Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

Connected By 21 (CB21)

Presented by:
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Nia I. Cantey, MSW, Ph.D., ILP Program Manager

Director
Bobby D. Cagle

July 28, 2015
Happy Birthday!
AGENDA

✓ Georgia Independent Living Program
  ✓ Past
  ✓ Present
  ✓ Future

✓ Current Data Snapshot
CB21 is a plan within the 2014-2019 Child and Family Services Plan with the goal of ensuring that emancipated youth have the same building blocks for success in family, work, life that are generally afforded to their peers in intact families.

• **Goal:** To create comprehensive, developmentally appropriate extended youth support program for emancipated youth up to age 21 years which is distinctively different from 0 to 18 Foster Care yet contains all components—permanency planning, RBWO, IL services and judicial oversight.
CB 21 (Full Implementation By 2019)

Key Components

• Life Coaching
  – Education
  – Health
  – Employment
  – WTLP

• Housing
  – Approved
  – Non-Approved/Non-traditional

• Connections/Permanency

• Financial Literacy /Saving

• Material Resources

Youth Responsibilities

• In-School
• Working
• Participating in a employment program
• Incapable work, school participation
• Actively involved in the Key Components
The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP), including the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program, provides supports and services to youth who are likely to age out of foster care and to those young adults ages 18 – 21 who have left foster care.

The mission of Independent Living Program (ILP) is to provide eligible youth with opportunities to successfully prepare for adulthood through appropriate referral resources and connections provided by community partners.
Chafee ILP Purposes

1. Help youth likely to remain in foster care until age 18 transition to self-sufficiency by providing services;
2. Help youth likely to remain in foster care until age 18 receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment;
3. Help youth likely to remain in foster care until age 18 prepare for and enter post-secondary training and educational institutions;
4. Provide personal and emotional support to youth aging out of foster care through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults;
5. Provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition into adulthood;
6. Make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary education, to youth who have aged out of foster care;
7. Provide services to youth who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption; and
8. Ensure children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age have regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally-appropriate activities as defined in section 475(11) of the Act.
Georgia ILP Goals

- Educated
- Connected
- Healthy
- Safe
- Stable
- Employed
- Housed
## Intact Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Unit</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 Years</td>
<td>216 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216 Months</td>
<td>939 Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>939 Weeks</td>
<td>6,574 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,574 Days</td>
<td>157,776 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intact Families</td>
<td>FC ILP-14+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Years</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216 Months</td>
<td>48 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>939 Weeks</td>
<td>209 Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,574 Days</td>
<td>1,461 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>157,776 Hours</td>
<td>35,064 Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Time To Prepare Adolescents in Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intact Families</th>
<th>FC ILP-14+</th>
<th>Average Time In Care 14-17 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 Years</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>About 2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216 Months</td>
<td>48 months</td>
<td>21.47 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>939 Weeks</td>
<td>209 Weeks</td>
<td>94 Weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,574 Days</td>
<td>1,461 Days</td>
<td>658 Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>157,776 Hours</td>
<td>35,064 Hours</td>
<td>15,792 Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GA ILP Key Service Points

• Eligibility Age 14 years and up
  – 6 Months In Care
  – Exited Care Prior ILP Eligible
  – Youth enrolled upon eligibility

• Served Up to Age 21
  – Extensions require a waiver
  – Fiscal support can extend to age 25

• TeenWork Internship Program

• Money Matters
  – Credit Checks
  – IDA

• One ILS in Each Region
  – Two in Region 3 & 14

• National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

• TRTs

• Casey Life Skills Assessment
  – Foundation of the Written Transitional Living Plan

• CPA / CCI Providers
  – ILP/TLP
  – Majority of Placements
  – Skills Development

• GYOI-MAAC
  – EmpowerMEnt
GA ILP Key Service Points

• Major Events
  – Celebration of Excellence / Higher Education Institute
  – Dress for Success
  – Teens R 4 Me
  – Youth on The Move
  – GCAPP Conference
ILP: BY THE NUMBERS
## Current Data Snapshot

### Regional Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Ages 14 to 17</th>
<th>18 and Over</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2283</strong></td>
<td><strong>482</strong></td>
<td><strong>2765</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Current Placements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACEMENT_TYPE</th>
<th>Ages 14 to 17</th>
<th>Ages 18 and Over</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adoptive Home</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Institution</td>
<td>1091</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>1360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPA Family Foster Home</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFCS Family Foster Home</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative - Paid</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative - Unpaid</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative Foster Home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runaway</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized Foster Home</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YDC/RYDC</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2283</strong></td>
<td><strong>482</strong></td>
<td><strong>2765</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanency Plans</td>
<td>Ages 14 to 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>194</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>393</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term FC</td>
<td>77</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardianship</td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Emancipation</td>
<td>304</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living With Fit Relative</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunification</td>
<td>1023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2283</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning to live independently is a lifelong process. For most children, the early stages of this process take place as part of growing up in a family. In the family setting, children receive continuous economic and emotional support from nurturing parents as they make the transitions from childhood to adolescence and from adolescence to adulthood.

OUR ISSUE:

How do we successfully help older youth in care make a successful transition to adulthood?
Duration: 18 years

18 years
216 months
939 weeks 1 days
6,574 days
157,776 hours
9,466,560 minutes
567,993,600 seconds
## 2015 KIDS COUNT PROFILE

### GEORGIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Children in poverty</th>
<th>Children whose parents lack source employment</th>
<th>Children living in households with a high housing cost burden</th>
<th>Teens not in school and not working</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Well-Being</strong></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>651,000 children</td>
<td>814,000 children</td>
<td>908,000 children</td>
<td>56,000 teens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WORSENER</td>
<td>WORSENER</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2008 28%</td>
<td>2008 28%</td>
<td>2008 37%</td>
<td>2008 11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Children not attending preschool</th>
<th>Fourth graders not proficient in reading</th>
<th>Eighth graders not proficient in math</th>
<th>High school students not graduating on time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>146,000 children</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WORSENER</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2007-08 51%</td>
<td>2009 72%</td>
<td>2007 75%</td>
<td>2007 35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Low-birthweight babies</th>
<th>Children without health insurance</th>
<th>Child and teen deaths per 100,000</th>
<th>Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12,064 babies</td>
<td>238,000 children</td>
<td>741 deaths</td>
<td>43,000 teens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2008 9.6%</td>
<td>2009 11%</td>
<td>2008 32</td>
<td>2007-08 6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Children in single-parent families</th>
<th>Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma</th>
<th>Children living in high-poverty areas</th>
<th>Teen births per 1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family and Community</strong></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>933,000 children</td>
<td>359,000 children</td>
<td>418,000 children</td>
<td>10,322 births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WORSENER</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
<td>IMPROVED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2008 35%</td>
<td>2008 19%</td>
<td>2008-10 11%</td>
<td>2006 38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TEENS AGES 16 TO 19 NOT IN SCHOOL AND NOT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES (PERCENT)

National KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation
GEORGIA

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NOT GRADUATING ON TIME BY RACE AND ETHNICITY: 4 SELECTED (PERCENT)

National KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation
PERSONS 18 TO 24 IN POVERTY (PERCENT)

National KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation
Do you plan to continue to remain in care until you are 21 years old?

- Yes: 38%
- No: 36%
- Unsure: 26%
If no, where do you plan to live?

- On-campus housing at college/university: 24%
- With my birth family: 24%
- With my current/past foster family: 18%
- My own apartment: 18%
- With a roommate in an apartment: 5%
- Other: 11%
Youth response for reasons why foster children leave foster care when they turn 18 years old:

- Desire to return to their biological family
- Did not have a pleasant experience in foster care such as being treated unfairly in foster homes
- No privacy while in foster care
- Not being able to explore their independence (being treated like a little kid)
- Seeking freedom
- Feel as if they are an adult
- Dissatisfied with the rules at the group home and the constant changes
- Believe that they are self-sufficient
- Too many restrictions in foster care
- Seek other relationships that involve drugs and gangs
- Lack of support from DFCS staff
- Lack normalcy such as hanging out with friends
Youth response for things that DFCS can do differently to help other youth stay in foster care until 21 years old:

- Provide a better understanding of responsibilities in regards to residing own their own
- Provide some freedoms to allow them to visit friends
- Provide them phones in order for them to contact DFCS case manager or family in case of emergency
- Provide assistance for youth to stay in different programs
- Provide youth more opportunities to display self-responsibility
- Provide opportunities to work on their individual goals
- Allow them to remain with their family of origin (no removals)
- Provide financial assistance for college
- Encourage the youth more to stay in the foster care system
- Provide services and assistance timely
- Educate the youth regarding the benefits of remaining in foster care
- Allow the youth to have a voice in the planning process
- Show that DFCS and stakeholders care
ILP Nationally: Lessons Learned Since 1999

1. Permanence is vital for youth.
2. Young people must be served from a youth development and developmentally appropriate perspective.
3. Young people must be engaged in planning for their futures and advocacy.
4. Independent living programs have not been successful in preparing young people in foster care for adulthood.
5. Young people currently and formerly in foster care need to build financial resources and assets.
6. Data must be available to track outcomes and drive decisions.
7. Partnerships and resources are essential in achieving positive outcomes for youth. (Link/leverage ideas and money.)
8. Public policy and public will are critical elements.
9. Court involvement is crucial.
ILP : In Transition

• Georgia Budget and Policy Institute Review: June 2006 “How Georgia Can Better Prepare Foster Youth for Productive Lives”
• Georgia’s Plan for Preparing Youth for Adulthood--January 2008
• MAYOI-EmpowerMEnt: Building Capacity for Youth Aging Out of Care--Summer 2010
• 2013- ILP Refresh
ILP: Refresh Progress

- ThinkTank-2013
- Opt Out vs Opt In
- UGA—managing the ETV Program
- Vendor Selected to manage workshops statewide
- Credit Checks Annually for youth 16 and up (14 + beginning in Sept 15)
- Life Coach Training for RBWO Providers
- NYTD
- Improved fiscal accountability
- Developed New Marketing Collaterals
ILP: Refresh Next Steps

- CB 21 Project Plan Execution
- Core Standards of Practice
  - ILP Curriculum
- **ILC-ILS to Life Coaches**
  - More time to work with youth
    - 17 +
    - Permanency/Connections Focus
  - Partnerships with CCIs
  - Normalcy
  - Staff / Provider Training
- Re-Branding
  - Project WE
  - Re-Launch ILP Website
- Youth Engagement
  - EmpowerMEnt
    - Tribes
- Youth Rights/Grievance Implementation

- Increased Housing Options
  - Kickstart Program
    - AHA / Columbus HA
- TeenWork-piloting 9 month jobs
- CRRU
  - Specialized Recruitment Efforts
  - Caregiver Training / AFPAG
- OPM
  - Joint Memo with DJJ
  - Monitor/Support w DJJ / Dual-Youth
  - Development of ILP/TLP Placements
  - Revamp of Life Coach Training
  - Host Homes
  - GCAPP
- PRO Team
  - DD / MF Youth
  - Tracking PRTF Placements
Georgia ILP

**Strengths**
- Leadership / Vision Forward
- Partners / Stakeholders
- Refresh Effort/ Accomplishments
- CB21

**Weaknesses**
- ILP Turnover
- Staff Training/Roles/Expectations
- Lack of Connection with CCIs
- Permanency/Connectedness
- DD/MF/PRTF/PP/CSEC services
- NYTD

**Opportunities**
- EmpowerMEnt
- Youth Rights/RPPS
- Title IV-E Funding
- Brain Science

**Threats**
- Availability of Resources Statewide
- Fiscal Operations
An Informed Path Forward: Lessons Learned

Authentic youth engagement benefits everyone.

Purposeful youth preparation for independent living must be an integral expectation of our placement caregivers.

Purposeful independent living preparation cannot begin at age 14 years.

Government is not a good substitute for a family; permanency achievement in whatever form is possible and best, must be embedded into ILP and continually be sought as vigorously as for younger children in care.

Each youth needs an individualized plan; ILP eligibility spans 13 years (14-26 years). WTLP must be based on Individual factor’s -- age, development, family support, educational obtainment, personal factors.

Partnerships with stakeholders are critical; success cannot be achieved in isolation.

Fiscal and programmatic operations must be in sync.

Youth needs are not all predictable; the program must be flexible.

The program must be able to serve youth in metro and rural areas as equitably as possible.
Georgia ILP Goals

Educated

Connected

Healthy

Stable

Safe

Employed

Housed

PROJECT WE GROUP
QUESTIONS