

## Transitional Services Provider Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 26, 2020

### Participants:

TNOYS – Christine Gendron, Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, Shannon Bloesch, Rachel Brownlie, Lauren Rose, Prince Hayward

DFPS – Debra Emerson, Brittany Danford

### Providers -

- Glorivee Burgos, Spring ISD
- David Aitkenhead, Tejano Center VOCA
- Jessica Spahr, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and Island Harbor (SIL)
- Jennifer Jones, UT Health School of Nursing
- John Magliolo, HCPS
- Nick Little, ACH Child and Family Services, LIFE Project and Families Together programs
- Jordyn Moore, Buckner
- Tiffany Clewis, Promise House
- There were many other participants as well, but we did not get their names.

### 2:00 PM Welcome

- Ann-Charlotte and Shannon each welcomed everyone
- Prince shared some of the concerns youth in care may have right now including anxiety, concerns about finishing their PAL classes, etc. He said that he did not initially realize how serious this virus is and so other young people may not realize it either.

### 2:10 PM Updates on TNOYS Resources (Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, TNOYS)

- Ann-Charlotte mentioned the TNOYS Emergency Response Resource Center, which is available on the TNOYS website at <http://tnoys.org/emergency-response-resource-center/>.
- The resource center includes a document that provides guidance for provider organizations on developing emergency response plans and implementing emergency response protocols. That can be accessed directly at <http://tnoys.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidance-for-Providers-1.pdf>.

- Organizations can order free fabric masks (not medical-grade) from manufacturers working with TNOYS by emailing Christine at [cgendron@tnoys.org](mailto:cgendron@tnoys.org).
- TNOYS will be sending an email blast out to member organizations tomorrow on how to access hand sanitizer from local distilleries.

**2:20 PM      Updates from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Protective Services (Debra Emerson)**

- Debra reported that the Department is sending information out directly to their providers and stakeholders.
- They want to know if young adults have needs, such as for food, cleaning supplies, etc. They have been receiving some of these requests and are responding with the resources they have available. This includes using Rainbow Rooms, the faith-based community, etc. They have not gotten many calls yet but assume that the longer this goes on, the more request they will get.
- The Vice Presidents of Student Affairs for all colleges and universities were on a scan call and assured DFPS that youth in extended care can continue to reside in their dorms. Some of their dorms still have food service; at other places food service has been disconnected. They are also leaving dorms open for those who entered college as homeless students and for out-of-state students and international students. DFPS is not aware of any youth living on campus in residential halls being put out of those dorm settings.
- There is a third bill on COVID-19 working its way through Congress that focuses on CHAFEE and ETV. She does not have all of the details but one of the DFPS attorneys is tracking it and will be providing updates for the agency as the bill moves further.
- She hasn't been hearing a lot from SIL providers. That's been elevated up to state office.
- Right now DFPS has suspended all PAL classes. They have not set up anything online. They do have independent study guides that can be done through a paper or online format. They've gotten lists of those who are getting close to 18 and who need to complete the PAL classes. They will work with these youth to try to get these things done. If they have a young adult who, let's say, only got three classes and then PAL shut down due to the virus, the regional PAL supervisor can waive part or some of the PAL classes under "extraordinary circumstances."
- DFPS is not exiting anyone from SIL right now because they can't go down to the workforce agency or sign up for classes or anything. If any young adults are not meeting SIL requirements DFPS wants to know about it and will seek additional direction. But they won't put any young adults out of placement.
- Based on recommendations made by participants on the call, the agency will check in with youth specialists, PAL staff, and others about youth who may want to share

testimonials or provide peer-to-peer information to encourage social distancing. The agency can also use its “Youth Take Flight” social media account.

- For placement issues providers can contact Jenny Hinson at [jenny.hinson@dfps.state.tx.us](mailto:jenny.hinson@dfps.state.tx.us).
- If anyone is having trouble accessing prescription medication for children or youth in care please contact Liz Kromrei at [Elizabeth.kromei@dfps.state.tx.us](mailto:Elizabeth.kromei@dfps.state.tx.us).
- Send any emails relevant to transitioning youth or youth in after care to Debra at [debra.emerson@dfps.state.tx.us](mailto:debra.emerson@dfps.state.tx.us).

**2:30 PM Other Policy and Regulatory Updates (Lauren Rose, TNOYS)**

- TNOYS is advocating with our partners at the federal level to advocate for increased funding and for increased flexibility on staff moving between programs.
- You can keep track of our regulatory advocacy and updates from regulatory agencies [here](#).

**2:45 PM Open Discussion**

- Challenges with youth not taking COVID-19 seriously and wanting to leave the program
- Are people having issues with youth leaving shared housing settings for extended periods of time despite shelter-in-place orders?
- LifeWorks reported experiencing this and having a house meeting to address it. Youth feel invincible and it’s making staff very nervous.
- Someone asked what they should be communicating to their youth about meeting program eligibility.
- One organization said they recently combined several programs to create a separate space for quarantine. They can use the space for quarantine to bring in new placements.
- As part of TNOYS’ efforts to ensure Texas’ youth and families are counted in the 2020 census, TNOYS has mini grants of up to \$2,000 available to members. This funding is intended to assist member organizations with Get Out the Count activities, which can easily be integrated into current programming. Visit TNOYS’ [2020 Census Resources](#) webpage or email Sarah Prager at [sprager@tnoys.org](mailto:sprager@tnoys.org) for more information.
- Participants shared a number of resources to help youth and families access meals, including TEA’s [Meal Finder](#), [School Meal Finder](#), and [Meals to You](#).
- For future questions or comments relevant to COVID-19, contact Ann-Charlotte Proffitt at [aproffitt@tnoys.org](mailto:aproffitt@tnoys.org).

**3:00 PM Adjourn**