

June 13, 2017 PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES
Panel: Melissa Martinez-Esteve and Kendra Copeland

- The National Youth in Transition surveyed 18-22 year olds that aged out of Florida foster care
 - 50% were receiving public food assistance
 - 14% are attending a 4-year college or university
 - 56% have H.S. diplomas or GEDs
 - 43% report highest grade completed as 11th
 - 20% report highest completed grade as 10th
 - 40% of 22 year olds have given birth or fathered a child
- When comparing former foster youth to the general population:
 - Currently employed — 45% vs. 76%
 - Median earnings — \$8,000 vs. \$18,300
 - Have a bank account — less than 50% vs. 85%
 - Have health insurance — 58% vs. 78%
 - Been pregnant — greater than 75% vs. 40%
 - Impregnated a partner — 61% vs. 28%
 - General population 3x more likely to have H.S. diploma or GED
 - Been homeless or “couch-surfed” — 38% vs. 1%
- A youth’s lack of permanency has severe consequences as shown above.
- From a youth perspective — what is permanency?
 - Permanence is NOT a place. It is a state of mind, not a placement
 - It is having the feeling that you are connected, that there is someone in the middle of the night you can call, or someone who will miss you if you don’t show up.
- Permanency — a working definition:
 - A parenting relationship with at least one adult
 - The intent that this is a mutual relationship that is intended to last forever
 - It is an unconditional commitment by the adult
 - Participation by all parties in the relationship with lifelong and mutual support and involvement
 - A sense of intimacy and belonging
- You cannot give a youth enough skills to replace a family. Independent Living and Transitional services will promote and support permanence — NOT replace it.
- The goal of **permanency roundtables (PRT)** are to reduce the # of children in care. The ultimate goal is to develop an aggressive, innovative action plan to expedite permanency for a child or sibling group.
 - Expedite legal permanency for the child
 - Stimulate thinking and learning about ways to accelerate permanency
 - Identify and address systemic barriers to expedited permanency
- A PRT is a professional case consultation designed to achieve legal permanency and/or permanent connections for children and youth in out of home care.
 - They are structured, in-depth, non-blaming & relentless in the pursuit of permanency

- The roundtable team: facilitator, permanency consultant, community expert, scribe, master practitioner, case manager (current or past), supervisors, GAL, CLS attorney, youth if part of youth centered roundtable
- The initial PRT lasts approximately 2 hours and follow-up PRTs are held every 30-45 days. There are 6 phases to a PRT:
 - Welcome & overview- intro of team members, review of the purpose of the PRT, and develop operating agreements w/the team
 - Present the case — case summary presented by CM and team members listen & take notes
 - Clarify & Explore — team asks questions to clarify & expand on information presented: team rates child's current permanency status
 - Brainstorm — team brainstorms permanency strategies & facilitator records the ideas & keeps team focused
 - Created Action Plan — team reviews, categorizes & prioritizes strategies, develops concrete action steps for the written plan w/target dates, and team members are assigned to specific action steps
 - Debrief roundtable — team discusses how to explain the action plan to families and youth and addresses any unanswered questions.
- The values driving the PRT are: urgency, teaming, outcomes and optimism.
- They network around the CM to assist in completing tasks that will help achieve permanency
- PRTs are enforceable to the team through accountability.
- Foster Care review oversees the program in Miami.
- Youth Centered Roundtables involve youth aged 14+ in the process.
- **To refer a case to the PRT program — discuss with your supervisor and contact Melissa (mmartinez-estev@fostercarereview.org) or Kendra (kcopeland@fostercarereview.org)**