



Overcoming Hurdles in Ohio Youth Advisory Board

We exist to be the knowledgeable statewide voice that influences policies and practices that effect all youth who have or will experience out of home care.

Strategic Plan: *2010-2011*

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT / HIGHER EDUCATION

- In coordination with the Ohio Reach Initiative, **gather information related to the new opportunities and resources available for foster youth transitioning to higher education**, such as the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, which addresses housing costs for transitioning youth attending college or other two year post secondary education program and distribute to current and former foster youth.
- Assist the Ohio Reach Initiative in **brand and logo recognition** among foster youth across Ohio.
- **Share our knowledge and input with local WIA Boards** to identify barriers and address youth engagement in workforce activities within established policy.
- Support youth by **connecting and supporting their successful entry into training and employment** by skills development and exposure to employment opportunities across our state.
- Provide continued opportunity for **leadership and professional development** of members.

YOUTH VOICE IN COURT

- **Educate youth on court processes** and how to advocate for themselves within this system.
- **Promote Awareness of Foster Youth Issues:** In coordination with the Supreme Court of Ohio and the Judicial College, educate and train Juvenile and Court Officials on current and pressing issues dealing with youth in care while advocating input from youth and youth engagement in court proceedings.

NATIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

- Develop a **Biennial Budget Strategy** that advocates for a line item in the state budget for Independent Living Services.
- **Track and follow legislation and regulations** that affect or impact former or current foster youth and provide input and advocacy as necessary.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF A STRONG OHIO YAB

- Further development of **OHIO YAB marketing tools**, i.e. Website
- Attempt to **unify the counties** at a state level by recruiting youth to be a part of OHIO YAB, encouraging regional boards, and developing regional YAB activities.
- Continue **building partnerships and collaborations** with other statewide child serving agencies and organizations.