network and focuses on youth who have no permanent connections, few or no identified committed family members in their lives, and have no permanent plan that includes a family. Guiding principles of FFE, the negative impact of frequent placements on a child, the need for social capital to advance a child's chances of success in life, and the dispiriting outcomes of youth who age out of care without a family or other supportive network are reviewed. Positive outcomes of foster children living with relatives are listed, and the lack of father involvement by child welfare agencies and its impact on children is discussed. Additional slides outline the family finding process, preparing children and youth, and using the 3-5-7 Model to help youth complete the three tasks of clarification, integration, and actualization. Strategies for the discovery and engagement process are explained.

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/beyondfc/docs/making-connections-happen-kelly-beck.pdf>