

Child Welfare Policy

Session 11

Youth Issues

Youth Permanency

Runaway & Homeless Youth

Juvenile Justice Issues

Next Class- Youth Issues

**Youth Permanency
Services for Youth
Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs
Juvenile Justice Services**

Film: "Aging Out"

Required Reading:

Youth Permanency Toolkit

http://www.nccwe.org/toolkits/youth-permanency/what_is_youth_permanency.html

Voices of LGBTQ Youth

<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/lgbtq-youth-voices-trauma-lives-promise>

Runaway and Homeless Youth

<https://www.rhyttac.net/about>

Juvenile Justice System

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_juvenile_justice_system



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Definition of Youth Permanency

Youth permanency, in the context of child welfare, refers to ensuring a young person has a safe, stable, and nurturing family relationship intended to last a lifetime. It encompasses both legal and relational connections, including family reunification, adoption, guardianship, or other planned permanent living arrangements, all while fostering meaningful and enduring connections with supportive adults and extended family

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Elements of Youth Permanency

Safe and Stable Environment:

Youth permanency aims to provide a consistent and secure environment where a young person can thrive.

Commitment and Nurturing:

It emphasizes the importance of a lasting, committed relationship with a caring adult who provides emotional support and nurturing.

Legal Status:

Often, permanency involves establishing a legal status that provides full family membership and rights, such as through adoption or guardianship.

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Elements of Youth Permanency

Individualized Planning:

Permanency planning should be tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of each young person, considering their individual history, strengths, and preferences.

Engagement and Collaboration:

Engaging youth and families in the permanency planning process is crucial to ensure the young person's voice is heard and their needs are addressed.

Maintaining Connections:

It's important to facilitate connections with siblings, family members, and other significant adults to maintain a sense of belonging and connection, even when a youth enters a permanent living situation

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Runaway and Homeless Youth

Runaway Youth:

. In New York, a runaway youth is defined as a person under 18 who is absent from their legal residence without the consent of their parent, guardian, or custodian. This definition is codified in the New York State Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA).

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Runaway and Homeless Youth

Homeless Youth:

The RHYA also defines homeless youth as a person under 21 who is in need of services and is without a place of shelter where supervision and care are available. This definition, while not explicitly tied to a specific age range in federal law, is often used to describe individuals under 21 who are experiencing homelessness.

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Runaway and Homeless Youth

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

The federal McKinney-Vento Act, which addresses homelessness, defines homeless youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This definition includes children and youth who are sharing housing with others due to economic hardship, living in motels or hotels, or living in emergency shelters

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Runaway and Homeless Youth

RHY Programs

- Transitional Living Programs – TLP
- Basic Center
- Shelter Programs

The main tenets of juvenile justice system

The primary goals of the juvenile justice system, in addition to maintaining public safety, are skill development, habilitation, rehabilitation, addressing treatment needs, and successful reintegration of youth into the community.

The juvenile justice system takes a significantly more restorative approach than the adult criminal justice system.

The main tenets of juvenile justice system

Youth under the age of 18 who are accused of committing a delinquent or criminal act are typically processed through a juvenile justice system.

While similar to that of the adult criminal justice system in many ways—processes include arrest, detainment, petitions, hearings, adjudications, dispositions, placement, probation, and reentry—the juvenile justice process operates according to the premise that youth are fundamentally different from adults, both in terms of level of responsibility and potential for rehabilitation.

Whereas sentencing for a serious crime following a guilty verdict in the criminal justice system often results in jail or prison time, the juvenile justice system seeks to avoid incarceration whenever possible.

Data on the juvenile justice system

- Statistics show that female juvenile offenders are less likely than male offenders to be petitioned, adjudicated, detained, or committed to an institution for most offense categories.
- Teens of color, especially Black and Brown youth, are more likely to be detained and committed than their white, non-Hispanic counterparts.
- More than half of the young people who are committed to residential juvenile justice facilities are performing academically below the grade level expected of them.
- Teenage and young adult male inmates with above-average school performance are significantly less likely to reoffend once they leave the correctional facility than their counterparts with lower academic performance.

Data on the juvenile justice system

- Approximately 70% of youth involved in the juvenile criminal justice system have a diagnosable mental health disorder, with nearly 30% of those experiencing severe mental health disorders.
- Juvenile offenders often have a history of trauma, resulting in mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders that put them at risk of committing further criminal behavior.
- Substance abuse is common among youth in the juvenile court system. Adolescents who commit more severe and persistent crimes are more likely to have elevated drug use and meet diagnostic criteria for a substance use disorder.

Questions?

What was your knowledge of Youth Services before this class?

How has your knowledge changed?

What has your experience been with youth services?

Film

"Aging Out"

Navigating the transition from adolescence to adulthood is challenging for even the most mature and privileged youth. For three young people in New York and Los Angeles, making the transition to independent living is considerably more difficult as they "age out" of the foster care system and suddenly discover, for the first time, that they're on their own.

Next Class – May 7th

***Presentations by those who signed up for the
May 7th date***