

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

- ELEMENT: entrepreneurial skills training
 - see “Concept: Vocational Entrepreneurship Program,” page 2.
- ELEMENT: “activities to prepare youth for transition to postsecondary education and training”.

The reason being is that we can collaborate with the community colleges as they have already and are starting new programs that target this population which I think could be really beneficial. Also because higher education is limited within this target population and if we can move the needle in this area, the long range impact could be huge. We are starting to see more of our youth enroll (through the Lunalilo scholarship from UH foundation) and with our support succeed. It’s just a matter of helping them believe the possibilities especially when they have known a few or no one who has gone to college.

Debbie Spencer-Chun

- provide a pipeline from program completion into government employment

My understanding is that many state & some municipal departments have a bunch of openings and an aging workforce. It would be cool if we gave these kids hands-on experience through internships but offer preferred placement upon successful completion.

Nate Gytoku

- career pathways
- ELEMENTS: career guidance and awareness, career readiness training and work-based learning experiences, professional skill development (interpersonal, problem-solving)

Guidance and direction

Access to options and to know what is out there for them

Opportunities to make mistakes in a safe atmosphere

Soft skills in working with people to solve problems to succeed in today’s environment

Encouragement

Jason Ito

- TARGET POPULATIONS: foster youth, youth offenders, and homeless youth;
ELEMENTS: life coach mentors to support them up through young adulthood; state public housing priority status for placement; through MOAs, provide access to MH therapies to address complex trauma

Without basic needs being met, youth have limited focus on increasing their readiness, completing HS diploma, or maintaining employment.

Dani Ruiz

- See Penta chart, page 3.

A library of short-term entrepreneurship experiences that lead to typical Hawaii-based vocational career paths. The goal of this series is not so much to make entrepreneurs (that option is available) but rather to use simplified/early-stage projects as a way for youth to try many roles and experiences within an industry. For example:

- **Building & Construction:** This could be Project Lemon Tree (PLT) or a re-cast cloned version. For youth to get a PBL / STEAM hands-on experience in design, engineering and construction experience through creating a simple built structure like a lemon trellis.
- **Food & Beverage:** culinary arts in mixology, restaurateur, pastry, etc. (re-cast Lemonade Alley).
- **Craft Products:** product-making with extensions to retail and online selling.
- **Agricultural Products:** crop production, processing, marketing. PLT has a dose of this in it as well.
- **Services:** service-based businesses (see PEP discussion below).
- *And More... additional tracks as youth interests are discovered.*

Benefits

- Short-term safe spaces for youth to be part of a positive/proactive community.
- Healing hands-on engagement.
- Opportunity to explore interests and industries.
- Project-based mentorship relationships.
- Portfolio projects to position youth for education and job placement.
- Vocational experience that lead directly to occupations/jobs.
- Relationship pathways that lead to internships and jobs.

Curriculum, Facilitators, Fellows

In the short-term, we'd leverage the PLT/BizzyB youth journaling system (print version) along with Facilitator Guides, Common Core Alignment and Training. We also have a template for this with PLT and Lemonade Alley, both of which are consistent with the BizzyB online project-based learning platform. Participating organizations can be trained in the system, then provided funds to implement the system within their own groups.

Starting year two, we could offer an option to work online via BizzyB. Graduating youth could enter a Fellows Program to facilitate and mentor new participants.

Entrepreneurship Clubhouses (Partners)

It would also be interesting to provide this system as a backbone for use within physical clubhouse gathering locations. Organizations that can provide space would be perfect partners.

Inspiration Backstory

Many years ago, we donated the use of BizGym.com entrepreneur's growth system (predecessor to BizzyB) to a Houston-based organization called PEP (Prison Entrepreneurship Program PEP.ORG). They have done amazing work teaching business to convicts. After release, graduates have gone on to launch hundreds of businesses. Recidivism rate dropped from 80% to 20%.

Topic / Project / Effort Description

[PROJECT-NAME] ASIPRATION

OPPORTUNITY / CHALLENGE

What is the opportunity or limitation in the system?

- Lack of support to meet basic needs (housing, food, transportation)
- At-risk youth complex trauma is not addressed before becoming adults
- At-risk youth lack a support network (mentors, positive familial relationships, connection to community)

NEW INSIGHTS

What are the key new insights?

- Mentors to provide both occupational match & commitment as a "life coach" connection
- Assistance with Sec. 8 housing voucher and/or state public housing priority status for placement
- Access to home-based or alternative forms of therapy (animal assisted, art, music)

MAIN ASPIRATION:

Without basic needs being met, youth have limited focus on increasing their job readiness, completing HS diploma, or maintaining employment. Within 18 months of foster youth aging out of foster care, 40-55% become homeless. 50% of homeless have been in foster care. Approx 45% of detailed youth exit to unstable housing. Approx 45% of homeless youth spent time in juvenile detention, jail, or prison.

HOW IT WORKS & COLLABORATORS:

Provide youth mentors or become the transition & support program for youth to receive services from other agencies.

Collaborate with HUD Sec. 8 and state public housing to create priority status/category and application process for WIO youth.

Create MOA with MH providers to refer youth & streamline intake process (with priority status)

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS:

- Collaborations with HUD and State housing is a time consuming process, may require rewriting laws & policies (bureaucratic red tape)
- Limited # of Medicaid MH providers
- Intense process of recruitment & maintaining mentors

POTENTIAL IMPACT

CHARACTERIZE THE POTENTIAL IMPACT

Assisting/focusing on foster care youth and youth offenders would have a large impact on the "At-risk" youth category

Providing basic needs not only increase youth potential for work readiness and employment, it also reduces the homeless population in Hawaii and the tertiary cost and community impact of homelessness.

NEXT STEPS

What are the next steps?

- Research current successful mentor programs.
- Research HUD Sec. 8 & state housing priority populations and if at-risk youth (foster care & offenders) could be added
- Research current HM providers that provide home-based & alternative therapies and participate with Medicaid

A sentence explaining why it is important / useful

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