



# Making it Happen

PARTNERING FOR  
EXCELLENCE

## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROVIDER SYMPOSIUM

Hosted By  
Office of Provider Management  
GARYSE Chafee Program

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September 29 - 30, 2020 | 10:00A-4:00P



## AGENDA

### 2020 Independent Living Provider Symposium

### **“Making It Happen: Partners in Excellence”**

September 29 – 30, 2020

10AM – 4PM

The Division of Family and Children Services’ Office of Provider Management recognizes the importance of providing collective learning and networking opportunities for our partners to improve the quality of service provided to Georgia’s children and families. Over the past year, a collaborative effort was ensued to provide such learning opportunities specifically for the Independent Living Provider Community.

Since the inception of the concept to provide transitional housing for older youth in extended foster care in Georgia, the Division has experienced an exponential increase of partnering agencies willing to provide such supports for this populace. We believe that through mutual and equitable engagement, development of a sustainable youth-centered qualitative transitional housing model is within our reach. During this symposium you will learn innovative and promising strategies that are improving outcomes for older youth on a local and national level in the following areas:

- Community Engagement and Support
- Housing
- Life Coach Training
- Supporting Youth-Centered Plan Development

It is hoped that as a result of your participation in this symposium you will:

- Be equipped with innovative strategies and solutions to improve your internal programmatic policies and practice
- Understand the importance of purposefully engaging youth with lived experience in the quality improvement process
- Seek opportunities to engage your community to build a nucleus of support for youth transitioning through your program
- Learn how evidence supported programming and staff training models can improve youth outcomes

The 2020 Independent Living Provider Symposium will be facilitated through a virtual meeting platform.

*Throughout this event there will be several brief infomercials provided by a few external partners. These moments will be titled “Expand the Network” and may be pre-recorded or presented live. The partners will provide information that will support you directly as a provider or the youth that you serve.*



## DAY 1 AGENDA

September 29, 2020

[Click here to enter the Main Stage!](#)

10:00 – 10:30AM	<b>Main Stage – Opening Plenary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Opening and Welcome</b> Dr. Shaun Johnson, Office of Provider Management Director Candis Jones, GARYSE Chafee Program Director</li> <li>• <b>Leadership Address</b> Tammy Reed, Placement and Permanency Services Director Carmen Callaway, Interim Well-Being Services Section Director</li> <li>• <b>Introduction of Keynote</b> Candis Jones, GARYSE Chafee Program Director</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:30AM	<b>Main Stage - Keynote</b> Adrian McLemore
11:30AM – 11:35AM	<b>Main Stage - Expanding the Network</b> Together Georgia – Judge Juanita Stedman
11:35AM – 11:45AM	<b>Main Stage – Expanding the Network</b> The nsoro Foundation
11:45AM – 1:00PM	<b>Lunch on Your Own</b>

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions

1:00PM – 2:15PM

### Workshop A From Housing to Home - Supporting Youth Transition through Housing Collaboration

*United Methodist Children's Home Wellroot Family Services*

*Wellroot Family Services provides Transitional Living and Independent Living residential programming for young adults in foster care. Our TLP model is community-integrated and has evolved from on-campus to now in the community. Residents are afforded the opportunity to live in a supervised community-integrated apartment while receiving support for daily living, educational advancement, employment acquisition and sustainment, spiritual life development, and mental health support. Wellrott Family Services is committed to ensuring young adults receive the necessary supports and opportunities to succeed. Come learn how they have moved from campus-based living to a community integrated model-- lessons learned, innovations explored, and opportunities for the future.*



## Workshop B

### Evidence Supported Life Coaching Models

*Youth Empowerment Support Services (YESS)*

*Youth Empowerment Success Services (YESS) Youth Quest Independent Living Program has been providing ILP services in partnership with the state since 2017. Their two-phased ILP program implements a progressive youth-centered scattered-site housing model. Youth are provided supports to help them become housed, educated, employed, and connected. They do that by providing youth with stable and affordable housing options, teaching them practical life skills, and helping them build connections to supportive adults that will help propel them toward their future goals. Come and learn how YESS uses an evidence supported life coaching model that helps young adults take responsibility for their lives. This session will provide Independent Living Programs with coaching tools and techniques that will help youth make a successful transition into adulthood.*

2:15PM – 2:30PM

Break

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions

2:30PM – 3:45PM

### Workshop A

### From Housing to Home - Supporting Youth Transition through Housing Collaboration

*United Methodist Children's Home Wellroot Family Services*

### Workshop B

### Evidence Supported Life Coaching Models

*Youth Empowerment Support Services*

3:45PM – 4:00PM

Break

## Closing Plenary

[Click Here to Return to the Main Stage!](#)

4:00PM – 4:05PM	<b>Main Stage – Expand the Network</b> Office of the Child Advocate – Rachel Davidson, JD - Director
4:05PM – 4:15	<b>Main Stage – Closing Address</b> Dr. Shaun Johnson, OPM Director Candis Jones, GARYSE Chafee Program Director



## DAY 2 AGENDA

September 30, 2020

[Click here to enter the Main Stage!](#)

10:00AM – 10:10AM	<b>Main Stage – Opening Plenary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening and Welcome Dr. Shaun Johnson, Office of Provider Management Director Candis Jones, GARYSE Chafee Program Director</li> <li>Housekeeping and Agenda Review</li> </ul>
10:10AM – 10:15AM	<b>Main Stage – Expand the Network</b> Youth Villages LifeSet Program – Jameta Wheeler
10:15AM – 11:15AM	<b>Main Stage - Youth Panel Discussion</b> Join us for a facilitated discussion with current and former foster youth as they share their lived experiences in scattered site transitional living housing programs.
11:15AM – 11:20AM	<b>Main Stage - Expand the Network</b> Multi-Alliance Agency for Children
11:20AM – 11:30AM	Break – Transition

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions

11:30AM – 12:45AM

### Workshop C

#### The Power of Community - Building Sustainable Results - Oriented Community Networks

*The Goshen New Beginnings Independent Living Program has been operating since 2012, serving youth ages 18 to 21 years of age, throughout the state of Georgia. Their model has been designed to serve various levels of needs with a targeted and unique approach to promote stability. During this session you will learn how they established targeted community connections to support the youth in various vocational settings and the importance of building financial stability in preparation for successful independent living.*

### Workshop D

#### It's In the Meeting - Utilizing the Roundtable Process for Youth Plan Development

Noticing youth are becoming less motivated to work towards the goals you've established? Come and learn how utilizing a collaborative youth-centered and trauma informed roundtable process is effective in developing actionable and achievable goals. This session will be facilitated by the GARYSE Chafee Independent Living Program.



## Concurrent Workshop Sessions

1:30PM – 2:45PM

### Workshop C

**The Power of Community - Building Sustainable Results - Oriented Community Networks**

### Workshop D

**It's In the Meeting - Utilizing the Roundtable Process for Youth Plan Development**

2:45PM – 3:00PM	Break
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### Closing Plenary

**Click here to return to the Main Stage!**

3:00PM – 4:00PM	<b>Main Stage – C2i – Connected to Independence, Minneapolis, MN</b>  Connected to Independence (C2i) is a non-profit organization that supports youth transitioning out of foster care. Their goal was to reduce the number of youth reconnecting with the system via incarceration, using homeless shelters, and having open child protection cases of their own. Come and hear how their innovative approaches have changed the lives of many and how they continue their efforts today.
4:05 – 4:15PM	<b>Main Stage – Closing Address</b>  Dr. Shaun Johnson, OPM Director  Candis Jones, GARYSE Chafee Program Director