



**Children's
Home Society**
of North Carolina

Uniting Stakeholders for Change
Jim Casey Initiative in NC

Presented by Erica Burgess 4.8.22



Today's Agenda

- Overview of the Jim Casey Initiative
- Review of subcommittee work
- Update on implementation
- Joining our work



Initial Engagement

- Jim Casey met with NC stakeholders in 2020 to discuss partnership & needs
- Group selected permanency as area of focus and provided recommendations
- 2021 SaySo became the lead agency for the initiative
- Developed core team and 2 subcommittees



Started with Data Review:

14-17 yr olds: 2020 data

- ~2200 out of ~11k total in foster care (~20%)
- ~ 38% are placed in foster homes
- ~25% are placed in group care
- ~13% are with unpaid relatives
- ~33% are African America/~57% Caucasian/~9% other racial classification
- ~66% entered care between 13-16 yrs old
- ~52% female and 48% male



18-21 yr olds: 2020 data

- ~770 out of ~11k total in foster care (~7%)
- ~72% Supervised Living specific to 18-21 program
- ~ 10% are placed in foster homes
- ~5% are placed in group care
- ~ 3 total with unpaid relatives
- ~38% are African America/~ 7% Caucasian/~10% other racial classification
- ~60% female and 40% male



Initiative Framework

Our Focus: Permanence for adolescent population

Reduce time in care and number of placements

Maintaining a racial equity lens

Our Goal: Increase training and resources for staff and caregivers which we hope will in turn:

1. Change beliefs about adolescents
2. Change placement practices for adolescents
3. Stabilize placements leading to permanency

Our Approach: 3 Tier approach

1. Adolescent development training/coaching
2. Implicit bias training/coaching
3. LINKS toolkit



Subcommittees

Policy & Practice

Focus: Training/coaching

Leader: Jonathan Rockoff- UNC

Co-Leaders: Lanitta Berry & Lyrika Evans
young adult leader

Members:

Bobbie Hopf- Youth Villages

Jamaica Pfister- CHS

Tanza Moye- Durham DSS

Christine Esezobar- Chatham DSS

Jonelle Giulianelli- DPS

Carmelita Coleman & Cherie Watlington- SaySo

Will Myers- FFA

Tiffany Powell & Tamika Styles- Methodist
Home

Community Resources & Funding

Focus: Awareness and engagement in LINKS

Leader: Maurita McCorkle- In Our Shoes

Co-Leaders: Shante Harris & Raphael Bikai-
young adult leader

Members:

Meredith Yuckman- Hope Center

Delana Epps-Avery- Hope Center

Carolyn Green- GAL program

Christy Street- Fostering Health

Nichole St. Aimie-Bonner- Mecklenburg DSS

Amy Huntsman- Buncombe DSS

Carmelita Coleman, Calvisha Wilson and Kiah
Durham- SaySo

Tiffany Powell & Tamika Styles- Methodist
Home

Cody Lallier- Durham DSS



Community Resources and Funding

Community Resources and Funding Priorities:

1. Engage public and private partners
2. Engage LINKS coordinators
3. Develop a LINKS toolkit for coordinators to:
 - a. Increase access to resources
 - b. Increase consistent programming
 - c. Increase engagement of youth, staff and caregivers



Practice and Policy

Practice and Policy Priorities:

1. Increase training on adolescent development
2. Offer training on implicit bias
3. Provide a coaching tool to reinforce training topics
4. Learn from staff and caregivers that are participating in the training



Implementation Update

County Participation:

- Mecklenburg
- Buncombe
- Chatham
- Durham

Private Provider Participation:

- Methodist Home for Children with DPS support
- Youth Villages
- Hope Center
- Life Skills Foundation
- Thompsons Child & Family Focus
- Alpha Management
- Foster Family Alliance



- Most agencies have started tier one implementation or have a plan to start
- We currently have 88 staff or caregivers that participated in adolescent development training through fosteringnc.org
- We have a combination of staff, foster parents, TFC foster parents and kinship caregivers that have taken the training
- We have seen an increase in knowledge from the pre to post test
- Participation in the training should increase this month
- Collection of data from pre survey and post survey will be shared in April
- Pilots will be encouraged to use coaching tool starting this month



Joining our Work

Ways to support the Jim Casey Initiative:

1. Join our workgroup
2. Share your ideas directly with me
3. Encourage staff and caregivers to take adolescent development training on fosteringnc.org ([Normal Development in Adolescence](#))
4. Support staff and caregivers working with this population



Thank you!!

Erica Burgess

eburgess8017@gmail.com

919-971-4756



**Children's
Home Society**
of North Carolina

601

312

604 Meadow Street, Greensboro, NC 27405 • 800.632.1400 • chsnc.org

