

Youth Solutions Council Agenda

September 10, 2026

9:30 am - 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:

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions: *Name, organization and what brought you here today, check-in?*
- 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: Miracle Watkins
 - **Access:** Start the groundwork and research for a dedicated resource "hub" by understanding timeframe, cost, and community buy-in and feedback.
 - 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 them: What exists, Are people connecting, Is it enough?
 - YAB Lead: Moe Barnes and Celina Lee
- Vote for top issues and solve
- Next Steps/Adjournment

To Do List Review:

- **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.
- **COC STAFF:** Develop YSC "pitch" email, explaining purpose of the group and encouraging participation.

Issues List

1. YSC leadership lacks time to offer additional support
2. What is the role of YSC? How do YSC and YAB integrate with each other?
3. Do we want to have another We Exist event in November? Or a different awareness event?
4. Contacts needed to invite more providers to the table
5. What to do with the Education & Employment list Rock.

Youth Solutions Council Minutes

September 10, 2026

9:30 am - 11 am

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: Maddie Martin, Monique Carter, Stephanie Collier, Stacey Datena, Alonda Trammel, Charles Sanders, Courtney Salisbury, Shakerah McRae, Tanise Clipper, Noah Davis

Agenda:

Welcome & Introductions: Name, organization and what brought you here today, check-in?

Piper Wilbanks contacted Arbor Circle to request a YAB tabling opportunity at Arbor Circle's End of Summer Celebration on September 29. Monique approved the request and asked YAB members attending the event to:

- Take a photo with a handheld sign that will be available at the event.
- Assist with distributing green lightbulbs to help promote "Light the Town Green" Day on November 1.

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 first meeting, held on September 3, was well attended and had a positive turnout. The meeting scheduled for 4:00 p.m. today was canceled.

- Charles commended Myracle and YAB leads for doing a nice job facilitating the meeting.
- The group's primary focus moving forward is maintaining consistency and increasing participation.

Access: Start the groundwork and research for a dedicated resource "hub" by understanding timeframe, cost, and community buy-in and feedback.

Courtney shared that the rock is not on track due to difficulty contacting Jason Orr from Hope Network and is unsure of the status of the project or whether additional outreach is needed.

- Stacey shared that she can reach out to Jason to help move the project forward. She explained that the project, called Resource Village, plans to bring community partners together through a central hub where individuals can access a variety of resources in one place.
- Monique noted that the delay in response may be related to grant-writing season.
- Tanise reported that Lauren offered to help support the rock and said she would connect with Courtney and Noah to schedule time to discuss next steps.
- Stacey suggested that YAB members attend a community resource fair to learn about multiple resources available in the community.

Youth-Centered Approach: Have social media up and running, ensuring all posts honor youth but do not exploit their stories.

Tanise shared that the YAB social media accounts are now active, with approximately six posts published to date. Initial content has focused on introducing YAB members and highlighting YAB activities.

- Tanise connected Piper with a digital marketing specialist from Ferris State University, who provided her with guidance and tools related to content creation, including consistent branding, post scheduling, Canva, and Adobe Illustrator. Monthly recurring meetings have been established to support ongoing social media development and content planning.
- The YAB Social Media accounts can be found at:
 - Instagram: *@kent_countyyab*
 - Facebook: *Kent County Youth Action Board*
 - Twitter: *Kent County Youth Action Board*
 - TikTok: *Kent County YAB*
 - BlueSky: *Kent County YAB*

Education and Employment: Compile a list of what skills-building programs exist for career development/education readiness and evaluate them: What exists, Are people connecting, Is it enough?

Jason shared that he is interested in supporting the project but has experienced similar difficulties contacting the appropriate individuals. Tanise reported that she is meeting with YAB leads tomorrow to discuss next steps and determine how to move forward with the existing list.

Vote for top issues and solve

Issue Decided: Do we want to have another We Exist event in November? Or a different awareness event?

Courtney asked for background on the We Exist event. The group shared that it was a collaborative event involving several youth-serving organizations that brought providers and community members together to share resources available to youth in Kent County. The event included networking opportunities, breakfast, a youth panel, a provider panel, and collaboration among organizations supporting youth.

Some considerations discussed regarding holding the event again included:

- The timing of the event, with Stacey suggesting it may be more successful if held after the holidays or in the spring.
- Tanise asked about event planning, and Monique shared that the previous event was organized on short notice by a small group of partners.
- Questions were raised about capacity, as the YSC may not be able to take the lead on planning the event and another provider or organization may need to assume that role. Charles noted that planning the event would require significant time and capacity and could divert attention from other YAB-related priorities and rocks already underway.

- The group discussed feedback from the previous event, including concerns that some organizations and special populations felt excluded. Additional considerations included securing funding and avoiding scheduling conflicts with prom season.

Decision: The group agreed that the YSC will not plan or host a We Exist event at this time. If interest remains, partners can begin planning well in advance for a potential event next year.

Another Issue: Contacts needed to invite more providers to the table

Maddie provided a list of organizations she needed a contact from and the group shared potential leads.

Next Steps/Adjournment

The next meeting is October 8 at 9:30 AM.

To-Do's:

Maddie Martin: Share YSC Pitch Email with YSC.

Maddie Martin: Email new contacts to invite them to YSC and send follow-up emails to those who haven't responded.