

YouthACTing as Transition Ambassadors



<http://www.ncwd-youth.info>



Presenters

Fernando Olivarez
Youth Leader

Branley Acevedo
Youth Leader

Nicole Drazin
Adult Partner

Jennifer Thomas
Youth Development Specialist



2

Objectives

- Discuss purpose and overall goal of the National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth's (NCWD/Youth) Youth Action Council on Transition (YouthACT).
- Explain components of YouthACT model.
- Share experiences of YouthACT Seize Control team members.



3

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth)

- Funded by the Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy
- National Technical Assistance Center
- Housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership
- Leads the National Youth Action Council on Transition (YouthACT)



4

Youth Action Council on Transition (YouthACT)



The Youth Action Council on Transition (YouthACT) is a national initiative to get more youth with disabilities and their allies involved as leaders who partner with adults and organizations to improve opportunities for youth to succeed in life.



5

Goal of YouthACT



YouthACT aims to improve the capacity and engagement of youth with disabilities and their allies as leaders and partners in efforts to improve transition policies and practices within and across systems serving youth.



6

Goal of YouthACT

Youth ACT will accomplish this goal by:

- 1) Supporting the creation of local YouthACT teams consisting of two emerging youth leaders, one adult partner, and a supporting organization.
- 2) Providing the emerging youth leaders the training and mentoring necessary to increase their knowledge about the transition process and policies in various systems and increase their leadership and advocacy skills.
- 3) Supporting the youth leaders, as a part of their YouthACT team, to participate in leadership opportunities related to informing their peers and the various systems about improved transition for all youth.
- 4) Engaging the youth leaders in developing materials and tools for youth, families, professionals, and policy makers.
- 5) Engaging the youth leaders in identifying transition barriers youth are experiencing across systems.
- 6) Developing the capacity of organizations/agencies to effectively engage youth as leaders and partners in efforts to improve youth transition outcomes.



Team Structure



- Two Youth
- One Adult Partner
- One Sponsoring Organization Contact



Expectations of Teams



- Attend YouthACT Leadership Training
- Participate on monthly calls, quarterly webinars.
- Develop a Youth Team ACTION Plan
- Develop and meet monthly with peer network.
- Speak publicly and give presentations to youth, families, and the agencies and organizations that serve youth about how to improve services and opportunities for youth.



Support from NCWD/Youth

- Technical Assistance
 - Monthly Calls
 - Additional Calls (per request)
 - Quarterly Webinars
- Stipend received by organization
- Honorarium received by youth and adult partner
- Opportunities and Connections



YouthACT Teams



The 2013 YouthACT teams are based at the following supporting organizations:

- Ala Costa Centers for the Developmentally Disabled, Berkeley, CA
- Quality Trust, Washington, DC
- Rhode Island Parent Information Network, Cranston, RI
- The Arc Tennessee, Nashville, TN



YouthACT Teams



The 2014 YouthACT teams are based at the following supporting organizations:

- California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Sacramento, CA
- The Autism Society of Indiana, Indianapolis, IN
- Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, St. Paul, MN



YouthACT Teams



The 2015 YouthACT teams are based at the following supporting organizations:

- Ability Connection Colorado, Denver, CO
- Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa Regional Occupational Program, Redlands, CA
- Epilepsy Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health, Saint Paul, MN

★ 13

Questions

★ 14

Finding and Using Our Voices

★ 15

Transition From High School To College



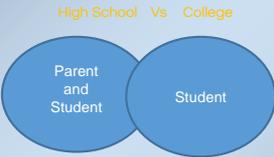
High School

- I.E.P.
 - Ask if they understand there I.E.P.
- Types of accommodations for students:
 - Assistive Technology
 - Fidgets
 - Music



So What If I Want To Go College, But I Have Fear?

Going to college might be hard because of my disability. It's difficult to transition from a system that has everything for you, but in college you have start the process on your own.



Vocational Rehabilitation

How I benefited from the Vocational Rehabilitation:

- Helped create a goal for permit hiring or pursued an education
- Informed me on how I should have a presentable resume, also how to conduct an interview with an employer
- Provided extra assistance in finding the right resources and programs that fit my needs



19

Behavioral Health Services/Medical Doctors



- Prescribed anti-depressants but no therapy
- If "burned" by a system, young people don't trust authority figures with personal issues.
- Coping skills
- How to talk to a doctor
- Need to know what insurance covers and how to find out



20

Mentors and Motivation

Adults outside of the home can mentor through:

- professional industry of interest.
- life skills.
- faith or hobbies.
- Mateusz M's Les Brown videos.



21

Cold Calling/Professional Interactions



22

Self-Advocacy

• Why is it important?

• Fernando's experience

- Communicating (i.e., Email)
- Asking questions
- Connecting with Other Youth
- Connecting with Adults



23

YouthACT SoCal POSSE



24

High School Presentations



25

Community College Advocacy

- Revived a club for students with disabilities on community college campus
- Met with Director of DSPS and discussed ways that we can bring more awareness of services to the students
- Hosting an Open House for the HiTech Center
- Showing the documentary "Lives Worth Living"



26

Chat with YouthACT SoCal POSSE



27

Questions



28

Contact Us

- Learn more about YouthACT at <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/youth-act>.
- E-mail at thomasj@iel.org.
- Call 202-822-8405 x162.



29

NCWD/Youth Resources



- **By Youth for Youth: Employment**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/by-youth-for-youth-employment>
- **Guiding Your Success Tool**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/guiding-your-success>
- **Hitting The Open Road After High School: How to Choose Your Own Adventure to Success!**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/hitting-the-open-road>



30

NCWD/Youth Resources



- **The 411 on Disability Disclosure: A Workbook for Families, Educators, Youth Service Professionals, and Adult Allies Who Care About Youth with Disabilities**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/411-on-disability-disclosure-for-adults>
- **The 411 on Disability Disclosure: A Workbook for Youth with Disabilities**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/411-on-disability-disclosure>
- **Cyber Disclosure for Youth with Disabilities**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/cyber-disclosure>



NCWD/Youth Resources



- **National Collaborative on Workforce & Disability for Youth**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info>
- **Professional Development: Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/youth-service-professionals>
- **Charting the Course: Supporting the Career Development of Youth with Learning Disabilities**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/guideposts/learning-disabilities>
- **Learning How to Learn: Successful Transition Models for Educators Working with Youth with Learning Disabilities**
<http://www.ncwdyouth.info/informationbrief/learning-how-to-learn>
- **The Guideposts for Success: A Framework for Families Preparing Youth for Adulthood**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/family-guideposts-information-brief>



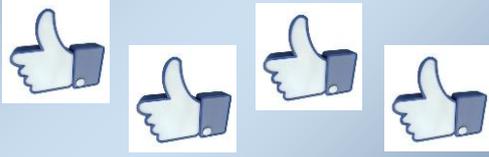
NCWD/Youth Resources



- **Individualized Learning Plan**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/ilp>
- **Promoting Quality Individualized Learning Plans: A "How to Guide" Focused on the High School Years**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/ilp/how-to-guide>
- **Individualized Learning Plans Fact Sheet**
http://www.ncwd-youth.info/fact-sheet/_individualized-learning-plan
- **Using Individualized Learning Plans to Produce College and Career Ready High School Graduates**
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/ilp/produce-college-and-career-ready-high-school-graduates>



Thank You!



34
