

Youth Crime Prevention Capstone Project

Executive Summary

Background

The Youth Crime Prevention (YCP) Capstone Project will fund projects that promote regular and consistent attendance and active parent engagement to eliminate chronic absenteeism; and/or address parent and community engagement on the importance of the role of the parent offering training or professional development for parents, educators, and interested community members. The project will promote the following: advocate for students upon release from juvenile detention; help educators better understand the special circumstances and needs surrounding detained youth; develop the capacity of adults to use a trauma-informed and culturally responsive lens; highlight the procedures and protocols of school districts which parents and students experience as barriers, microaggression, and pushout; and prepare educational entities to receive these students back into communities. The statewide dropout rate (e.g. percent of students who fail to reconnect with school) in Oregon is 4.26%, but the dropout rate for students in Juvenile Detention Education Programs (JDEP) is 34.68% (2014-15). The Dropout Rate at the Yamhill County Juvenile Detention Facility is about 50% (approximately 15% higher than the state JDEP average). To reduce the dropout rate for previously detained youth, the YCP Capstone Project will boost successful transitions to neighborhood middle and high schools, community colleges, four-year colleges, and will prepare students to enter the workforce job-ready via programs like Job Corps, career and technical education (CTE), vocational education, and apprenticeship programs. Programs promote student engagement and literacy development; and/or college and career readiness; and/or transition to college and career.

Purpose

The focus of the YCP Capstone Project is to support students ages 11-21 attending the MESD school program at Yamhill County Juvenile Detention, and will serve youth reentering the following school districts in Yamhill and Polk counties:

- Yamhill County
 - Amity School District
 - Dayton School District
 - McMinnville School District
 - Newberg School District
 - Sheridan School District
 - Willamina School District
 - Yamhill-Carlton School District
- Polk County
 - Central School District
 - West Salem High School (Salem-Keizer School District)
 - Walker Middle School (Salem-Keizer School District)

The project will reconnect students to family and community resources, boost successful transitions to neighborhood and community middle and high schools, community colleges, four-year colleges, and ultimately prepare students to enter the workforce job-ready, via programs like Job Corps, career and technical education (CTE), vocational education, and apprenticeship programs.

YCP Capstone Project Plan

In order to reduce the number of days students are denied re-entry into their home and neighborhood school, the following plan supports a student's successful return to their home school and path to graduation:

- New partnerships are being established with culturally specific providers, including SoValTi and Guiding Light Family Services.

- Existing partnerships are being expanded with agencies such as Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI), Mental Health First Aid, Growing Gardens, and others which emerge as the grant proceeds.
- Students will access culturally responsive and trauma informed professionals who will connect them with appropriate resources at their school and communities, depending on the youth's placement after leaving juvenile detention.
- Professional development is scheduled to begin in December 2016 and to include a transition specialist, MESD staff, and outside partners.

Transition Support

The Alternative Education Transition Specialist will work with pre-adjudicated students in reconnecting with their neighborhood and/or community school. This position works directly with culturally and socially responsive organizations, applicable school districts, administrators, building principals, and counselors to navigate the successful reentry into school after exiting the MESD school program at Yamhill County Juvenile Detention Center. Transition specialist is responsible for all aspects of the wraparound support model and will obtain community support services, mentoring, educational tutoring, transportation, and support the transition process by eliminating barriers to enrollment in education at the appropriate educational placement.

Transition Specialist will be responsible for the following services:

- Collect and disseminate information about reentry and outreach programs to various law enforcement and other community service agencies;
- Maintain contacts with special interest organizations related to reentry and/or crime prevention;
- Identify specific communities and organizations interested in forming partnerships with local community organizations, state organizations, and law enforcement authorities to reduce recidivism and increase educational enrollment for students exiting juvenile detention, youth corrections, or adult detention;
- Develop relationships and work with state and local authorities to advance reentry services in the students' neighborhood school or education program;
- Survey and act on the needs of students to reduce and eliminate barriers to reentry into their educational

program;

- Determine students' needs and create a partnership with community service organizations within the school district to evaluate student access in education and reduce recidivism;
- Assist in the procurement of resources to contribute and complement reentry into the school and reduce recidivism;
- Schedule and conduct visits with applicable school district and focus option schools to assist, promote, and provide a connection between juvenile detention, youth corrections, or adult detention and to neighborhood schools;
- Schedule time with students, families, providers, and support networks to complete all steps necessary for reentry into school; and
- Give support to students, parents, providers, and support networks through information and training related to the reentry process for re enrolling in school;
- Other duties as assigned.

Project Activities

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>		
Ensure the timely enrollment of all students who leave detention	Within 72 hours of leaving detention, 75% of students will be enrolled in a school or equivalent program with the support of Transition Specialist. 25% of youth will be enrolled within 120 hours, based on school calendar days.		
Weekly Collaborative Cultural Meeting	Appropriate topics related to youth and client needs, e.g., poverty training, community relationships and engagement, culturally responsive practice, gang impacted youth Based on the DuFours's Model		
Monthly training for Transition Specialist with community partners	Culturally Responsive Practices, Engagement in Community and Family		
Professional Development			
Streamline the reentry process for youth leaving detention	Produce a replicable flowchart which outlines the process of reentering school for youth leaving JDEP, YCEP, and adult detention facilities		
Parent/caregiver and community engagement activities	Three Culturally Responsive Events Topics to be determined by MOU Partners		

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>		
School Resource Officer (SRO) event from all component districts and McMinnville (Yamhill/Polk Counties)	Community and/or District Meeting with SRO		
	Communication and understanding of Youth Development Council Capstone Project, framed on a KWL model to ensure an outcome. The goal is to have SRO be an additional bridge for youth to be welcomed in their home and school communities.		
Performance planning and goal setting	Transition specialist will submit two personal professional SMART goals, as well as regularly monitor progress.		
Three weekly engagement “touch points” between Transition Specialist and clients	Transition Specialist will connect with youth three times per week.		
	One connection will be in person, the other two can be electronic (Email, text message, phone call).		
Informational event for community stakeholders regarding the intent and projected outcomes of YCP Capstone Project with the juvenile court system	Informational meetings with juvenile court judges and district attorneys		

<i>Activities</i>	<i>Deliverables</i>		
Track outcome data based on Title 1D subpart 2 federal guidelines	Data set will be provided within final report to Youth Development Council (YDC)		
Hire a Transition Specialist and an Administrative Assistant	Hire a Transition Specialist to provide Wrap-around services		

