

Youth Solutions Council Agenda

August 13, 2026

9am - 11am

Youth Solutions Council Vision: We are committed to youth-led solutions, envisioning a collaborative network to increase viable housing options, eliminate barriers, and apply equitable standards of care within our community.

Attendees: Monique Carter, Tanise Clipper, Alyssa Anten, Maddie Martin, Lynn Nee (MDHHS), Myracle Maijia, Courtney Salisbury, Emily Schichtel, Stephanie Collier, Piper Wilbanks, Daniah Williams, Celina Lee, Dani Shields

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions: *Name, organization and what brought you here today, check-in?*
- Youth Homelessness Prevention Pilot Funding Opportunity - Request for Support
- Review Progress on This Quarter's Rocks Based on 1 Year Goals
 - **Prevention and Diversion:** Identify a strategy and recruit X number of former foster youth who are interested in mentoring current foster youth.
 - Lead: Shakerah McRae
 - YAB Point of Contact: Myracle Watkins
 - **Access:** Start the groundwork and research for a dedicated resource "hub" by understanding timeframe, cost, and community buy-in and feedback. Connect with Jason from HOPE Network.
 - YAB Lead: Noah Davis & Courtney Salisbury
 - **Youth-Centered Approach:** Have social media up and running, ensuring all posts honor youth but do not exploit their stories.
 - YAB Lead: Piper
 - **Education and Employment:** Compile a list of what skills-building programs exist for career development/education readiness and evaluate from there. (what exists, are people connecting, is it enough)
 - YAB Lead: Moe Barnes
- Create an Issues List
- Vote for top issues and solve
- Next Steps/Adjournment

Issues List

- Not enough providers on YSC to provide support to YAB.
- Admin support for YAB
- Need for task delegation for YSC Rocks.
- Limited hours that YAB members can devote to the work per Grant Contract.
- Limited hours that YAB members can devote to the work due to personal barriers.
- Bios for Social Media has not been received. Barriers are individual to each person.
- Youth with more instability may have difficulty completing tasks given at YAB, or committing the time commitment for meetings. Finding a way to be inclusive while navigating barriers for these individuals.
- YSC leadership lacks time to offer additional support.

- Increasing Attendance for YSC - Providers on the YSC calendar invite are not attending the meeting.
- Is the Calendar invite list still accurate? Need to verify and update. Then reassess providers who might be interested in attending to improve attendance.
- YSC Meeting Length & Schedule Solidified

Notes:

Call To Order: 9:05 AM

- **Welcome & Introductions: *Name, organization and what brought you here today?***
- **Youth Homelessness Prevention Pilot Funding Opportunity - Request for Support**
 - Lynn Nee from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) presented a potential grant opportunity to the group, seeking support from the Youth Solutions Council (YSC) and Youth Action Board (YAB).
 - Lynn has been working alongside Arbor Circle and AYA through a learning collaborative to better understand the potential challenges and barriers of youth transitioning out of foster care. She attended YSC in June, connected with Shakerah McRae and began working on an application for a new Youth Homeless Prevention Pilot Funding Opportunity.
 - The grant opportunity is competitive, with 14 grants being awarded nationwide at a maximum amount of \$500,000 over a 2 year period.
 - The Pilot Project's Goals are:
 - Connect youth aging out of foster care to a supportive services person.
 - Increase the utilization of FYI vouchers by creating and supporting opportunities that increase self-sufficiency of youth.
 - Develop a replication toolkit for the pilot, so other communities across the state can adopt
 - The Pilot Project's Timeline is:
 - 24 months total, with 6 months of planning and 18 months of implementation and evaluation
 - The Ask to YAB:
 - Serve as people who have lived experience in foster care and assist in building the process of developing the Primary Prevention Plan
 - The Ask to YSC:
 - Help support the planning & implementation of the Primary Prevention Plan
 - Lynn shared the staffing needs would be for 1 FTE in both Kent and Ottawa counties, along with a supervisory component.
 - Stephanie, Tanise and Monique voiced support for the grant initiative.
 - Even if MDHHS is not awarded the grant dollars, Lynn believes this planning process has still served as a useful foundation to build on as a community for future initiatives and grant opportunities.
 - The Youth Solution Council voted in favor of supporting the Youth Homelessness Prevention Pilot Funding Opportunity.
- **Review Progress on This Quarter's Rocks Based on 1 Year Goals**
 - **Prevention and Diversion: Identify a strategy and recruit X number of former foster youth who are interested in mentoring current foster youth.**
 - The group, led by Miracle, has made significant progress on the Rock.
 - The group is developing a nonprofit focused on connecting youth that have aged out of foster care with mentors that have lived experience.
 - A name and mission has been created, along with information sessions being planned and flyers being distributed.
 - NEXT STEPS: The group will meet before the information sessions to perfect the agenda and meeting content.

- **Access: Start the groundwork and research for a dedicated resource “hub” by understanding timeframe, cost, and community buy-in and feedback. Connect with Jason from HOPE Network.**
 - The rock is currently off track because the group meeting was canceled and needs to be rescheduled.
 - NEXT STEPS: Reschedule meeting with Noah.
- **Youth-Centered Approach: Have social media up and running, ensuring all posts honor youth but do not exploit their stories.**
 - A logo has been designed, and the group is working on gathering bios from YAB members to share on social media. Social media profiles have been created on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, BlueSky, and TikTok.
 - The group has only received a bio from one YAB member, and needs the YAB group’s support in sending their personal bios.
- **Education and Employment: Compile a list of what skills-building programs exist for career development/education readiness and evaluate from there. (what exists, are people connecting, is it enough)**
 - The group has made a list of what Education and Employment resources & services already exist for youth in West Michigan.
 - NEXT STEPS: Connect with Moe to develop next steps, and then connect with Jason Orr at Hope Network.
- **Create an Issues List**
 - The group identified issues that are preventing progress on the Rocks.
- **Vote for top issues and solve**
 - The group decided to focus on the issue: “Limited hours that YAB members can devote to the work per Grant Contract”
 - Meeting attendees asked if it was possible to increase YAB member hours they are allowed to work. Tanise said these hours are limited because of limited grant funds to distribute amongst the YAB members. When asked if there was a possibility for other funding to support more hours for YAB, Alyssa confirmed that it was, and that a contribution of this nature could be matched.
 - Currently, each YAB member is allowed to work 10 paid hours per month. Some YAB members are working unpaid because they are dedicated to the work.
 - Courtney suggested that setting a standard hours cap for YAB members might not be the best route, because every person has unique barriers and capacity.
- One service provider suggested this issue may be a conversation may be more specific to the CoC and YAB, and desires to build clarity around the Youth Solutions Council’s role from YAB’s role. This may be why there aren’t as many providers attending the meetings, because it can be hard to understand how to lend support to YAB.
- The group decided the root issue of the YAB hours cap was the issue: “Need for task delegation for YSC”
 - Tanise suggested that other providers take the lead on specific Rocks rather than having one person manage all projects. Delegating responsibility would help distribute the workload, ensure adequate support, and allow each Rock to receive the attention it requires.
 - The group discussed that some Rocks may be too large in scope given YAB members’ time constraints and the current lack of task delegation.

- Courtney shared that it can be challenging to engage providers because YAB members may not know the providers personally or have a clear point of contact. As a result, it is difficult to identify who would be willing and able to support initiatives and attend meetings.
 - Monique suggests YAB have a meeting and creates a plan to delegate some of the Rocks.
- **Next Steps/Adjournment**
 - Providers suggested the next YSC meeting focuses on building a better framework for supporting task delegation, understanding the role of YSC in relation to YAB, and how the group can get the right providers at the table.

TO DO's

- **TANISE-** Connect with Youth Access and Education and Employment groups to learn their progress on their rock, then help support a handoff to providers.
- **COC STAFF:** Update Youth Solutions Council Invitation list. Change YSC meeting time to 9:30-11 AM (shortening the meeting time).
- **COC STAFF:** Reach out to providers who should attend Youth Solutions Council, and add them to the YSC meeting invite.
 - Hope Network (Jason Orr)
 - Family Promise WM
 - Community Rebuilders
 - Network 180
 - ICCF
 - Foster Care Agencies - Bethany Christian Services, DA Blodgett, Samaritas
 - YAB
 - AYA
 - Arbor Circle
 - CoC Staff
 - Mel Trotter Ministries
 - GR Pride Center
 - Trans Foundation
 - Disability Advocates
 - Center for Community Transformation
 - West Michigan Works
 - GRPL
 - GRCC, Ferris State
 - KCCA
 - Steeple Town
 - MDHHS
- **COC STAFF:** Develop YSC “pitch” email, explaining purpose of the group and encouraging participation.