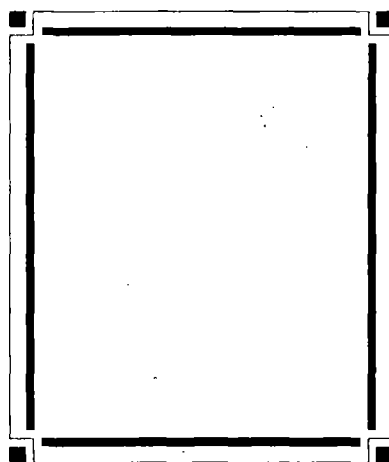




**National  
Resource Center  
for Youth Services**

**The University of Oklahoma**  
COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION



CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

**National Resource Center for Youth Services**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

**PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION**

FACSIMILE

DATE: 9/8/98  
TO: Nicole Rabner  
FAX #: 456-2878

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FROM: Rebecca Werbel  
Office of the Chief of Staff  
Department of Health and Human Services

Phone: 202/690-7431 Fax: 202/401-5783

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COMMENTS:

Sorry about the delay.

- ① talking points
- ② independent living program
- ③ grant info.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages [including this cover]

**September 11, 1998**

**National Resource Center for Youth Services**

**Opening Address**

**Talking Points**

**Adolescence is a time of conflict, ambivalence and change.**

**Young people want and need adult support, but can't stand being with adults.**

**Young people want to develop as independent individuals, but also want to disappear into a crowd of peers doing things just like everyone else.**

**Young people want the security of being advised what to do and how, but but don't necessarily want to listen**

**Young people want to be self-sufficient, but are fearful of change and failure.**

**So the question becomes: How can we insure that the best interests of young people are being served. What do we wish for them?**

**The answer? Safety, stability and permanency:**

**You (adolescents) are adults in training.**

**We need to do what we can to provide you with:**

**A climate of sustained caring,  
Opportunities for relationships with caring adults,  
A sense that you are valued; that you count,  
A safe place,  
Opportunities for age-appropriate structured activities, and  
Legitimate opportunities to make a contribution.**

**You also need opportunities to increase your competence,  
To have substantive social and economic roles,  
To be included in decision making,  
To be able to safely practice  
Making choices,  
Having responsibility, and  
Achieving.**

**Sometimes, however, families can't do this, and children and young people like yourselves become foster children.**

**Which makes it even more difficult to be a teenager.**

Being in foster care often compounds the problem and can result in efforts that are directly contrary to the safety, stability and permanence that I said was important,

From your perspective it often involves:

A number of foster care homes,  
Separation from family members,  
Changing schools, and  
Financial hardship: the times you couldn't afford the prom dress, the class ring, the yearbook or some other thing important to you.

More importantly, though, you may not have the intangible things that many other adolescents in this country take for granted:

Opportunities to learn and practice how to be an adult: to develop a sense of usefulness, a sense of belonging, a sense of competence, and a sense of your own positive power.

This makes a being a teenager in foster care especially difficult. While all kids struggle to grow up, the struggle is harder for foster kids.

I think I will not bore you with the statistics related to children and young people in foster care beyond saying that the numbers have been rising and the faces of the children in foster care are of all ages, all races, and all ethnic backgrounds. There are, however, a disproportionate number of children of color in the foster care population and the numbers of youth, like yourselves, that are aging out of the foster care system are growing.

Our goal is to work toward that day when foster care is a VERY temporary situation for all children who need a safe, stable and permanent home. We hope to provide options that will fit the individual. The first option is return to your own safe and stable family, but if that is not possible, other options include:

Adoption: Double the number by the year 2002  
Permanent Guardianship with relatives or other adults  
Standby Guardianship

We must also work harder to recruit a supply of diverse parents who can step in and provide safe and stable environments for children and youth in the system.

And close to your hearts: We must make sure that young people who leave the foster care system do so with the developmental, academic and job and life skills that they need to be independent and self sufficient.

Programs such as the Independent Living Program and the Transitional Living Program are designed to provide you with those kinds of opportunities and we intend to support those programs and the important work they do.

In your journey through foster care and on to adulthood, I hope that there have been positive influences in your life and I wish for you more of these. Each of you has

met caring adults on your trip through adolescence: foster parents, social workers, teachers, ministers, coaches, bosses, relatives; caring adults who took an interest in you, who love you, and who helped you along the way. We want to increase these kinds of experiences for children and youth in the foster care system.

I am also always impressed at the extent of your knowledge about the foster care system: the foster care laws in your State, the rules, and whether your case worker's supervisor can make an exception to the rule or if your problem has to go all the way to the State capitol for a decision.

We want to take advantage of your knowledge to help change and improve foster care and adoptive services. Jim Walker and Peter Correia of the National Youth Resource Center have made it their work to listen to you, to learn and to try to implement improvements by working with those State systems.

We also know that you often take on the task of training new foster care staff and social workers. You might not be standing at the front of the classroom lecturing, but you most certainly lend us your knowledge and experience to this end. Let me tell you: All over this country there are social workers who remember you with gratitude, a young person who knew the system, who was so patient in explaining it, and who didn't blame the social worker for the flawed system. I imagine that many of you have already had a positive influence on the way the next kid will be treated, because you've helped to train your worker!

You have my admiration and my respect. You're growing up to be good citizens, and will be good parents, good students, good workers, and you're doing it the hard way. You are going to be a success in life, every one of you; there are many, many people who touched your lives who are going to be proud of you. I'm going to be proud of you.

### **Process Suggestions**

During this talk there are a number of opportunities to engage with youth in the audience. Two options include:

1. Asking the youth how many of them had multiple foster care placements, were separated from siblings or had to change schools often.
2. Asking them who was an important adult that was a positive influence in their lives.

**INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP)**

## Authorization

The Independent Living Program was authorized by P.L. 99-272, April 7, 1986, thru addition of section 477 to title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

### Purpose

The intent of the ILP is to offer eligible youth the skills and support needed not only to survive, but to become independent, productive members of society.

The purpose of the ILP is to provide services to foster children who are 16 or older to help them to:

Make the transition to independent living by earning a high school diploma;

Receive vocational training; and

Learn daily living skills such as budgeting, locating housing, career planning and job finding.

States must establish an IL plan for every youth in foster care 16 years of age and older.

### Eligibility

Young people, age 16 and older who are, or have been, in foster care are eligible for ILP services.

States may elect to serve all youth, not just those who are title IV-E eligible; all States and the District of Columbia have chosen this option.

All states have exercised the option to serve youth beyond age 18, up to age 21.

### Funding

The ILP has been funded at \$70M annually since 1992.

Funds are allotted among States on the basis of State title IV-E foster care populations as of 1984.

ILP funds are State-administered.

Each State receives a base amount of funds according to a formula, and may receive additional funds at a 1:1 match ratio.

### Service Delivery

ILP services are provided directly by the State or by local/county youth services providers under contract to the State.

The types of services available to the children vary by provider from minimal basic skills training to extensive preparation for independent living. ILP funds may not, however, be used for room or board.

Services often vary according to geographic locations. Children in rural areas are more in need of transportation resources because of distance between program sites. Programs in urban areas tend to have a larger number of service providers which allow for a greater degree of coordination among them resulting in more services for the youth.

All 50 States and DC have IL Coordinators.

### Program Review

The Children's Bureau is entering into a contract to review and analyze 10 years of ILP reports from all 50 States and DC selected State plans and certain internal HHS materials on the program. This effort will provide needed information on IL activities conducted and services provided during that 10 year period and will include data on youth served; age, race, and gender of youth; living arrangements; model program activities; information on problems and service delivery gaps; and financial

Page 3 ILP



expenditures and allotment data. The resulting report will be used to inform the States about best practices and effective services and will be widely disseminated.

### Statistics

There are currently 85,000 young people participating in ILPs across the nation.

Approximately 65,000 young people ages 16 to 18 will be aging out of the foster care system in the next 3 years.

## **Youth Development State Collaboration Demonstration Projects**

The Administration on Children, Youth and Families announces the award of nine Youth Development State Collaboration Demonstration Project grants in the amount of \$120,000 each, totaling \$1,080,000 in FY 1998. These project grants will serve as the basis for developing a partnership between the State and the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) in order to establish and support effective youth development program strategies at the State and local levels. This partnership is intended to result in increased focus and collaboration on positive alternatives and opportunities for youth within the State that lead to the increased safety and well being of young people.

Many policy and funding decisions about youth services are made at the State level. To encourage and support a youth development approach in the design and implementation of such policies and funding practices for youth services, FYSB believes that it is very important to share information and assistance about, and collaborate on, youth development efforts among all levels. The goal of this competitive grant area is, therefore, to facilitate the use of a youth development approach by States as they address the needs of adolescents at the State and local levels.

The objectives of the Youth Development State Collaboration Demonstration Projects are to facilitate the development of State policies and initiatives that help communities support a youth development approach; to encourage collaboration among the State agencies that address the needs and issues of adolescents; to promote and facilitate communication and coordination among the State and youth serving agencies; including FYSB grantees; and to promote collaborative efforts between the State and FYSB.

For a number of years, FYSB has been promoting a youth development philosophy and has recently produced a framework that provides a theoretical foundation for youth development. The framework can be used by program developers, program managers and youth service professionals in developing and implementing service models and approaches that will redirect youth in high risk situations toward positive pathways of development. We have identified four key principles that are important in the development of young people as they move toward a successful and productive adulthood: a sense of industry and competency, a feeling of connectedness to others and to society, a belief in control over their fate in life and a stable identity.

FYSB supports the youth development approach and believes it is crucial that positive developmental opportunities be made available to all young people during adolescence, a time of rapid growth and change. Adolescents need opportunities to fulfill their developmental needs; intellectually, psychologically, socially, morally and ethically.

Youth benefit from experiential learning and they need to belong to a group while maintaining their individuality. At the same time, they want and need adult support and interest. They also need to express opinions, challenge adult assumptions, develop the ability to make appropriate choices and learn to use new skills.

When young people are not given positive outlets for growth, they may find potentially damaging alternatives. Gang membership, for example, may address an adolescent's need for safety and membership in group, close friendships and opportunities for exercising decision-making skills and responsibility. However, it also places young people at high risk for drug use and exposure to violence and crime. In contrast, positive developmental opportunities meet adolescent needs while decreasing their exposure to destructive influences and reducing their involvement in risky behaviors.

A rapidly changing society and a decreasing sense of community have reduced or eliminated many of the traditional ways that young people receive the support they need to move toward maturity and self-sufficiency. Additionally, increasing violence and hopelessness in many neighborhoods threaten young people's welfare and make developmental opportunities scarce in some communities. In such environments, a commitment by a community creating programs and services that meet young people's developmental needs is critical.

Programs with a youth development focus offer young people the skills, knowledge and community support they need to function effectively. The youth development approach is designed to focus on the positive outcomes desired by young people, not the negative outcomes that adults hope to prevent. The distinction may appear subtle, but it is a significant shift in policy and practice. Youth development moves the dialogue from one that focuses on youth with problems to one in which youth are seen as resources. In addition, youth development envisions a community effort to determine and provide, in concert with youth, the assistance and support youth need to grow into healthy adults.

The nine States and respective departments are as follows:

- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
- Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
- Maryland Department of Human Resources
- Massachusetts Office of Health and Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- New York Office of Children and Family Services
- Oregon Commission on Children and Families

| FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                         | SEPTEMBER 11       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 10:00 am – 1:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | REGISTRATION            | J.C. Penny Lobby A |
| Noon – 1:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | LUNCH                   | Harder Dining Room |
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | OPENING SESSION         | Aiton Auditorium   |
| <b>THE FIRST LADY</b><br><b>Hillary Rodham Clinton</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                         |                    |
| Keynote Speaker, Eryca Kasse<br><i>Taking Our Lives into Our Own Hands!</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                         |                    |
| 3:00 – 4:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | SMALL GROUPS SESSION I  |                    |
| Small Group 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Jean Carpenter-Williams | Wisconsin B        |
| Small Group 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Joy Warren/Misty Hager  | California Room    |
| Small Group 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Becky Copeland          | Montana Room       |
| Small Group 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Brian Sullivan          | Illinois Room      |
| Small Group 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Rebecca Lane            | Idaho Room         |
| Small Group 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Emmitt Gill             | Louisiana Room     |
| Small Group 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ann Newman              | Washington Room    |
| Small Group 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Peter Correia           | Wisconsin A        |
| Small Group 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Jim Walker              | Arkansas Room      |
| 4:30 – 5:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | FREE TIME               |                    |
| 5:30 – 6:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | DINNER                  | Harder Dining Room |
| 6:30 – 8:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | WORKSHOP SESSION I      |                    |
| Some workshops have been divided into two parts that are inter-related. In order to receive the full benefit, you are encouraged to attend both parts.                                                                                                                                                        |                         |                    |
| 1. Creative Tips for Leading Meetings, Workshops, and Group Activities - Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Wisconsin B             |                    |
| Jean Carpenter-Williams, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                    |
| None of us are strangers to meetings. Whether you're planning or facilitating a meeting or leading an ice breaker, you can always use tips on making the most of your time in groups. Information shared in this workshop will lay the groundwork for practicing time management skills in Part 2.            |                         |                    |
| 2. Youth Advocacy - Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Arkansas Room           |                    |
| Joy Warren, California Youth Connection, San Francisco, CA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                         |                    |
| California Youth Connection (CYC) is composed of current and former foster youth 14 to 24 who advocate to improve the foster care system. Former foster youth Joy Warren shows how and why CYC youth are effective advocates. You'll also learn to be a successful advocate in your own state.                |                         |                    |
| 3. Keys to Effective Presentations - Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Montana Room            |                    |
| Sherri Haines; Tammi Cunningham, University of Tennessee, Nashville, TN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                         |                    |
| An interactive exploration of different learning styles, group involvement, and techniques of saying what you think and being heard. Learn to identify training skills and special abilities, both obvious and hidden, that can be tapped to involve all people as trainers and create dynamic presentations. |                         |                    |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. Building Youth Advisory Boards — Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Illinois Room                                                                                                             |
| Sandy Toledo, Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL and Kimberly Veber, Miami, FL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |
| Explains the history, goals and accomplishments of Florida's Foster Teen Youth Advisory board, plus the "nuts and bolts" of foundation building from local to regional to a state level board.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                           |
| 5. Youth Development: What Is It? — Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Idaho Room                                                                                                                |
| Rebecca Lane, National Network for Youth, Washington, DC; Becky Copeland, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |
| Whether you're a youth or work with youth, this 2-part workshop lets you explore what youth development is about. Explore the youth development framework and how to apply it to every day situations. We'll build upon the knowledge of youth and adults in the room. Part 2 is <i>How Do I Do It?</i>                                                                            |                                                                                                                           |
| 6. What You Need to Know to Get the Job You Want                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Louisiana Room                                                                                                            |
| Reesa Rappaport, Red Lobster Training Division, Washington, D. C.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                           |
| Focus on the skills needed to perform effectively in a job interview. Among the skills that are addressed are making a good first impression, dressing appropriately, and answering questions.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                           |
| 7. Communication Is More Than Words                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Washington Room                                                                                                           |
| Ann Newman, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                           |
| Working with different people means knowing how to communicate well. Using "True Colors" we'll look at our personality style, the personality style of others, and how we communicate with them. This is a fun way to explore our values, beliefs, and stressors and how they influence our perceptions of people unlike us and how we can interact to work effectively with them. |                                                                                                                           |
| 8. Diversity: The Color of Us                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Wisconsin A                                                                                                               |
| Peter R. Correia III, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                           |
| Through the examination of perceptions and personal roots, we discover the value of our differences and how, in this decade of the 90s, we move toward the color of us-diversity.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                           |
| 9. Positive Personal Power                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | California Room                                                                                                           |
| Misty Hager, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                           |
| Explore ways to recognize and increase personal power. Activities, including designing a T-shirt, are used to point the way toward building self-esteem.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                           |
| 8:00 – 8:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | BREAK                                                                                                                     |
| 8:15 – 9:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | GENERAL SESSION II<br>Pantastik Pan Groove<br>A steel band drum group<br>Junior Fields, Washington DC<br>Aiton Auditorium |
| 9:30 – 11:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | SNACK AND SOCIAL TIME<br>Recreation Center                                                                                |
| 11:00 – 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | BED PREP                                                                                                                  |
| 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | GOOD NIGHT!                                                                                                               |

| SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                     | SEPTEMBER 12       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 7:00 – 8:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | BREAKFAST           | Harder Dining Room |
| 9:00 – 10:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | WORKSHOP SESSION II |                    |
| 10. Creative Tips for Leading Meetings, Workshops, and Group Activities - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                   | Wisconsin B         |                    |
| Jean Carpenter-Williams, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     |                    |
| Let's put the skills we learned in part one to work. Practice your group leadership skills, and fine tune them with the help of participant feedback. It is assumed that participants have attended part one of this workshop.                                     |                     |                    |
| 11. Youth Advocacy - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Arkansas Room       |                    |
| Joy Warren, California Youth Connection, San Francisco, CA                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                     |                    |
| Participants put the lessons learned in Part I into action. In small groups, you develop a plan for changing a policy, practice, or law which affects foster youth. Groups have an opportunity to present plans and receive feedback.                              |                     |                    |
| 12. Keys to Effective Presentations - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Montana Room        |                    |
| Sherri Haines; Tammi Cunningham, University of Tennessee, Nashville, TN                                                                                                                                                                                            |                     |                    |
| To build on part one, participants will put what they know into practice. Through developing and delivering presentations, participants explore how to take skills learned and put them to work back at home.                                                      |                     |                    |
| 13. Building Youth Advisory Boards - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Illinois Room       |                    |
| Sandy Toledo, Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL and Kimberly Veber, Miami, FL                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |                    |
| Building on our foundation, learn how we sustain our state Youth Advisory Board through both stability and change. Future goals, positive missions, and constant maintenance are topics of discussion.                                                             |                     |                    |
| 14. Youth Development: How Do I Do It? - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Idaho Room          |                    |
| Rebecca Lane, National Network for Youth, Washington, DC; Becky Copeland, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                   |                     |                    |
| Whether you're a youth or work with youth, this 2-part workshop lets you explore what youth development is about. Explore the youth development framework and how to apply it to every day situations. We'll build upon knowledge of youth and adults in the room. |                     |                    |
| 15. What You Need to Know to Get the Job You Want (repeat)                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Louisiana Room      |                    |
| Reesa Rappaport, Red Lobster Training Division, Washington, D. C.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                     |                    |
| 16. Communication Is More Than Words (repeat)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Washington Room     |                    |
| Ann Newman, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                     |                    |
| 17. Diversity: The Color of Us (repeat)                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Wisconsin A         |                    |
| Peter R. Correia III, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                       |                     |                    |

# 18. All Stressed Out and No One to Choke

California Room

Ann Fry, The Better Way, Austin, TX

The pressure's on, your stress level is percolating at overflow! What do you do? This "play shop" will give you hands-on, fun techniques for chasing that stress away—the playful way! Come with your sense of humor in charge and learn very effective ways to manage stress. You'll have a blast!

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                            |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 10:30-10:45 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | BREAK                                                                                      |                    |
| 10:45 am – 12:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                    | SMALL GROUPS SESSION II                                                                    |                    |
| Small Group 1                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jean Carpenter-Williams                                                                    | Wisconsin B        |
| Small Group 2                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Misty Hager                                                                                | California Room    |
| Small Group 3                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Becky Copeland                                                                             | Montana Room       |
| Small Group 4                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Brian Sullivan                                                                             | Illinois Room      |
| Small Group 5                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Rebecca Lane                                                                               | Idaho Room         |
| Small Group 6                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Emmitt Gill                                                                                | Louisiana Room     |
| Small Group 7                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ann Newman                                                                                 | Washington Room    |
| Small Group 8                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Peter Correia                                                                              | Wisconsin A        |
| Small Group 9                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jim Walker                                                                                 | Arkansas           |
| 12:15 – 1:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                        | LUNCH                                                                                      | Harder Dining Room |
| 1:30 – 6:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | SIGHT-SEEING AT THE CAPITOL<br>DINNER AT UNION STATION                                     |                    |
| Buses will drop off at the Museum of Natural History, 14th and Constitution Avenue N.W. and <b>pick up at Union Station</b> , 40 Massachusetts Avenue N.E. (3 blocks N. of U.S. Capitol between 1st St. N.E. and N.W.) |                                                                                            |                    |
| 6:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                | RETURN TO THE 4-H CENTER                                                                   |                    |
| 7:30 – 8:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | GENERAL SESSION III<br>Keynote Speaker, Ann Fry<br><i>Play Your Way to a Natural High!</i> | Aiton Auditorium   |
| 8:30 – 8:45 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | BREAK                                                                                      |                    |
| 8:45 – 9:45 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | GENERAL SESSION IV<br>Comedian, Justin Lookadoo<br><i>Twistin' Your Life Away</i>          | Aiton Auditorium   |
| 9:45 – 11:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SNACK AND SOCIAL TIME                                                                      | Recreation Center  |
| 11:00 – 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                       | BED PREP                                                                                   |                    |
| 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                               | GOOD NIGHT!                                                                                |                    |

| Sunday           | September 13                                                                                                                |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 – 8:30 am   | BREAKFAST<br>Harder Dining Room                                                                                             |
| 9:00 – 10:30 am  | SMALL GROUPS SESSION III<br>Same rooms as Small Groups Session I and II                                                     |
| 10:30 – 10:45 am | BREAK                                                                                                                       |
| 10:45 – 11:45 am | GENERAL SESSION V<br>Listening Panel<br>Small Groups Report to Panel of Youth Development Professionals<br>Aiton Auditorium |
| 11:45 – Noon     | CHECKOUT/ PICK UP SACK LUNCHES                                                                                              |

C97-076PVP/N:CONF/0898

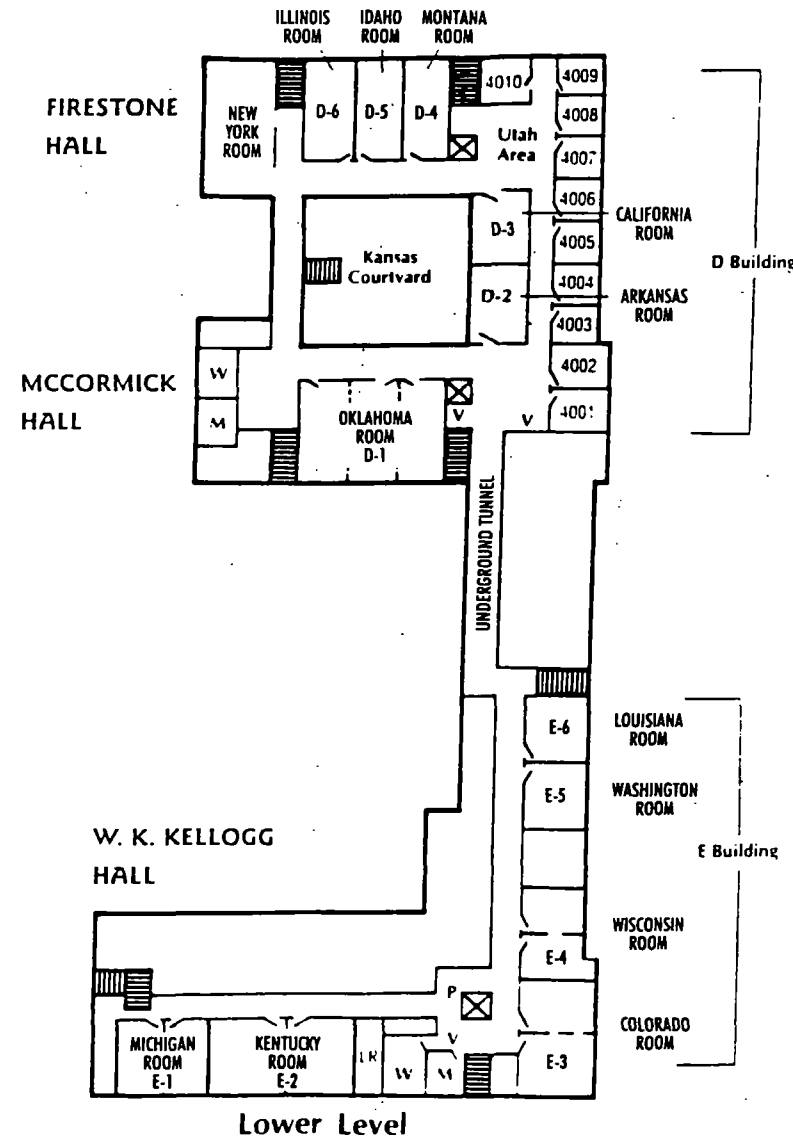
## MEETING ROOMS

### Other Locations:

**REGISTRATION**—Ground Floor, J. C. Penney Hall – lobby area just inside main entrance

**AITON AUDITORIUM**—Lower level, J. C. Penney Hall

**HARDER DINING ROOM**—Ground floor, W. K. Kellogg Hall



Partnerships  
for  
Change

YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE

SUPPORTED BY  
NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER  
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
and the  
NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

PRESENTED BY  
**NRC** National  
YOUTH Resource Center  
SERVICES for Youth Services

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA  
COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION  
202 W. 8TH ST  
TULSA OK 74119-1419

SEPTEMBER 11 - 13, 1998  
NATIONAL 4-H CENTER  
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 11

|                    |                 |                    |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 10:00 am – 1:30 pm | REGISTRATION    | J.C. Penny Lobby A |
| Noon – 1:00 pm     | LUNCH           | Harder Dining Room |
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm     | OPENING SESSION | Aiton Auditorium   |

THE FIRST LADY

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Keynote Speaker, Eryca Kasse  
*Taking Our Lives into Our Own Hands!*

|                |                         |                 |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 3:00 – 4:30 pm | SMALL GROUPS SESSION I  |                 |
| Small Group 1  | Jean Carpenter-Williams | Wisconsin B     |
| Small Group 2  | Joy Warren/Misty Hager  | California Room |
| Small Group 3  | Becky Copeland          | Montana Room    |
| Small Group 4  | Brian Sullivan          | Illinois Room   |
| Small Group 5  | Rebecca Lane            | Idaho Room      |
| Small Group 6  | Emmitt Gill             | Louisiana Room  |
| Small Group 7  | Ann Newman              | Washington Room |
| Small Group 8  | Peter Correia           | Wisconsin A     |
| Small Group 9  | Jim Walker              | Arkansas Room   |

|                |           |  |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| 4:30 – 5:30 pm | FREE TIME |  |
|----------------|-----------|--|

|                |        |                    |
|----------------|--------|--------------------|
| 5:30 – 6:30 pm | DINNER | Harder Dining Room |
|----------------|--------|--------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                        |                    |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 6:30 – 8:00 pm                                                                                                                                         | WORKSHOP SESSION I |  |
| Some workshops have been divided into two parts that are inter-related. In order to receive the full benefit, you are encouraged to attend both parts. |                    |  |

1. Creative Tips for Leading Meetings, Workshops, and Group Activities - Part 1

Wisconsin B

Jean Carpenter-Williams, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK

None of us are strangers to meetings. Whether you're planning or facilitating a meeting or leading an ice breaker, you can always use tips on making the most of your time in groups. Information shared in this workshop will lay the groundwork for practicing time management skills in Part 2.
2. Youth Advocacy - Part 1

Arkansas Room

Joy Warren, California Youth Connection, San Francisco, CA

California Youth Connection (CYC) is composed of current and former foster youth 14 to 24 who advocate to improve the foster care system. Former foster youth Joy Warren shows how and why CYC youth are effective advocates. You'll also learn to be a successful advocate in your own state.
3. Keys to Effective Presentations - Part 1

Montana Room

Sherri Haines; Tammi Cunningham, University of Tennessee, Nashville, TN

An interactive exploration of different learning styles, group involvement, and techniques of saying what you think and being heard. Learn to identify training skills and special abilities, both obvious and hidden, that can be tapped to involve all people as trainers and create dynamic presentations.

4. Building Youth Advisory Boards — Part 1

Illinois Room

Sandy Toledo, Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL and Kimberly Veber, Miami, FL

Explains the history, goals and accomplishments of Florida's Foster Teen Youth Advisory board, plus the "nuts and bolts" of foundation building from local to regional to a state level board.
5. Youth Development: What Is It? — Part 1

Idaho Room

Rebecca Lane, National Network for Youth, Washington, DC; Becky Copeland, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK

Whether you're a youth or work with youth, this 2-part workshop lets you explore what youth development is about. Explore the youth development framework and how to apply it to every day situations. We'll build upon the knowledge of youth and adults in the room. Part 2 is *How Do I Do It?*
6. What You Need to Know to Get the Job You Want

Louisiana Room

Reesa Rappaport, Red Lobster Training Division, Washington, D. C.

Focus on the skills needed to perform effectively in a job interview. Among the skills that are addressed are making a good first impression, dressing appropriately, and answering questions.
7. Communication Is More Than Words

Washington Room

Ann Newman, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK

Working with different people means knowing how to communicate well. Using "True Colors" we'll look at our personality style, the personality style of others, and how we communicate with them. This is a fun way to explore our values, beliefs, and stressors and how they influence our perceptions of people unlike us and how we can interact to work effectively with them.
8. Diversity: The Color of Us

Wisconsin A

Peter R. Correia III, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK

Through the examination of perceptions and personal roots, we discover the value of our differences and how, in this decade of the 90s, we move toward the color of us-diversity.
9. Positive Personal Power

California Room

Misty Hager, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK

Explore ways to recognize and increase personal power. Activities, including designing a T-shirt, are used to point the way toward building self-esteem.

|                  |                              |                   |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8:00 – 8:15 pm   | BREAK                        |                   |
| 8:15 – 9:30 pm   | GENERAL SESSION II           | Aiton Auditorium  |
|                  | Pantastik Pan Groove         |                   |
|                  | A steel band drum group      |                   |
|                  | Junior Fields, Washington DC |                   |
| 9:30 – 11:00 pm  | SNACK AND SOCIAL TIME        | Recreation Center |
| 11:00 – 11:30 pm | BED PREP                     |                   |
| 11:30 pm         | GOOD NIGHT!                  |                   |

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 12

|                 |                     |                    |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 7:00 – 8:30 am  | BREAKFAST           | Harder Dining Room |
| 9:00 – 10:30 am | WORKSHOP SESSION II |                    |

10. Creative Tips for Leading Meetings, Workshops, and Group Activities - Part 2

Wisconsin B

Jean Carpenter-Williams, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK

Let's put the skills we learned in part one to work. Practice your group leadership skills, and fine tune them with the help of participant feedback. It is assumed that participants have attended part one of this workshop.
11. Youth Advocacy - Part 2

Arkansas Room

Joy Warren, California Youth Connection, San Francisco, CA

Participants put the lessons learned in Part I into action. In small groups, you develop a plan for changing a policy, practice, or law which affects foster youth. Groups have an opportunity to present plans and receive feedback.
12. Keys to Effective Presentations - Part 2

Montana Room

Sherri Haines; Tammi Cunningham, University of Tennessee, Nashville, TN

To build on part one, participants will put what they know into practice. Through developing and delivering presentations, participants explore how to take skills learned and put them to work back at home.
13. Building Youth Advisory Boards - Part 2

Illinois Room

Sandy Toledo, Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL and Kimberly Veber, Miami, FL

Building on our foundation, learn how we sustain our state Youth Advisory Board through both stability and change. Future goals, positive missions, and constant maintenance are topics of discussion.
14. Youth Development: How Do I Do It? - Part 2

Idaho Room

Rebecca Lane, National Network for Youth, Washington, DC; Becky Copeland, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK

Whether you're a youth or work with youth, this 2-part workshop lets you explore what youth development is about. Explore the youth development framework and how to apply it to every day situations. We'll build upon knowledge of youth and adults in the room.
15. What You Need to Know to Get the Job You Want (repeat)

Louisiana Room

Reesa Rappaport, Red Lobster Training Division, Washington, D. C.
16. Communication Is More Than Words (repeat)

Washington Room

Ann Newman, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK
17. Diversity: The Color of Us (repeat)

Wisconsin A

Peter R. Correia III, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK

# 18. All Stressed Out and No One to Choke

California Room

Ann Fry, The Better Way, Austin, TX

The pressure's on, your stress level is percolating at overflow! What do you do? This "play shop" will give you hands-on, fun techniques for chasing that stress away—the playful way! Come with your sense of humor in charge and learn very effective ways to manage stress. You'll have a blast!

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                     |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 10:30-10:45 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | BREAK                                                                               |                    |
| 10:45 am – 12:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                    | SMALL GROUPS SESSION II                                                             |                    |
| Small Group 1                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jean Carpenter-Williams                                                             | Wisconsin B        |
| Small Group 2                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Misty Hager                                                                         | California Room    |
| Small Group 3                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Becky Copeland                                                                      | Montana Room       |
| Small Group 4                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Brian Sullivan                                                                      | Illinois Room      |
| Small Group 5                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Rebecca Lane                                                                        | Idaho Room         |
| Small Group 6                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Emmitt Gill                                                                         | Louisiana Room     |
| Small Group 7                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ann Newman                                                                          | Washington Room    |
| Small Group 8                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Peter Correia                                                                       | Wisconsin A        |
| Small Group 9                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jim Walker                                                                          | Arkansas           |
| 12:15 – 1:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                        | LUNCH                                                                               | Harder Dining Room |
| 1:30 – 6:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | SIGHT-SEEING AT THE CAPITOL<br>DINNER AT UNION STATION                              |                    |
| Buses will drop off at the Museum of Natural History, 14th and Constitution Avenue N.W. and <b>pick up at Union Station</b> , 40 Massachusetts Avenue N.E. (3 blocks N. of U.S. Capitol between 1st St. N.E. and N.W.) |                                                                                     |                    |
| 6:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                | RETURN TO THE 4-H CENTER                                                            |                    |
| 7:30 – 8:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | GENERAL SESSION III<br>Keynote Speaker, Ann Fry<br>Play Your Way to a Natural High! | Aiton Auditorium   |
| 8:30 – 8:45 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | BREAK                                                                               |                    |
| 8:45 – 9:45 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | GENERAL SESSION IV<br>Comedian, Justin Lookadoo<br>Twistin' Your Life Away          | Aiton Auditorium   |
| 9:45 – 11:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SNACK AND SOCIAL TIME                                                               | Recreation Center  |
| 11:00 – 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                       | BED PREP                                                                            |                    |
| 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                               | GOOD NIGHT!                                                                         |                    |

| Sunday September 13 |                                                                                                            |                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 7:00 – 8:30 am      | BREAKFAST                                                                                                  | Harder Dining Room |
| 9 – 10:30 am        | SMALL GROUPS SESSION III<br>Same rooms as Small Groups Session I and II                                    |                    |
| 10:30 – 10:45 am    | BREAK                                                                                                      |                    |
| 10:45 – 11:45 am    | GENERAL SESSION V<br>Listening Panel<br>Small Groups Report to Panel of<br>Youth Development Professionals | Aiton Auditorium   |
| 11:45 – Noon        | CHECKOUT/ PICK UP SACK LUNCHES                                                                             |                    |

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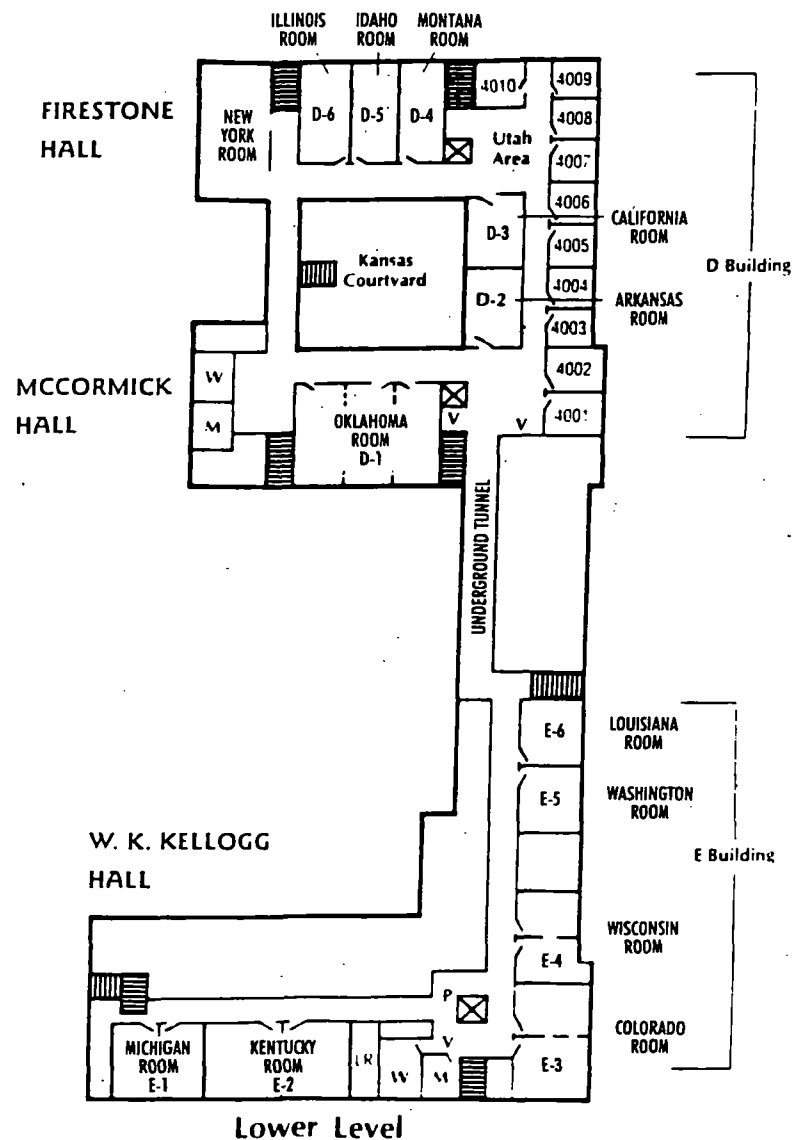
## MEETING ROOMS

### Other Locations:

**REGISTRATION**—Ground Floor, J. C. Penney Hall – lobby area just inside main entrance

**AITON AUDITORIUM**—Lower level, J. C. Penney Hall

**HARDER DINING ROOM**—Ground floor, W. K. Kellogg Hall



Partnerships  
for  
Change

YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE

SUPPORTED BY  
NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER  
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
and the  
NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

PRESENTED BY  
**NRC** National  
YOUTH Resource Center  
SERVICES for Youth Services

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA  
COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION  
202 W. 8TH ST  
TULSA OK 74119-1419

SEPTEMBER 11 - 13, 1998  
NATIONAL 4-H CENTER  
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND

| FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                         | SEPTEMBER 11       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 10:00 am – 1:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | REGISTRATION            | J.C. Penny Lobby A |
| 1 – 1:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | LUNCH                   | Harder Dining Room |
| 2:00 – 3:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | OPENING SESSION         | Aiton Auditorium   |
| <b>THE FIRST LADY</b><br><b>Hillary Rodham Clinton</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                         |                    |
| Keynote Speaker, Eryca Kasse<br><i>Taking Our Lives into Our Own Hands!</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                         |                    |
| 3:00 – 4:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | SMALL GROUPS SESSION I  |                    |
| Small Group 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Jean Carpenter-Williams | Wisconsin B        |
| Small Group 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Joy Warren/Misty Hager  | California Room    |
| Small Group 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Becky Copeland          | Montana Room       |
| Small Group 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Brian Sullivan          | Illinois Room      |
| Small Group 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Rebecca Lane            | Idaho Room         |
| Small Group 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Emmitt Gill             | Louisiana Room     |
| Small Group 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Ann Newman              | Washington Room    |
| Small Group 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Peter Correia           | Wisconsin A        |
| Small Group 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Jim Walker              | Arkansas Room      |
| 4:30 – 5:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | FREE TIME               |                    |
| 5:30 – 6:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | DINNER                  | Harder Dining Room |
| 6:30 – 8:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | WORKSHOP SESSION I      |                    |
| Some workshops have been divided into two parts that are inter-related. In order to receive the full benefit, you are encouraged to attend both parts.                                                                                                                                                        |                         |                    |
| 1. Creative Tips for Leading Meetings, Workshops, and Group Activities - Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Wisconsin B             |                    |
| Jean Carpenter-Williams, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                         |                    |
| None of us are strangers to meetings. Whether you're planning or facilitating a meeting or leading an ice breaker, you can always use tips on making the most of your time in groups. Information shared in this workshop will lay the groundwork for practicing time management skills in Part 2.            |                         |                    |
| 2. Youth Advocacy - Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Arkansas Room           |                    |
| Joy Warren, California Youth Connection, San Francisco, CA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                         |                    |
| California Youth Connection (CYC) is composed of current and former foster youth 14 to 24 who advocate to improve the foster care system. Former foster youth Joy Warren shows how and why CYC youth are effective advocates. You'll also learn to be a successful advocate in your own state.                |                         |                    |
| 3. Keys to Effective Presentations - Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Montana Room            |                    |
| Sherri Haines; Tammi Cunningham, University of Tennessee, Nashville, TN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                         |                    |
| An interactive exploration of different learning styles, group involvement, and techniques of saying what you think and being heard. Learn to identify training skills and special abilities, both obvious and hidden, that can be tapped to involve all people as trainers and create dynamic presentations. |                         |                    |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. Building Youth Advisory Boards — Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Illinois Room                                                                                                             |
| Sandy Toledo, Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL and Kimberly Veber, Miami, FL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |
| Explains the history, goals and accomplishments of Florida's Foster Teen Youth Advisory board, plus the "nuts and bolts" of foundation building from local to regional to a state level board.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                           |
| 5. Youth Development: What Is It? — Part 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Idaho Room                                                                                                                |
| Rebecca Lane, National Network for Youth, Washington, DC; Becky Copeland, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                           |
| Whether you're a youth or work with youth, this 2-part workshop lets you explore what youth development is about. Explore the youth development framework and how to apply it to every day situations. We'll build upon the knowledge of youth and adults in the room. Part 2 is <i>How Do I Do It?</i>                                                                            |                                                                                                                           |
| 6. What You Need to Know to Get the Job You Want                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Louisiana Room                                                                                                            |
| Reesa Rappaport, Red Lobster Training Division, Washington, D. C.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                           |
| Focus on the skills needed to perform effectively in a job interview. Among the skills that are addressed are making a good first impression, dressing appropriately, and answering questions.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                           |
| 7. Communication Is More Than Words                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Washington Room                                                                                                           |
| Ann Newman, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                           |
| Working with different people means knowing how to communicate well. Using "True Colors" we'll look at our personality style, the personality style of others, and how we communicate with them. This is a fun way to explore our values, beliefs, and stressors and how they influence our perceptions of people unlike us and how we can interact to work effectively with them. |                                                                                                                           |
| 8. Diversity: The Color of Us                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Wisconsin A                                                                                                               |
| Peter R. Correia III, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                           |
| Through the examination of perceptions and personal roots, we discover the value of our differences and how, in this decade of the 90s, we move toward the color of us-diversity.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                           |
| 9. Positive Personal Power                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | California Room                                                                                                           |
| Misty Hager, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                           |
| Explore ways to recognize and increase personal power. Activities, including designing a T-shirt, are used to point the way toward building self-esteem.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                           |
| 8:00 – 8:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | BREAK                                                                                                                     |
| 8:15 – 9:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | GENERAL SESSION II<br>Pantastik Pan Groove<br>A steel band drum group<br>Junior Fields, Washington DC<br>Aiton Auditorium |
| 9:30 – 11:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | SNACK AND SOCIAL TIME<br>Recreation Center                                                                                |
| 11:00 – 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | BED PREP                                                                                                                  |
| 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | GOOD NIGHT!                                                                                                               |

| SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                     | SEPTEMBER 12       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 7:00 – 8:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | BREAKFAST           | Harder Dining Room |
| 9:00 – 10:30 am                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | WORKSHOP SESSION II |                    |
| 10. Creative Tips for Leading Meetings, Workshops, and Group Activities - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                   | Wisconsin B         |                    |
| Jean Carpenter-Williams, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                    |                     |                    |
| Let's put the skills we learned in part one to work. Practice your group leadership skills, and fine tune them with the help of participant feedback. It is assumed that participants have attended part one of this workshop.                                     |                     |                    |
| 11. Youth Advocacy - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Arkansas Room       |                    |
| Joy Warren, California Youth Connection, San Francisco, CA                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                     |                    |
| Participants put the lessons learned in Part I into action. In small groups, you develop a plan for changing a policy, practice, or law which affects foster youth. Groups have an opportunity to present plans and receive feedback.                              |                     |                    |
| 12. Keys to Effective Presentations - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Montana Room        |                    |
| Sherri Haines; Tammi Cunningham, University of Tennessee, Nashville, TN                                                                                                                                                                                            |                     |                    |
| To build on part one, participants will put what they know into practice. Through developing and delivering presentations, participants explore how to take skills learned and put them to work back at home.                                                      |                     |                    |
| 13. Building Youth Advisory Boards - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Illinois Room       |                    |
| Sandy Toledo, Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL and Kimberly Veber, Miami, FL                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |                    |
| Building on our foundation, learn how we sustain our state Youth Advisory Board through both stability and change. Future goals, positive missions, and constant maintenance are topics of discussion.                                                             |                     |                    |
| 14. Youth Development: How Do I Do It? - Part 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Idaho Room          |                    |
| Rebecca Lane, National Network for Youth, Washington, DC; Becky Copeland, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                   |                     |                    |
| Whether you're a youth or work with youth, this 2-part workshop lets you explore what youth development is about. Explore the youth development framework and how to apply it to every day situations. We'll build upon knowledge of youth and adults in the room. |                     |                    |
| 15. What You Need to Know to Get the Job You Want (repeat)                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Louisiana Room      |                    |
| Reesa Rappaport, Red Lobster Training Division, Washington, D. C.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                     |                    |
| 16. Communication Is More Than Words (repeat)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Washington Room     |                    |
| Ann Newman, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                     |                    |
| 17. Diversity: The Color of Us (repeat)                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Wisconsin A         |                    |
| Peter R. Correia III, National Resource Center for Youth Services, Tulsa, OK                                                                                                                                                                                       |                     |                    |



# 18. All Stressed Out and No One to Choke

California Room

Ann Fry, The Better Way, Austin, TX

The pressure's on, your stress level is percolating at overflow! What do you do? This "play shop" will give you hands-on, fun techniques for chasing that stress away—the playful way! Come with your sense of humor in charge and learn very effective ways to manage stress. You'll have a blast!

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                            |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 10:30-10:45 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | BREAK                                                                                      |                    |
| 10:45 am – 12:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                    | SMALL GROUPS SESSION II                                                                    |                    |
| Small Group 1                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jean Carpenter-Williams                                                                    | Wisconsin B        |
| Small Group 2                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Misty Hager                                                                                | California Room    |
| Small Group 3                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Becky Copeland                                                                             | Montana Room       |
| Small Group 4                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Brian Sullivan                                                                             | Illinois Room      |
| Small Group 5                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Rebecca Lane                                                                               | Idaho Room         |
| Small Group 6                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Emmitt Gill                                                                                | Louisiana Room     |
| Small Group 7                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ann Newman                                                                                 | Washington Room    |
| Small Group 8                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Peter Correia                                                                              | Wisconsin A        |
| Small Group 9                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Jim Walker                                                                                 | Arkansas           |
| 12:15 – 1:15 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                        | LUNCH                                                                                      | Harder Dining Room |
| 1:30 – 6:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | SIGHT-SEEING AT THE CAPITOL<br>DINNER AT UNION STATION                                     |                    |
| Buses will drop off at the Museum of Natural History, 14th and Constitution Avenue N.W. and <b>pick up at Union Station</b> , 40 Massachusetts Avenue N.E. (3 blocks N. of U.S. Capitol between 1st St. N.E. and N.W.) |                                                                                            |                    |
| 6:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                | RETURN TO THE 4-H CENTER                                                                   |                    |
| 7:30 – 8:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | GENERAL SESSION III<br>Keynote Speaker, Ann Fry<br><i>Play Your Way to a Natural High!</i> | Aiton Auditorium   |
| 8:30 – 8:45 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | BREAK                                                                                      |                    |
| 8:45 – 9:45 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                         | GENERAL SESSION IV<br>Comedian, Justin Lookadoo<br><i>Twistin' Your Life Away</i>          | Aiton Auditorium   |
| 9:45 – 11:00 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SNACK AND SOCIAL TIME                                                                      | Recreation Center  |
| 11:00 – 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                       | BED PREP                                                                                   |                    |
| 11:30 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                               | GOOD NIGHT!                                                                                |                    |

| Sunday           |                                                                                                         | September 13       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 7:00 – 8:30 am   | BREAKFAST                                                                                               | Harder Dining Room |
| 9:00 – 10:30 am  | SMALL GROUPS SESSION III<br>Same rooms as Small Groups Session I and II                                 |                    |
| 10:30 – 10:45 am | BREAK                                                                                                   |                    |
| 10:45 – 11:45 am | GENERAL SESSION V<br>Listening Panel<br>Small Groups Report to Panel of Youth Development Professionals | Aiton Auditorium   |
| 11:45 – Noon     | CHECKOUT/ PICK UP SACK LUNCHES                                                                          |                    |

C97-076PVP/N:CONF/0898

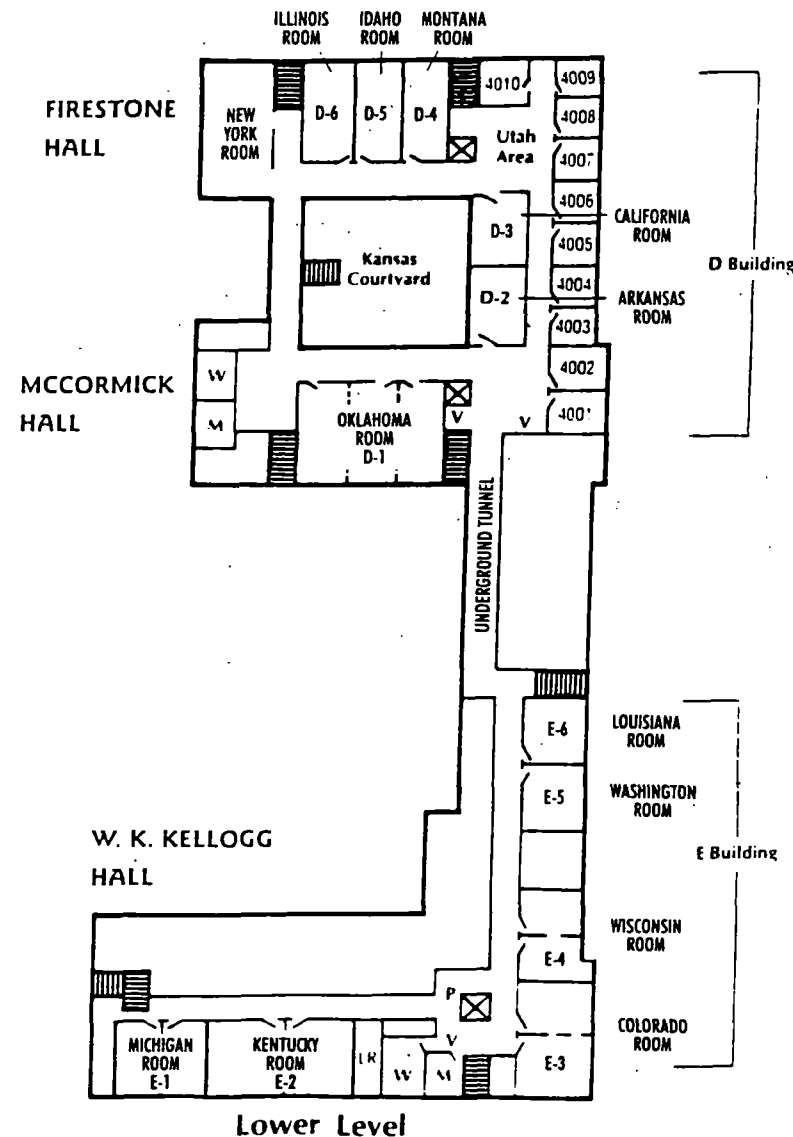
## MEETING ROOMS

### Other Locations:

**REGISTRATION**—Ground Floor, J. C. Penney Hall – lobby area just inside main entrance

**AITON AUDITORIUM**—Lower level, J. C. Penney Hall

**HARDER DINING ROOM**—Ground floor, W. K. Kellogg Hall



Partnerships  
for  
Change

YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE

SUPPORTED BY  
NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER  
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and the  
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PRESENTED BY  
**NRC** National  
YOUTH Resource Center  
SERVICES for Youth Services

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA  
COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION  
202 W. 8TH ST  
TULSA OK 74119-1419

SEPTEMBER 11 - 13, 1998  
NATIONAL 4-H CENTER  
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**

**DESTINATION FUTURE '98**

**NATIONAL 4-H CLUB**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 1998**

Thank you, Joy, for that wonderful introduction. Listening to you today reminded me a bit of myself -- and how excited but scared I was in my first year at Yale Law School. I'm so impressed with the extraordinary things you have already accomplished in your life -- and what you must have overcome to get where you are today.

As Joy mentioned, I met last year with a number of young people who were active with the California Youth Connection -- a remarkable organization of young adults in foster care or in transition out who share a passionate commitment to improving the lives of foster children. And at that meeting, I met other young people like all of you here today -- who also had dreams; and talent; and the courage to keep going. I was so impressed with them and what they had to say. And that's why I wanted to come here today -- to meet all of you, and to welcome you to this important conference.

I want to acknowledge some of the people who done so much over the years to improve the lives -- and the futures -- of those in foster care. Deep appreciation to Jim Walker -- director and founder of the National Resource Center for Youth Services at the University of Oklahoma -- which is sponsoring this important Conference. A special thank you for the hard work of his talented staff -- including Peter Correia (CORE-AY-YA) and Susan Shellbar -- who have done so much to make this conference a success. I also want to thank one of the most respected people in the field -- and a longtime friend -- Carol Williams -- director of the Children's Bureau at the Department of Health and Human Services. And I want commend the many advocates and social workers and foster parents here today for the work you do every day on the front lines to make a positive difference in the lives of our children.

Making foster care work better for families and children has been a passion of mine throughout my life. And in my work -- as a lawyer and advocate, both here in Washington, DC, and in Arkansas -- I've learned a few things along the way: that young people in foster care face many of the same challenges as kids your age across the nation -- and have many of the same needs -- but that you have special challenges that need special attention.

Let's face it. Growing up in the best of circumstances isn't easy. Like all young people, you need a loving and safe home; the opportunity to get a good education and a job; and access to health care. You need support, and guidance, and nurturing discipline, and someone to believe in you. At an event in the White House a few years ago -- during National Adoption Month -- a 13-year old girl in foster care in Kansas spoke about her deepest longings: "I would have a place that I would call home; a room that I would call my room; I would have a family that I could love and would love me back."

These are things that all kids need. But as foster children -- you didn't get a lot of the support that others often take for granted. You had to face the pain of separation; maybe you had to change schools a lot; and you may have been in many different foster families. Despite the odds against you, so many of you succeed. But too many young people are not able to fully realize their talents. As one foster child told me in California -- "A lot of foster kids are missing those moments when someone says they care, or 'Congratulations.' " So much good in life happens because someone helped us -- and believed in us. And that's why all of us are here today -- to find better ways of helping you get those supports -- so you can thrive and succeed.

I'm proud that this Administration -- and this President -- has made important progress to improve and reform America's foster care system. We've passed the family and medical leave law -- which gives time off to parents to adopt a child; we've provided a tax credit for families who adopt; and worked to make foster care and adoption free from discrimination and delays based on race, culture, and ethnicity.

And last year, we took an historic step to improve the lives of children in foster care -- when the President signed the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997. When he signed that bill at the White House -- the President said "We have put in place the building blocks of giving all of our children what should be their fundamental right: a chance at a decent safe home; an honorable, orderly, positive upbringing; a chance to live out their dreams and their God-given capacities."

That bill made some important changes in the foster care system -- and will help us meet our national goal to double the nation's annual adoption rate. The bill shortens the time that states have to place kids in permanent homes; and strengthens support to states for services that help families stay together -- when that is possible -- and promote adoption and other permanent placements when that is not. Most importantly -- it makes the health and safety of children the first priority. There are over 500,000 children in our foster care system -- and this legislation took important steps to ensure that more of them will be living in safer, more stable, loving, and permanent homes.

Yet as many benefits as were created by that legislation -- we recognize that it didn't address the particular needs of many of you here today -- kids aging out of the system, and making the tough transition to living on your own. And about 65,000 young people like yourselves will "age out" in the next three years.

So we are committed to doing a better job of addressing the important needs that you face. That's why I am so pleased today to announce a series of grants -- more than \$1 million devoted to making state and local programs that serve young people work better for them. Those grants -- from the Department of Health and Human Services -- will help nine states to strengthen their youth development strategies -- in order to give young people most at risk the skills and opportunities they need to grow into healthy, independent, and contributing adults. Too often programs focus on telling kids what to stay away from -- instead of providing opportunities they can say yes to. To me, the most important shift that is taking place today is a growing commitment to focus on what young people like yourselves need to lead their own lives -- and contribute to the community.

We have much to do of course. You know better than I do that these transitions can be far from smooth. Too often, children face extraordinary challenges -- like homelessness; and difficulty finishing high school and enrolling in college and finding new jobs. Too often, they can't get access to health care or mental health care, and don't get the life skills they need to survive in today's world.



While we know there is much hard work ahead, we also know that there many programs across the country that work -- and that serve as models for how we can support you better. And I've learned that many of them exist as a result of your advocacy and leadership. Programs in Texas and Florida, for example, promote college tuition assistance to young people in foster care. In Los Angeles County, set-aside entry-level jobs are available for kids aging out of foster care. Massachusetts has a teen parent transitional living program to help young mothers aging out of foster care with parenting and transitional living. And the California Youth Connection is becoming a national model of how to bring young teens together to form a network of support and advocacy. In fact, many states are recognizing the important benefits of bringing young people together -- through teen conferences like this one -- where you have the opportunity to support each and other -- and learn from each other.

I believe one of the most important missions ahead of us is to help more of you gain access to health care. It is outrageous that so many young people who are aging out of foster care find themselves among the uninsured. Some states are addressing this issue -- but we must do better.

We must also strengthen the Federal Independent Living Program, which provides 85,000 young people with critical help in their transition to independence. It helps young people like yourselves earn a high school diploma and access to vocational training. And it helps young people learn daily living skills that we all need -- like budgeting, and locating a place to live, planning a career, and finding a job. It's time to review this program and evaluate its effectiveness, and learn which programs are working -- and share these models with other communities. We need all of you here today to help us strengthen this important federal program.

Some adults won't admit this -- but I'm ready to put myself on the line. We don't have all the answers. We don't always know what's best for our own children -- let alone others. That's why what you are doing here at this conference - - by giving us your ideas and recommendations on what we should be doing differently -- or better -- is so important. You are the experts, and your voices must be heard -- if we are to make significant progress in this difficult area. Tell us what works. And tell us what doesn't work. And help us find out what programs at the state and local level should be developed nationally.

I know that the American people believe as I do that this issue is too important to ignore. You deserve our attention and our investment. In fact, a recent national survey showed that the public strongly supports services that assist teens who are making the transition from foster care to independent adulthood. More than three-quarters of those polled were willing to pay more in state taxes to provided extended help -- including job training and placement services, college tuition assistance, and housing. [The survey was funded by the Casey Family Program, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the David and Lucille Packard foundation, and the Child Welfare League of America.]

This afternoon, I want to leave you with one final message. We're all here because we support you; and believe in you; and want you to be able to fulfill your God-given potential. And I will continue to work as hard as I can to make sure that you get the services and support you need to succeed after foster care.

But I also want you to know how much we need you -- to be active in your communities; and to contribute to the building of a better world.

The theme of this conference -- Destination Future -- is a fitting one. As we approach the challenges and possibilities of not only a new century but a new millennium, we will need the talents and energy and participation of every one of you here today to succeed. Our destinies are intertwined. Each one of you has such extraordinary potential -- not only to transform your own lives -- but to transform ours as well. Never forget that.

Thank you.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 SHATTO PLACE  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90020  
(213) 351-5602

ADMINISTRATION FOR  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
80 LAFAYETTE STREET - 18TH FL  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013  
(212) 266-2100 • Fax: (212) 266-2250



PETER DIGRE  
Director

NICHOLAS SCOPETTA  
*Commissioner*

**TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD  
AND INDEPENDENCE FOR OUR FOSTER YOUTH  
EMANCIPATION INITIATIVE**

**As we continue discussions around moving people from welfare to work, this important initiative could ensure that many young people, who are at significant risk of entering the welfare system, become productive citizens.**

While adoption remains our primary goal for as many children as possible, for some children it is simply not a reality. Each year, thousands of youth who have grown up in the foster care system emancipate to independence without reliable and legally permanent families. Some have no support at all.

It becomes our responsibility as a society to provide these young people, who are proven to be at a heightened risk of homelessness or involvement in the criminal justice system, with the opportunity to succeed as adults.

We therefore, recommend that the President:

- I. **DECLARE NATIONAL GOALS** for children who become independent after aging out of foster care.

These goals should include providing every youth with:

- a safe and comfortable place to live
- an opportunity to continue education or vocational training
- life skills training which supports independence
- employment opportunities or adequate income (i.e. SSI)
- access to quality health care
- access to community services including family planning and drug/alcohol treatment
- ties to community mentors
- adequate clothing and necessary personal items
- availability of records, including those pertaining to their education, health care, foster care, citizenship status, and driver's license
- naturalization education and information for non-citizen youth
- continuing access to supportive services during the most vulnerable years immediately following emancipation

Every state must develop a plan to achieve these goals.

**II. ENCOURAGE STATES TO DEVELOP** employment, housing and scholarship opportunities for emancipating foster youth.

States must develop a plan to target local, state, federal and private sector employment, housing and higher education scholarship opportunities for the special population of emancipating foster youth.

Initiatives should include:

- blending/earmarking public and private housing programs and foundation resources to create apartment spaces for emancipated youth.
- earmarking Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funds and encouraging the private sector to create jobs for all older foster youth.
- encouraging local government and contractors to hire emancipating foster youth.
- encouraging blending of private contributions with college, state and federal scholarships to enable emancipating foster youth to go to college.
- creating Statewide support networks for emancipating foster youth. Such networks should provide resources, peer and adult supporters to help plan successful transition to adulthood

**III. LOWER THE AGE FOR PARTICIPATION** in the Independent Living Program, from 16 to 14, enabling us to engage youth earlier in preparation for this most difficult transition. Special attention to educational needs is critical at this time.



# **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**425 Shatto Place - Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602**

**PETER DIGRE**  
Director

## **EMANCIPATION PLANNING AND SUCCESS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**  
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**The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is responsible for the care and supervision of 73,000 abused and neglected children. Every year, almost 1,000 youth age out of (emancipate from) our foster care system.**

- In Los Angeles County 300 apartment spaces and crucial support services for emancipating foster youth are in the process of being created over the next three years, largely resulting from grants from the Weingart Foundation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- In Los Angeles County, targeted employment efforts will generate over 2,000 jobs this year for older foster youth. Employment programs include summer youth employment, as well as focused recruitment efforts by corporations such as Universal Studios, Edwards Theaters and Jack-In-The-Box.
- In Los Angeles County, the Department of Children and Family Services hired over 70 emancipating foster youth, with excellent results, including employing 30 of them as emancipation assistants to help younger children prepare for independence.
- Last year, in Los Angeles County, 500 out of our 800 emancipating foster youth requested college or trade school scholarship assistance. We honored every single request, thanks to the generosity of our community.
- The California Youth Connection (CYC) is a statewide organization of foster youth that was created in 1988. Los Angeles County is home to twelve CYC chapters, representing approximately 200 young adults. The group offers foster teens and newly emancipated young adults (ages 14-24) the opportunity to have their collective voices heard in a positive and effective way.
- Last year, Los Angeles County initiated the "Early Start to Emancipation Program" (ESTEP) which provides 14 and 15 year olds with pre-Independent Living Program training. As part of this program youth 900 youth were assessed to determine basic educational skills, and provided with tutoring services if necessary. In addition, in cooperation with our schools, we work to ensure that children's educational needs are appropriately addressed (i.e., through special education or magnet programs).

# 15 Graduates of Foster Care Get Their Own Place

■ **Aid:** Complex offers lessons in life, smooths the transition to full independence. For some, it is an alternative to the streets.

By MATEA GOLD  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

You're 18, just out of the county foster care system and on your own for the first time.

County officials call this step emancipation, but your future might look like this: No parents to help out with the first month's rent—or anything else, for that matter. No credit to get an apartment. You crash at friends' places and shelters, trying to stay afloat. Sometimes you land on the street because you have nowhere else to go.

But the future for 15 young people leaving foster care this month is decidedly different: A new, two-story apartment building. Monthly allowance for food and

expenses. A computer lab with Internet access. Daily courses in life skills, like balancing a checkbook, budgeting and writing a resume. A new job. And maybe, for the first time, their own home.

This was moving week for the first batch of residents at the Margarita Mendez Apartments, a new complex in East Los Angeles built especially for youths leaving the county foster care system—the first such facility in the state.

Every year, about 1,000 foster care "graduates" are emancipated in Los Angeles County. For many, the exhilaration of being out of the "system" is quickly tempered by the realities of living on their own.

Without a stable family, many become independent, without knowing how to grocery shop, look for housing or find a job.

Almost half end up on the streets within six months, officials say.

"There is a crying need" for housing such as the Mendez Apartments, said Fred Ali, executive director of Covenant House California, a shelter for homeless and runaway youths. "Finally, these kids are being discovered. They were just slipping through the cracks when they turned 18."

Mindful of the number of former foster children who end up homeless, and anxious to provide emancipated youth with real-life skills, county officials collaborated with

housing officials to design a facility that provides an array of support and resources for these new adults.

The peach and beige complex, named for a pioneering county social worker, has nine town-house-style units, each one furnished with overstuffed couches, a table and beds donated by community groups. Skylights let sunlight pour into the apartments. An en-

closed courtyard allows children to play outside safely.

Next door to their new apartments, the young residents can work in a fully furnished computer lab or study in the multimedia library. Every day, a social worker will offer counseling and courses in life skills.

Funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the \$1.1-million facility was built by the county and the Community Enhancement Corporation, a nonprofit community development group. Additional funding came from the nonprofit United Friends of the Children and the Weingart Foundation.

On Thursday, the young residents hauled in boxes, unpacked clothes and excitedly explored their new digs.

"This is like a dream," said Arturo, 20, who can only be identified by his first name until he is emancipated next week. He has been in foster care for the last three years.

"It's a big step for me, becoming an adult," he said. "Without this—I would have been stuck. I would have had no support."

Gazing around the courtyard lined with new trees, he said: "This is like it was made for us."

Groups like Covenant House have found that many young people like Arturo need more than just shelter, Ali said.

"If you're going to keep them off the streets, you have to surround them with a variety of services," he said. "Unless you have that, there's not much of a chance."

The Mendez Apartments, officials hope, will provide a bridge from the insulated world of foster care to the realities of living alone for the first time.

The residents can get a job with the Community Enhancement Corporation, which will hire them to rehabilitate buildings in the area.

Matilda Romero, the resident manager who lives in the building full-time, promises to be "la abuelita"—the grandmother—to these youths, cooking them meals and showing them how to take care of a home.

"This will be a big family," said Romero, smiling as the first tenants unpacked their boxes.

Joshua Markila was the first to move in, and he has quickly settled into his apartment.

The dishes and glasses are already stacked in rows in his cabinets. Upstairs, his bed is neatly made with a bright green blanket.

"I'm trying to make it like a home," he said, smiling bashfully.

Markila, 19, had been in foster care and group homes since he was 2. When he was emancipated last year, he ended up in a shelter, and then on the streets of Hollywood

for three months.

"Most group homes pay for your phone bills, your food," he said. "When you come out of that, you don't know what it takes. What's good about this place is that they treat you like an adult, like you're on your own."

But, he added, "you can't take your freedom for granted—you have to be responsible."

Residents can stay in the apartments up to 18 months, but they have to work or go to school full time. Each one is required to pay the county 10% of their monthly income, which is put in a trust and returned to them when they leave.

Currently, the county Department of Children and Family Services houses about 100 former foster children in apartments scattered throughout Los Angeles as part of their Bridges to Independence program. About 50 more are on a waiting list.

But the Mendez Apartments are the first designed for this population, and with additional HUD grants, officials hope to build more units like them.

"What we need to do is extend that notion of a family," said Sharyn Logan, an administrator with the county's Department of Children and Family Services. "This will give them a head start on life, and they'll be ready to face the world a lot better."

In the next several years, officials said, they hope to house 300 to 400 young people leaving foster



care.

"It's a real blessing to have a place like this," said Rafael Angulo, the county social worker assigned to the Mendez residents. "A lot of these kids are not used to doing things on their own. It's really an opportunity for them to redefine their lives. If you're in the system, you're a foster child, period. Now, you can figure out who you are, outside of that."

For some, the center is a home they've never had.

Idalia Lopez wanted to cry when she walked into her new apartment.

"I was really emotional," Lopez, 18, said in Spanish. "It's all so beautiful. I've never lived in something like this."

Lopez had been in foster homes, off and on, since she was 14. "I felt very alone," she said.

Now she plans to finish high school and study cosmetology. "This is really important because you can learn to be independent, save money and help yourself," she said.

Katrina, 18, said living in the Mendez Apartments will help her reach her goal of becoming a social worker. Like Arturo, she is waiting to be emancipated.

"I've been there, so I can understand the kids," she said, as she unpacked dishes and pots in her new kitchen Thursday. She has lived in foster homes for the last 11 years.

The apartment will help her save money while she takes classes at East Los Angeles College and works full time.

"I think this can help out a lot of teenagers," she said. "It's someplace to come home to."

# California Youth Connection Conference Report

## *The Consumer Perspective on Foster Care: Legislators, Child Welfare Professionals, & Advocates Listen to Foster Youth's Proposals to Improve the System*

California Youth Connection (CYC) is a foster youth advocacy organization which is unparalleled in any other state in the nation. The membership of this group consists entirely of current and former foster youth ages 14-24 who work to improve foster care. CYC youth pursue change through advocacy on the local level, through promoting foster youth participation in policy development, and by educating the public on the needs of youth in out of home care.

In August of 1997, CYC held its 10th semi-annual statewide conference in Los Angeles, California. At this event, over 150 youth presented their proposals for reform to a panel of "Distinguished Leaders."

### **The Panel**

*Assembly Member Louis Caldera*  
*Assembly Member Carl Washington*  
*Peter Digre, Director, L.A. County Department of Children & Family Services*  
*Robin Nixon, Child Welfare League of America*  
*Carole Shauffer, Director, Youth Law Center*  
*Georgia Prover, Professor, University of California at Los Angeles*  
*Deanna Carlson, Outreach Coordinator, Family Research Council*  
*Nina Grayson, Director, California Services for Children*

The youth focused on the following issues:

### **The Issues**

- ◆ Adoption
- ◆ Kinship Care
- ◆ Group Homes
- ◆ The Needs of Younger Foster Children & the Needs of Emancipating Youth

## The Proposals

**Kinship Care** At a time when the number of children living with relative foster care providers is rapidly increasing, relatives and even child welfare officials are calling for less supervision and oversight by child welfare agencies. The Director of the California Department of Social Services claims that it is time for the government to get out of the business of kinship care.

At the 1997 Child Welfare League of America Conference on Kinship Care, many relatives spoke out in favor of decreasing social worker visits and child welfare agency requirements for kin providers.

CYC youth selected kinship care as a topic because they are eager to add their voices to the conversation. CYC youth believe that it is best for foster children to stay with family *as long as* the relative can provide a safe home. These youth know the important issues in kinship care from first hand experience.

The youth identified the problems they feel need attention in kinship care and proposed the following solutions to the problems. Solutions appear in bold and their comments appear in italics. Direct quotes from the youth appear in bold italics.

### Safety

**\*Do not place children with relatives unless the relative has a criminal record clearance and child abuse background check.**

*No one should assume that a relative will be a good caretaker simply because he or she is an aunt, uncle, or grandparent. Several youth reported experiencing problems in relative placements, including living with relatives who abused alcohol or drugs, enduring abusive treatment, inadequate food, and being clothed in "rags" while the caretaker's biological children had adequate clothing.*

**\*Establish a "trial period" of 3 months for relative placements. Conduct drop-in visits, if necessary, and quarterly inspections. Provide youth with access to an ombudsman.**

### Social Workers

**\*Educate social workers on the special needs of children in kinship care.**

*Social workers should pay special attention to children placed with kin because these children may be less likely to report problems in the home due to loyalty issues. Just as many children feel obligated to protect their parents, they may similarly feel that they have an obligation to protect their grandparents or other relatives.*

## **References**

- \*Require prospective relative caretakers to submit letters of reference.**

*You need references to get a job at McDonald's, but you don't need any references before you are entrusted with the care of a foster child.*

## **Training and Support**

- \*Provide relatives with training developed specifically for kin providers.**

*They should train relatives just as they train non-relative foster parents. Several of the youth recalled negative experiences which they believe might have been prevented if their relative foster providers had received training:*

*"My aunt always used to tell my sisters and me that we were not her kids and she openly treated our cousins differently. I think it would have been better if she had been trained."*

*"I can remember my aunt and my mom fighting for hours. My mom would be on the porch at 2 in the morning, drunk and screaming that she wanted to see her kids. A foster parent would have called the police, but I think my aunt put up with it because it was her sister. I think someone should have told my aunt that was not appropriate. It was painful for me and my siblings."*

- \*Establish joint support groups with relative providers and youth in their care.**

**Adoption** There is an enormous pro-adoption movement gathering strength in this country. In November of 1997, President Clinton signed into law legislation which is designed to move more children from foster care into adoption. In California, advocates are teaming up with child welfare agencies to train social workers on the philosophy that permanence is essential to the success of children and that, if children cannot be safely reunified with their parents, then adoption is the only option which guarantees permanence. CYC youth feel it is important to share their insights and opinions about adoption with social workers, judges, attorneys, advocates, and the general public.

## **The Needs of Youth**

- \*Maintain biological family ties when appropriate.**
- \*Consult children about adoption and include them in decision making about their lives.**
- \*Make an effort to place children with families with similar cultural backgrounds.**

### **Information Sharing**

**\*Increase open adoptions.**

**\*Make available to adopted youth any information, including family history and family medical history.**

*Information helps youth to develop a sense of identity. Also, providing medical history is clearly important for youth's health needs.*

*"I should be able to tell my doctor if my family has a history of heart disease. I can't do this without information."*

**\*Provide adopted youth with the right to review their records when they turn 18.**

### **Siblings**

**\*Never separate brothers and sisters unless a child is endangered by keeping siblings together.**

*Adoption should not take priority over keeping siblings together.*

**\*Establish a right to visitation for siblings.**

*If siblings are not adopted together, then it is essential to a child's well-being and sense of identity to maintain sibling relations.*

*CYC youth would like to serve on a task force to address ways to ensure that siblings have the opportunity to maintain relationships after adoption*

**\*Give siblings the right to participate in the decision making process for adoption of another sibling. This participation should include getting to know the prospective adoptive family and having veto power over the ultimate decision.**

**\*Train prospective adoptive parents on the importance of maintaining contact between siblings, including visits, phone calls, exchanging letters and pictures.**

### **Ensuring Quality Care**

**\*Keep adoption cases open for 24 months.**

*Because many youth have lived in poor quality foster homes, they are concerned about the fact that adoptive families are not supervised. Adoption cases should remain open for 24 months as a trial period to determine if the child is safe and satisfied in the adoptive home.*

**Group Homes** Often youth are placed in group homes because there are not enough openings in foster homes. Group homes differ from foster homes in many aspects: they use "shift care", which means that staff rotate shifts in caring for the youth in the home and they are often structured on a system which correlates behavior with privileges. Many CYC youth are current or former group home residents. Their personal experiences have inspired them to propose the following ideas for improving the lives of children in the system.

- \*Make group homes more home like.

- \*Decrease group home placements.

*Many youth are placed in group homes when they don't need to be there. More youth should have the opportunity to live in foster homes.*

- \*Make group home outings more family oriented.

- \*Create a group home task force in every county and include foster youth participants.

- \*Ensure that probation youth are not treated differently than dependent youth who live in the same group home together.

### **The Rights of Youth in Group Homes**

- \*Ensure that youth do not suffer retaliation for filing grievances.

- \*Require social workers to keep confidential all information shared by youth.

### **Accountability**

- \*Require group homes to disclose their expenditures to the youth in their care.

- \*Require counties to specify the amount of money that group homes are required to spend on clothing per month.

- \*Require group homes to maintain records of the food they serve and require nutritionists to review food service to ensure that the youth are provided with adequate food.

### **Staff**

- \*Screen group home staff more carefully.

- \*Establish procedures and guidelines for staff dismissal.

- \*Include foster youth in screening process for prospective staff.

- \*Ensure better trained staff. Use current and former group home youth to train staff.

**\*Hire racially diverse staff.**

**\*Hire young staff with personal experience living in group homes.**

### **Services for Teens**

**\*Create a special category of true emancipation homes which focus on preparing youth for independence, where the youth are actually involved in the operation of the home.**

**\*Establish guidelines for group homes regarding preparation of youth for emancipation. Require group homes to make independent living training a part of daily life.**

*Youth should have the same opportunity that youth who live with their biological parents have in terms of helping to make meals, iron clothes, and perform other tasks in preparation for life on their own.*

**\*Prohibit group homes from preventing youth from participating in extra-curricular activities such as sports and student government.**

### **Independent Living Program Participation**

**\*Enforce the requirement that group homes provide access to Independent Living Program to youth.**

**\*Do not permit group homes to deny access to ILP as a form of discipline.**

**\*Require county ILP staff to visit group homes in order to ensure youth are provided access to ILP. County ILP staff should report to Community Care Licensing those group homes which do not.**

### **Community Care Licensing**

**\*Create confidential group home evaluations to be conducted by the youth residents. Keep evaluations on file with Community Care Licensing (CCL.)**

**\*Require CCL to visit group homes every 3-6 months.**

**\*Require CCL to interview all residents during every visit to a group home.**

**\*Require CCL investigators to interview youth privately.**

**\*Create "emancipation assistant" positions for former foster youth who can assist CCL with development and implementation of youth evaluations. Emancipation assistants would also act as advocates for youth whose rights are restricted or denied in group homes.**

## **The Needs of Younger Foster Children & the Needs of Emancipating Youth**

Younger children who enter foster care are particularly vulnerable because they are unable to advocate for themselves. With

caseloads increasing along with the numbers of young children in out of home care, more children are put at risk if social workers are less able to provide adequate services which reflect the unique developmental needs of the child.

The State of California terminates all support and supervision of foster youth once they turn 18, the age of "emancipation." Without family to fall back on, many emancipated youth become homeless, drop out of college, or return to the abusive and neglectful homes from which they were initially removed.

CYC youth stress the need for specialized services for both younger and older youth and don't want either group to be overlooked.

### **Social Workers**

**\*Reduce social worker caseloads so that they can pay more attention to individual youth.**

*Social workers often do not return phone calls and don't have enough time for youth*

**\*In addition to regular monthly social worker visits, mandate surprise visits every 6 months.**

**\*Require social workers to ensure pre-placement visits to prospective foster homes and group homes.**

*It is important to make every effort to find youth appropriate placements in order to avoid the disruption of multiple placements.*

### **Services**

**\*Create a mentor program for younger youth. Older and emancipated youth can serve as mentors.**

*Youth would like to give back to the system by volunteering, mentoring younger foster youth, educating foster parents, social workers, lawyers, and the general public about the needs of foster youth.*

**\*Teach youth their rights, i.e., their rights to be free from abuse, to adequate clothing, to an allowance, to participate in extracurricular activities, etc.**

**\*Provide tutoring.**



### **Preparation for Emancipation**

**\*Mandate that foster care be made available to youth up until the age of 21.**

*Currently, the state abdicates all responsibility for foster youth once they reach age 18. It is impossible to expect youth to establish complete independence at 18. Foster youth have no family on which they can rely for support or guidance, and many struggle in their transition to adulthood. Too many emancipated youth become homeless, are forced to drop out of college, or return to abusive environments.*

**\*Provide vocational training and internship opportunities.**

**\*Establish resource centers for emancipated youth which provide the following:**

Referrals to affordable housing  
Job referrals  
Access to computers.  
Create opportunities for recognition of achievement

**\*Expand transitional housing.**

**\*Create emancipation teams consisting of emancipated youth and specialized social workers who work together to prepare youth who leave the system at age 18.**

**\*Require that all youth have a copy of their birth certificate and social security card before they emancipate.**

### **Independent Living Programs**

**\*Expand the Independent Living Program (ILP) from its current service population of 16-18 year olds to 14-21 year olds.**

**\*Ensure that Independent Living Programs include the following:**

Household duties (cooking, cleaning, laundry)  
How to deal with peer pressure  
Self-esteem issues  
Leadership skills  
Personal hygiene  
Job etiquette  
Sex education  
Computer training  
Assistance with completing college and financial aid applications and researching

scholarships.  
Preparation for the SAT.  
College tours.

**\*Place cash incentives given to youth for attending ILP in the bank.**

### **Evaluations**

**\*Create placement evaluations to be completed by youth.**

*Social workers and foster care providers evaluate children when they leave placements but the youth never have an opportunity to evaluate the providers.*

Quotes to use either at the end or as sidebars:

"You are not the leaders of the future. You are today's leaders."--Carole Shauffer, Director of the Youth Law Center, in response to CYC youth who called themselves "leaders of the future."

"I have been to hundreds of meetings about how to improve foster care. I learned more today from you than in all of those meetings." Professor Georgia Prover, in comments to CYC youth after their presentations to a panel of "Distinguished Leaders."

FROM: ACF/OPS/OMS WASH. D.C. ID: 2022054928 PAGE 3/3

# HHS NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, Sept. 11, 1998

Contact: Michael Kharfen  
(202) 401-9215

## **HHS Awards Grants for Innovative Youth Development Projects**

HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton today announced the award of over \$1 million in Youth Development State Collaboration Demonstration Project grants to nine states to develop and support innovative youth development strategies. The announcement was made at a national conference for youth, Destination Future sponsored by the National Resource Center for Youth Services, at which many of the young people participating have been in the foster care system.

Each state will receive a grant of \$120,000. The states are: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, and Oregon. The grants will help the states identify, develop, and strengthen effective youth development strategies. Efforts will focus on young people at risk, such as teenagers who are leaving the foster care system, homeless and runaway youth, abused and neglected children, and others served in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

"The First Lady has said that it takes a village to raise a child and with these grants, states will engage entire communities in pro-active, youth development approaches that will emphasize positive outcomes for young people," said Secretary Shalala.

Programs with a youth development focus can offer young people the skills, knowledge and community support they need to function effectively. For the young people themselves, the efforts will promote a sense of competency, connection to others and to society as a whole, and a belief in control over one's own life. Successful strategies will be shared with program developers, managers and other youth service professionals across the country.

"Youth development is a community effort," said Olivia A. Golden, HHS assistant secretary for children and families. "To make it work, we need close collaboration among governments, communities, and organizations. These grants are designed to bring everybody together to make it happen."

Secretary Shalala also announced a new study to review and analyze data on the Independent Living Program, a Social Security Act title IV-E foster care program administered by HHS. The program was established in 1986 to help youth in foster care as they reach 18 years old make the transition to independent living by arranging educational and employment assistance, training in daily living skills, individual and group counseling, and a range of outreach programs. The report will also include examples of model program activities, information about problems and service delivery, shortcomings and gaps, and financial data.

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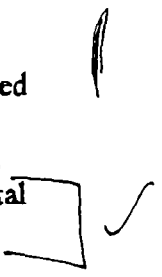
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Note. HHS press releases are available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.hhs.gov>.

Youth benefit from experiential learning and they need to belong to a group while maintaining their individuality. At the same time, they want and need adult support and interest. They also need to express opinions, challenge adult assumptions, develop the ability to make appropriate choices and learn to use new skills.

When young people are not given positive outlets for growth, they may find potentially damaging alternatives. Gang membership, for example, may address an adolescent's need for safety and membership in group, close friendships and opportunities for exercising decision-making skills and responsibility. However, it also places young people at high risk for drug use and exposure to violence and crime. In contrast, positive developmental opportunities meet adolescent needs while decreasing their exposure to destructive influences and reducing their involvement in risky behaviors. 

A rapidly changing society and a decreasing sense of community have reduced or eliminated many of the traditional ways that young people receive the support they need to move toward maturity and self-sufficiency. Additionally, increasing violence and hopelessness in many neighborhoods threaten young people's welfare and make developmental opportunities scarce in some communities. In such environments, a commitment by a community creating programs and services that meet young people's developmental needs is critical.

Programs with a youth development focus offer young people the skills, knowledge and community support they need to function effectively. The youth development approach is designed to focus on the positive outcomes desired by young people, not the negative outcomes that adults hope to prevent. The distinction may appear subtle, but it is a significant shift in policy and practice. Youth development moves the dialogue from one that focuses on youth with problems to one in which youth are seen as resources. In addition, youth development envisions a community effort to determine and provide, in concert with youth, the assistance and support youth need to grow into healthy adults.

The nine States and respective departments are as follows:

- Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
- Iowa Department of Human Rights, Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
- Maryland Department of Human Resources
- Massachusetts Office of Health and Human Services
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- New York Office of Children and Family Services
- Oregon Commission on Children and Families

**DESTINATION FUTURE**

*Partnerships for Change*

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**

PRESENTED BY  
**National Resource Center for Youth Services**

SUPPORTED BY  
**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**  
**NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH**

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