

Campus Connections: College & University Partnerships to Support Foster Care Alumni

2012 Texas Child Care
Administrators Conference

Austin, Texas
31 October 2012



Presenters

- **Elaine DuBose** – Prevention Services
Supervisor, Casey Family Programs, Austin
- **April McWilliams** – Youth Specialist,
Department of Family and Protective Services,
El Paso
- **Clint Rodenfels** – Non-profit Educational
Consultant, Dallas

Today's Objectives

- Establish the context
- Identify barriers to success
- Role of Texas Reach
- Brainstorm how to overcome barriers

Role of Audience

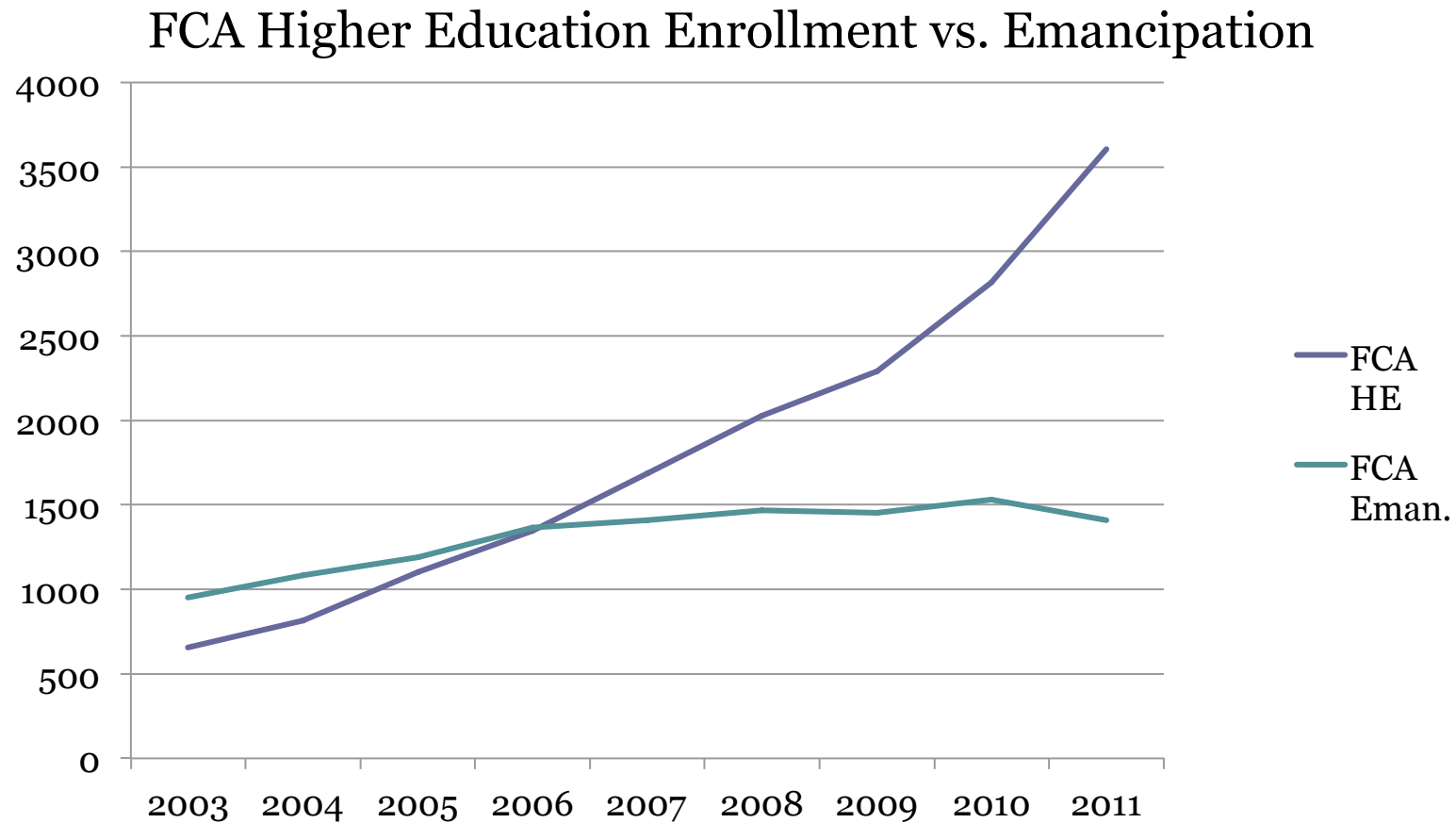
Help us learn more about you...

Establishing the Context

“Over this decade, employment in jobs requiring education beyond a high school diploma will grow more rapidly than employment in jobs that do not; of the 30 fastest growing occupations, more than half require postsecondary education.”

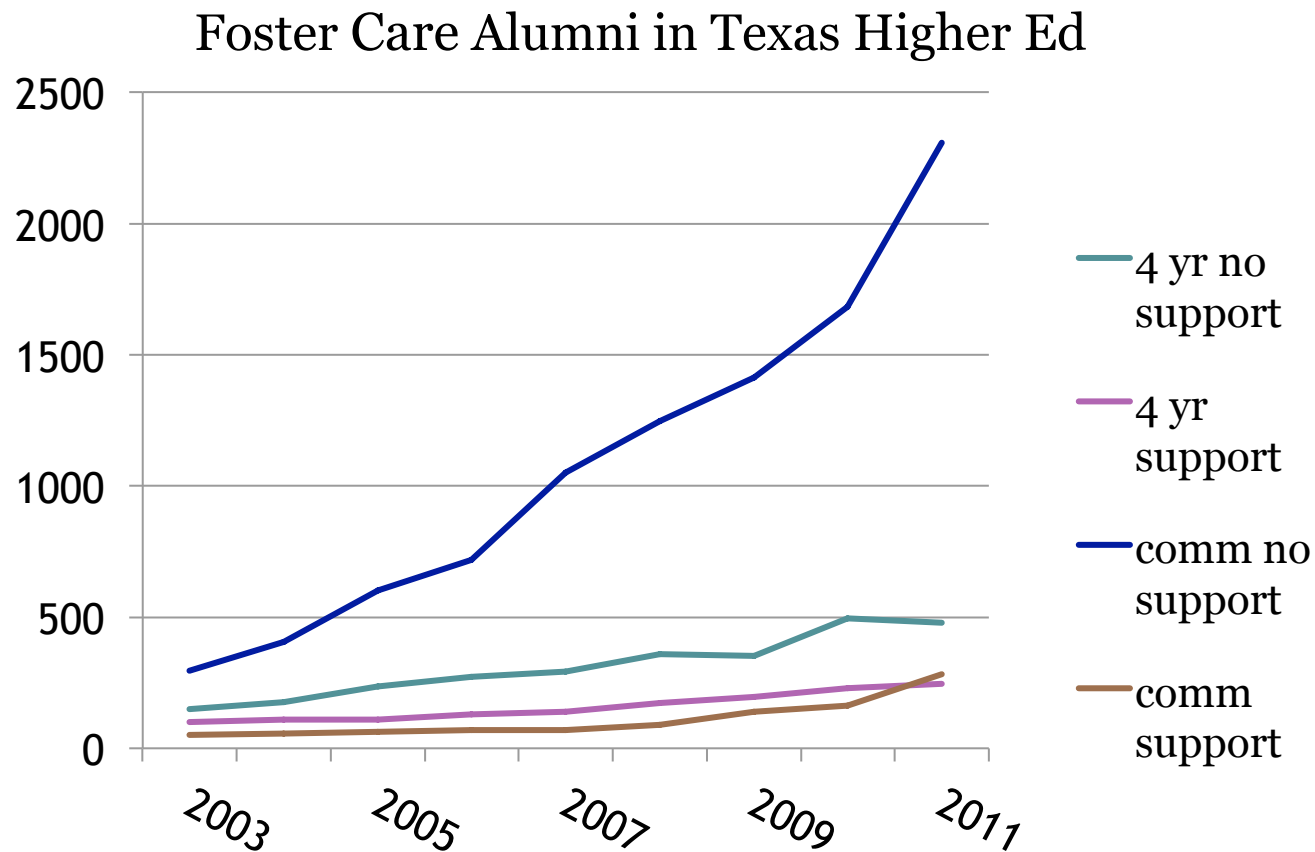
Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education>

Establishing the Context



Source: C. Norton & T. Watt, Texas Reach Presentation, May 2012

Establishing the Context



Source: C. Norton & T. Watt, Texas Reach Presentation, May 2012

DuBose, McWilliams, and Rodenfels 10/31/2012



Establishing the Context



- For every 100 students leaving foster care who enter secondary school, approximately:
 - 50 will complete high school...
 - 10 – 15 will enroll in postsecondary education...
 - 7 will receive an AA degree or certificate...
 - 2 will earn a bachelor's degree (eventually)

Source: J. Emerson, Casey Family Programs, April 2012

April's Story

- Multiple high schools
- Placement changes
- “Protected” from difficult classes
- College discouraged
- Helped by many
 - Church
 - Work
 - Programs
 - Daughter
- Determined to prove “them” wrong
- 2012 college graduate

April's Barriers

Identify the barriers April encountered...

Barriers to Success

- Lack of Understanding
 - Schools' awareness of tuition waiver
 - Students' and agencies' knowledge of postsecondary institutional requirements
- Lack of Preparation (K-12)
- Lack of Support
 - Housing, food
 - College knowledge of families; familial support
 - Belief in abilities to succeed (self, others)

Barriers to Success

- Lack of educational and career advocacy
- Low high school graduation rates
- Emotional/mental health issues
- Records transfer and confidentiality issues
- Long term effects of abuse and neglect – trust issues
- On their own (‘Independence’) at a young age
- Survival mode may take priority
- Inadequate college aspirations and preparation
- Lack of role models, advocates, mentors, and guides
- Few college programs are aware of FCA support needs or how to coordinate support

Source: J. Emerson, Casey Family Programs, April 2012

Texas Reach—Who Are We?

- Formed in 2009
- Grassroots Planning Group
 - Post-Secondary
 - Child Welfare
- Our Mission
 - Identify campus supports statewide
 - Increase knowledge of FCA needs & resources
 - Share best practices

Role of Texas Reach--Convener

- Annual Conferences
 - Held in a different part of the state
 - Hosted by a college or university
 - Tenured programs and newly developing programs profiled
 - FCA needs and resources spotlighted
 - Outreach to new campuses

Role of Texas Reach--Linkages

- Information Hub
- Texas Reach List—members share and ask questions
- With State PAL Staff—updating statewide directory of programs

Role of Texas Reach--Advocate

- Annual conference
- Network with state and local associations
- Identify opportunities to present at conferences, legislative hearings and other events
- Tuned in to national best practice and policy changes

Role of Texas Reach

hot stuff | contacts | hotlines | youth home | DFPS home

DFPS

TEXAS YOUTH CONNECTION

HOT STUFF

NYTD SURVEY

EDUCATION

FINANCES

JOBS

HOUSING

HEALTH

DIVERSITY

EVENTS

FOOD

FUN STUFF

LEGAL/RECORDS

RESOURCES

CONTACTS

FOR PROFESSIONALS

Texas Youth Connection > This Page

Welcome!

Welcome to the Texas Youth Connection web site!

If you are a youth in the Texas foster care system, a youth transitioning to adulthood, or a youth who is just looking for general tips and information, you've come to the right place.

What is the Texas Youth Connection?

TexasYouthConnection.org is a project of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the agency that administers Child Protective Services in Texas. Some of our programs that you may be familiar with include:

- the Texas foster care system,
- Preparation for Adult Living (PAL),
- Chafee Foster Care Independence Program,
- Education and Training Voucher,
- Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR),
- the Texas Runaway Hotline, and
- the Texas Youth Hotline.

Role of Texas Reach

hot stuff | contacts | hotlines | youth home | DFPS home





HOT STUFF

NYTD SURVEY

EDUCATION

Research & Prep

Roommates

Financial Help

Scholarships

FINANCES

JOBS

HOUSING

HEALTH

DIVERSITY

EVENTS

FOOD

FUN STUFF

LEGAL/RECORDS

RESOURCES

CONTACTS

Texas Youth Connection > Education > This Page

Education

Research and Prep

Are you college bound? Would you like to be? This page includes a lot of resources for how to find the right school, apply prepare, study, and lots more - even how to get help paying for it ([see below](#)).

Also see [Higher Education Services](#) (DFPS Form 1002), which summarizes information about government college aid for current and former foster youth, adopted youth, and youth in conservatorships.



- **How-to-study**
Suggestions on how to take notes in class, developing good listening skills, strategies for taking tests, and more.
- **Texas CARES**
- **Texas Reality Check**
Find out how much money you will need after high school, how to choose a career, how to figure out your future salary, and more.
- **Texas Workforce Commission Training & Education**
- **Federal Student Aid**

On This Page

- SAT & ACT
- How to Apply to Texas Universities
- Education & Training Voucher (ETV) Program

How Can You Help

- Know and understand the educational benefits available to youth
- Connect with educational institutions in your region
- Get to know the directors of those institutions with programs to support FCA
- Share knowledge with and encourage FCA to pursue post-secondary education
- Connect, network, and communicate

Identifying Solutions

- Break into small groups
- Consider the barriers to success
- Identify solutions

Resources

- Texas Reach
 - Website: www.texasreach.org
 - Discussion List: www.texasreach.org/reachlist.html
 - **Annual Convening: June ?? 2013**
- List of Campus Champions
- Campus Connections (?)
- Websites (perhaps as a separate list?)
 - Texas Youth Connection (specifically education section of site) www.dfps.state.tx.us/txyouth/education
 - DFPS Educational Resources www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/etv.asp

Next Steps

- Binder?

Questions and Answers

