Academic & Personal Characteristics of Foster Care Youth/Alumni Students I – Sunny Huang, Coordinator of Foster Care Initiative
Foster Care Youth (Information from Texas Education Agency)

High Mobility - Foster Care impacts education:

▷ Significant problems with transferring information and documentation between educational and child welfare systems.

▷ Records may be lost or misplaced, causing youth to lose credits and/or repeat classes. Records may not transfer in a complete and timely manner.

▷ Youth may not be appropriately withdrawn from school, resulting in lowering of youth’s grades.

▷ Youth may sit out of school for days/weeks at a time, or are placed in inappropriate classes upon transferring to a new school.

▷ By 6th grade, students who had changed schools 4 or more times lost about 1 year of educational growth (Courtney et al, 2004).

▷ For every school move - students in foster care lose 4-6 months of emotional growth & academic preparation. (Advocates for Children of New York, Inc. 2000)
In Texas:

- 36,441 Texas children encounter the child welfare system.
- 16,000 school age children are in foster care.
- 23.1% (highest percentage) of children in care are 14-17.
- 1,410 young people exited from care in 2011.
- On average each of these youth moved 8 times.
Education Outcomes - Foster Care in Texas

• **School leavers** statewide in grades 7-12 coded as graduated:
  (not graduation rate PEIMS 2010-11)
  students in foster care - 40.7%
  students in the general population - 70.7%

• **School leavers** statewide in grades 7-12 coded as dropped put:
  (not a dropout rate PEIMS 2010-11)
  students in foster care - 28.7%
  students in the general population - 8.4%

• Receive special education services (PEIMS 2011-12)
  students in foster care - 24.5%
  students in the general population - 8.8%

PEIMS: 2010-11, 2011-12
Foster Children Compared to the State Population Graduates by Graduation Program Type: 2010-11 (PEIMS 2010-11)

Percentages of Foster Children by Program: 2011-12 (PEIMS 2011-12)
Percentages of Special Education Foster Care Youth by Primary Disability: 2011-12

- Emotional Disturbance: Foster Care Youth %: 34.9, Statewide %: 39.2
- Learning Disability: Foster Care Youth %: 19.6, Statewide %: 8.2
- Intellectual Disability: Foster Care Youth %: 13.7, Statewide %: 12.7
- Other health impairment: Foster Care Youth %: 12.2, Statewide %: 10.2
- Speech Impairment: Foster Care Youth %: 20.3, Statewide %: 24

Percentages of Foster Children by Gender and Ethnicity: 2011-12

- Female: American Indian/Alaskan Native %: 48.1, Male: American Indian/Alaskan Native %: 51.9
- Female: Hispanic/Latino %: 42.4, Male: Hispanic/Latino %: 50.8
- Female: African American %: 0.4, Male: African American %: 0.4
- Female: Asian %: 0.4, Male: Asian %: 3.5
- Female: White %: 30.2, Male: White %: 30.6
- Female: Two or More Races %: 2.4, Male: Two or More Races %: 1.7
Foster Care Alumni
(Information from Transition Resource Action Center)

Every year approximately 300 young adults age out of foster care in North Texas.

Within 12-18 months of leaving care
- 33% will be on some form of public assistance
- 40% will not have completed high school
- 50% will be unemployed
- 25% will experience homelessness before their 22nd birthday.

- Within 18 months of leaving care, 60% of the young ladies will have a child outside of marriage.

- 70% of youth leaving foster care report a desire to attend college.

In reality, less than 3% actually obtain a college degree.
High School Completion Rate

- Foster Care Alumni %
  - Diploma: 56%
  - GED: 82%

- General Population %
  - Diploma: 29%
  - GED: 5%

Employment Rate

- Foster Care Alumni %
  - Employment Rate: 70%

- General Population %
  - Employment Rate: 75%

Mental Health

Twelve-Month Mental Health Diagnosis among Foster Care Alumni and the General Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>General Population</th>
<th>Foster Care Alumni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulimia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Dependence</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol Dependence</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generalized Anxiety Disorder</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panic Disorder</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified Social Phobia</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Depressive Episode</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic & Personal Characteristics of Foster Care Youth/Alumni Students II -

Transition Coaches, PAL Unit, Foster Care Liaisons at ISDs, Community Leaders

Moderator: Jackie Glee, Coordinator of Transfer Services, Articulation, University Relations & Special Populations
Reflection

What’s Next?