

FOSTERING FUTURES AGENDA:

<p>Welcome and introduction to the CalYOUTH Study</p> <p>9:30-9:45am</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Jeannine Balfour, Program Officer, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation</i> - <i>Mark Courtney; Professor, University of Chicago, and Chapin Hall Scholar</i>
<p>Connected or Not? Youth's Connections to Positive Social Institutions.</p> <p>9:45-11:00am</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Nathanael Okpych; CalYOUTH Researcher, University of Chicago</i> - <i>Barry Fox; CWS Manager, County of San Diego</i> - <i>Debbie Raucher; CA College Pathways Project Manager, John Burton Foundation</i> - <i>Maria Serrano; First Place for Youth; Opportunity Youth Collaborative Young Leader, Alliance for Children's Rights;</i>
<p>How is it Going at Home? Homelessness, Housing, and Housing Supports.</p> <p>11am-Noon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dominique Mikell; CalYOUTH Researcher, University of Chicago</i> - <i>Maurissa Sanders; Housing (THPP/THP+FC) Program Manager, L.A. County DCFS</i> - <i>Luis Madrid; Associate TAY Division Director, Aspiranet</i> - <i>Steven Ambrocio; Former Foster Youth</i>
<p>Noon-12:15pm</p>	<p>Box lunches served.</p>
<p>It's More than Just Survival!: Youth's Health and Well-Being.</p> <p>12:15-1:30pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Kune Park; CalYOUTH Researcher, University of Chicago</i> - <i>Candy Caceres; Director of TAY Services, Children's Institute, Inc.</i> - <i>Lynn Kleist; Health Care Services Chief, Orange County,</i> - <i>Kamari 'Kookie' Wells; First Place for Youth; Opportunity Youth Collaborative Young Leader, Alliance For Children's Rights;</i>
<p>Romantic Relationships and Parenting.</p> <p>1:30-2:30pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Brooke Stevenson; CalYOUTH Researcher, University of Chicago</i> - <i>Donna Fernandez; Program Manager, Los Angeles County DCFS</i> - <i>Barbara Facher; Health Care Social Worker, Alliance for Children's Rights</i> - <i>Asia Powe; Youth in Extended Foster Care, Alliance for Children's Rights</i>
<p>2:30-2:45pm</p>	<p>Break.</p>
<p>Bringing it All Together.</p> <p>2:45-4:00pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mark Courtney; Professor, University of Chicago, and Chapin Hall Scholar</i> - <i>Rochelle Trochtenberg; State Ombudsman for Foster Care, CA Dept. of Social Services</i> - <i>Hon. Michael Nash; Director, Los Angeles Office of Child Protection</i>
<p>4:00pm</p>	<p>Closing.</p>

SPEAKER BIOS

Panel 1: 9:45-11:00am | Connected or Not? Youth's Connections to Positive Social Institutions

Nathanael J. Okpych

Nathanael J. Okpych is the Project Director of the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH) and a student at the University of Chicago, where he is pursuing a doctoral degree at the School of Social Service Administration and a master's degree in biostatistics and epidemiology through the Department of Health Studies. He also holds a master's degree in clinical psychology from Duquesne University and a master's degree in social work from Rutgers University.

Barry Fox

Barry Fox is a California Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who has worked for the past three decades for the County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency in both Child Welfare Services and Behavioral Health Services. Mr. Fox is currently the Manager of CWS' Extended Foster Care Program and the Independent Living Skills Program. Previously, Mr. Fox was Manager of CWS' Residential and Wraparound Services and Manager of BHS' managed care program, known as TERM. Mr. Fox has also worked in BHS as a Mental Health Clinician, as a case-carrying social worker in CWS, and as a private practice therapist.

Debbie Raucher

Debbie Raucher is Project Director at California College Pathways. Ms. Raucher has worked in the social services field for more than 20 years including on AB12 implementation and developing solutions to homelessness. Ms. Raucher's experience includes the implementation of a "housing first" program model and managing the day to day delivery of both property management and supportive services to low-income and special needs populations.

Maria Serrano

Maria is currently attending Abram Friedman in Downtown Los Angeles and will be completing her high school diploma in May 2016. She will begin Santa Monica City College in Fall 2016. Her long term goal is to obtain a degree in Environmental Engineering. She currently works at The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf. Maria has been in foster care for more than four years. She is a part of First Place for Youth and is an Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) Young Leader, raising awareness about foster youth.

Panel 2: 11:00-Noon | How is it Going at Home? Homelessness, Housing, and Housing Supports

Dominique Mikell

Dominique Mikell is a research assistant for the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood (CalYOUTH) Study and a program evaluation intern at the Chicago Child Care Society. Dominique is a full-time student at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration pursuing an AM degree with a focus in Social Service Administration and Family Support Policy. Prior to joining CalYOUTH last year, Dominique was an undergraduate student at Stanford University conducting an independent research project on emotional intelligence development.

Maurissa Sanders

Maurissa Sanders has worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services since 1992. Maurissa received bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work from California State University, Pomona, and Long Beach, respectively. Early in her career, Maurissa worked as a field social worker in the Family Maintenance, Family Reunification and Family Preservation programs, as an emancipation trainer, scholarship coordinator and Independent Living Program/Transition Coordinator for DCFS. Currently, Maurissa works in DCFS' Youth Development Division's Housing Section as program manager for Transitional Housing Placement – Plus Foster Care (THP+FC).

Luis Madrid

Luis Madrid was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He graduated from the University of Long Beach and since 2009 he has been working with Aspiranet Family Foster Agency. He is currently the Associate TAY Division Director for Aspiranet's TAY Division providing support to the agency's entire TAY Division. Aspiranet's TAY Division is in 14 counties in California including Los Angeles.

Steven Ambrocio

Steven Ambrocio (21 years old) spent nine years in foster care where he faced with several challenges because of his sexual orientation. He lived in various foster homes and group homes and dealt with multiple placement changes. Still, Steven has successfully obtained his high school diploma, and is attending Pasadena City College. Steven works at Huntington Memorial Hospital as a Surgical Nursing Assistant. He hopes to transfer to Boston University and pursue medical school.

Panel 3: 12:15-1:30pm | It's More than Just Survival!: Youth's Health and Well-Being

Kune Park

Kune Park, MSW, is a doctoral student in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago and a research assistant for the California Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH). Her fields of interest are child welfare systems and services, education for vulnerable children and youth, and service integration between child welfare and other social services systems serving children and families. Park's research interests build upon her field practice in public schools, juvenile correctional facilities, state departments of children and family services, child welfare agencies, and research institutes. Prior to doctoral studies, Park was a Michigan-certified elementary school teacher.

Candy Caceres

Dr. Candy Caceres received her Bachelor's in Criminal Justice, master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Argosy University, and a doctorate in psychology with a specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Candy's passion involves developing programs, training, teaching, and working with individuals who suffer from mental illness, or are oppressed. Candy's current role allows her to advocate for adjunctive services, training, additional funding, donations, and more. It is Candy's goal and the goal of the ITSP staff at Children's Institute Inc. to ensure that they provide each youth with individualized services every single day.

Lynn Kleist

Lynn Kleist, LCSW has been providing mental health services to children and youth for over 30 years. She is currently the Service Chief for the Continuing Care Placement Unit with Orange County Health Care Agency. This unit provides intensive care coordination and treatment foster care for children and transitional age youth who are involved in the Child Welfare System. Prior to that she was a contract monitor for five programs, three of which specifically targeted Transitional Age Youth who were also Seriously Mentally Ill. Lynn has also served as the mental health liaison to the OC Wraparound Program. She began her career as a clinician providing direct practice to children and youth who had been referred for mental health services from the school system.

Kamari (Kookie) Wells

I'm known as Kookie and it fits my personality well. A personality within a person that has dreams of influencing those through television. I consider myself an artist and it is my goal to become a talk show host. I know that anything is possible and, coming from the bottom of society's norms, I know that I'm bound to make dreams happen.

Panel 4: 1:30-2:30pm | Intimate Partners and Parenting

Brooke B. Stevenson

Brooke B. Stevenson is pursuing a master's degree at the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. She is a research assistant for the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH) and a clinical therapist at the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center. Brooke's professional experience includes providing trauma-informed mental health services to chronically stressed children and youth.

Donna Fernandez

Donna Fernandez, MSW, LCSW, has worked in public child welfare for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (including the former Los Angeles County Department of Adoptions) for over 36 years. Her work experiences include adoptions, policy development, community resources, health development/services, substance abuse and mental health services. Currently, she serves as the Program Manager of the DCFS Child Welfare Health Services Section, under the DCFS Bureau of Clinical Services and Resources. Donna has served in leadership roles in numerous California professional social work organizations, including the National Association of Social Workers. Donna received both her undergraduate and masters degrees from UCLA.

Barbara Facher

Barbara Facher, MSW, is a social worker at the Alliance for Children's Rights where she oversees the Healthy Teen Parent Program. Barbara collaborates with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and other public and nonprofit agencies to improve and expand services for this population, and co-chairs the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect Task Force on Pregnant and Parenting Teens. Prior to joining the Alliance for Children's Rights in 2001, Barbara worked as a medical social worker. She previously served as the California Director of Human SERVE, a national voter registration and education organization focused on expanding voter participation among low-income and

minority populations. Barbara has a B.A. in History from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MSW from San Francisco State.

Asia Powe

Asia is an AB12 youth and is currently living in a supervised independent living placement (SILP). She has been in foster care since she was 6 years old. Asia has a two-year-old son, Jo'Shon, who she says has changed her life – "I now think about how I handle business, and about his needs." Asia is attending Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center, working on completing her high school diploma. She hopes to become a Crime Scene Investigator.

Panel 5: 2:45-4pm | Bringing it All Together: Connecting Child Welfare Services for Young Adults to Other Systems

Mark Courtney

Mark Courtney is a Professor in the School of Social Service Administration and an affiliated scholar of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. His fields of special interest are child welfare policy and services. His current work includes studies of the adult functioning of former foster children, experimental evaluation of independent living services for foster youth, and the influence of juvenile courts on the operation of the child welfare system.

Professor Courtney received his Ph.D. and M.S.W. from the School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley. Before moving into academia, Professor Courtney worked for several years in various capacities providing group home care to abused and neglected adolescents in California.

Rochelle Trochtenberg

Rochelle Trochtenberg is currently the California Foster Care Ombudsperson. She previously worked as the Humboldt County Transitional Age Youth Collaboration Lead Youth Organizer, a component of the Department of Health and Human Services' Transition Age Youth Division; serving young adults age 16-26 as they transition to adulthood and independence. Rochelle was in and out of child welfare services starting at 5 years old; she was taken out of her home for the last time when she was 13. She was raised in group homes and was labeled "severely emotionally disturbed." She emancipated on her 18th birthday and became homeless, couch surfing and living in shelters until she met a family that allowed her to stay with them for a year as long as she went to school.

Honorable Michael Nash

Michael Nash has extensive experience in public sector law and has served as an Appointed Los Angeles Superior Court Judge since 1988; he also served as an Appointed Los Angeles Municipal Court Judge from 1985 to 1988. While serving as a Judge, Mr. Nash's assignments included functioning as a Supervising Judge for the Juvenile Dependency County and a Presiding Judge for Juvenile Court. Prior to that, Mr. Nash served as a Deputy Attorney General for the California Attorney General's Office from 1974 to 1985. Mr. Nash has also made multiple appearances before the California Supreme Court on behalf of the State of California. Mr. Nash has served on many committees and councils including the Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Advisory Committee, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care, and the California Child Welfare Council. In January Mr. Nash became Executive Director for the Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection.