

Setting the Pace: Creating Interagency Collaboration

Delaware Department of Services for Children,
Youth and Their Families

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Tampa, Florida

*Educational Excellence for Every Student,
Every day*

The Educational Services Unit provides comprehensive educational programs in both the Child Mental Health (CMH) and Juvenile Justice (YRS) facilities. Programming is year round and is designed to address each child's academic needs while in the facility and as he or she transitions back to a more conventional school environment, work or community.

Collaboration/Cooperation

DSCYF Schools participate in an Interagency Agreement with the DE Department of Education to ensure that each student's educational special needs are addressed while in placement with the children's department. Fulfillment of this agreement requires collaboration with the Local Educational Agencies, private contracted facilities and at times Interstate Compact Units.

Obstacles to Our Collaboration

- Purpose
- Unified efforts
- Communicating the needs of our youth
- Seeking supports from our own department and the community

Obstacles Inherent in the System

- Lack of transition planning before release
- Inadequate professional development and training in transition
- Lack of interagency communication, coordination, and commitment
- Difficulty obtaining previous educational records
- Reluctance of public schools to serve youth
- Lack of family involvement

Program Components We Know Work

- Focus on transition for all students beginning with day 1
- Obtain and share educational information
- Increase interagency collaboration
- Increase Parent/Family Participation
- Develop and Implement a student portfolio
- Establish a youth tracking system that begins before youth leave the facility

Take Care of Your Own House First

- Provide leadership to keep things moving in the same direction
- Unify the efforts of the frontline staff; make sure the team is sharing and collaborating at home
- Investigate the outcome measures with an objective eye
- Provide forums for frontline staff to share information
- Advertise success and THEN reach out for opportunities to collaborate

Steps of DSCYF Education Unit

- Unify Leadership team to support front line staff
- Unify the vision of the unit; “Educational Excellence for Every Student Every Day!”
- Identify our status, success and failure
- Pinpoint areas to develop
- Provide comprehensive staff development
- Continue to keep statistics, monitor growth and advertise successes
- Collaborate with community

Collaborative Efforts

- Transition Pilot Program
- Governor's Council for Exceptional Children
- School Health Advisory Committee
- Alternative School Task Force
- NCC Interagency Council
- Kent County Interagency Council
- Shared Vision Committee

Collaborative Efforts Continued

- Work Force Investment Youth Council
- Ad Hoc Art Committee
- Delaware Curriculum Cadre
- Delaware Reading Cadre
- Delaware Teacher to Teacher Cadre
- Delaware Deferred Compensation Council
- NCC Parent Advisory Committee
- Teacher Externship Program

Sample Participation

Compulsory Education Task Force

- **Representative** Pamela S. Maier, Chair
- **Senator** Dave Sokola
- Judge Richard Comly, **Justice of the Peace Court**
- Judge Barbara Crowell, **Family Court**
- Theresa Senio, **Department of Children Youth and Their Families**
- Joanne Miro, **Department of Education**
- Regina Greenwald, **Adult Education, Work Force Development**
- Susan Francis, **Delaware School Boards Association**
- Robert Sutcliffe, **Delaware School Superintendents' Association**
- Vicky Cairns, **Delaware Education Association**
- Catherine Hamill, **Grassroots Citizens for Children**
- Jim Purcell, **Communities in Schools**
- Charles Anderson, **Delaware Association of Visiting Teachers**
- Craig Schreckengast, **Delaware Charter Schools Network**
- William Dunn, **Delaware Congress of Parents and Teachers**

Sample Participation

Delaware Statewide Health Advisory Council

- Jeanne Chiquoine **American Cancer Society**
- Dr. Renee Kottenhahn **Dept. of Pediatrics,**
- Donna McGee William **Henry Middle School**
- Jeffrey Fried **Co-Chair Beebe Medical**
- Tamika L. Brown, MSW **Co-Chair Mental Health Association in DE**
- Donna Drayton **Nemours**
- Stephanie Ulbrich **State of Delaware Representative**
- Fred Brukelman, C.H.E.S **Division of Public Health**
- Michael Stetter, Ed.D **Department of Education**
- Sandra Brunson, Ph.D **Department of Education**
- Sandy Kupchick **Brandywine High School**
- Darrin Anderson, MS, **CSCS American Diabetes Association**
- Terry Senio **Department of Services for Children , Youth and Their Families**
- Deborah Brown **American Lung**
- Patricia Cannon **American Heart Association American Lung Association**
- John Ray **Department of Education**

06 Transition

- Total Students Discharged = 594
- Students with a comprehensive plan = 444
- Students remaining actively engaged at 90 days = 108 or 24% of those with a transition plan or
- 18% of all students discharged were actively engaged in school or work 90 days after release.

07 Transition Statistics

- Total students Discharged= 601
- Students with a comprehensive plan= 475
- Number of students actively engaged at 90 days =146 or 31% of youth who lasted the 90 days
- 24% of all students post discharge were actively engaged in school or work

05-06 Parental Contacts

Contact	Count Student Contact	Percent Count Student Contact
N	273	25%
Y	841	75%
Percent	1114	100%

Parental Contacts

06-07

Contact	Count Student Contact	Percent Count Student Contact
N	423	37%
Y	719	63%
Percent	1142	100%

Our Continued Plan

- Two transition teams
- Hire a Job Developer to work with the business community
- Survey parents, youth, schools, employers
- Bring information back to the schools
- Monitor for success
- Modify curriculum as needed