

Workforce Presentation

Local Collaboration Panel

Panelists:

Harris County & HGAC:

- Richard Funderburk, Grants Manager, Harris County Transition Center
- Miguel Quiruga, Manager, Workforce Solutions, Northline

El Paso & Borderplex:

- Jorge Contreras, Workforce Advocate, El Paso PRIDE Center
- Taylor Cortinas, Program Specialist, Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Moderator: Jen Troke, Director, Workforce Grants and Contracts

How the Collaboration Works

The Workforce Board:

- **Prioritize** youth in foster care for employment and training, and support services for both current and former youth in foster care
- **Designate** a point of contact, or liaison, at the Board and at each Workforce Solutions office

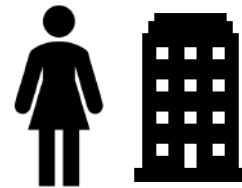
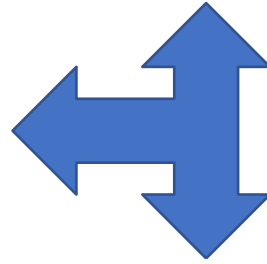
The Transition Center:

- **Ensure** coordination of local services for foster youth with local Workforce Solutions offices
- **Hire a Workforce Advocate** (funded by TWC) that will be housed at the transition center to facilitate access to available local services for transitioning youth in foster care

Local Partnership Model



Liaisons
@ Local
Workforce
Solutions
Offices



Workforce
Advocates @
Local Foster Youth
Transition Centers



Miguel Quiroga
Work Based Learning Supervisor

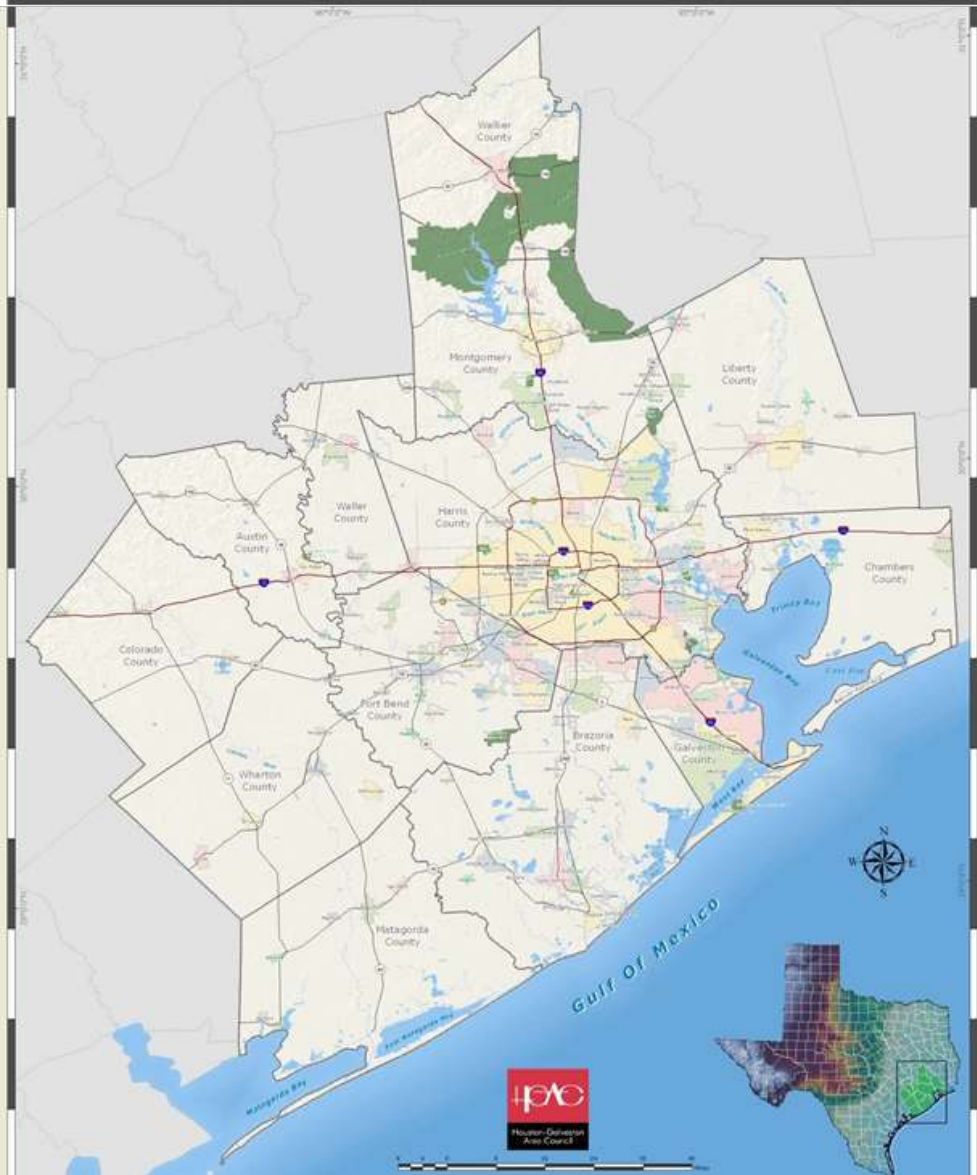


HAY Center
Harris County Protective Services for
Children and Adults
Richard Funderburk, Workforce Advocate

Region 6

Houston Metro Area

Region 6 Coverage Areas



The HAY Center



The HAY Center opened in 2005 as a youth transition center under the Department of Labor demonstration grant through Texas Workforce Commission.

At that time, the HAY Center convened a monthly partners' meetings. These included HGAC, workforce center representatives, area community colleges, and other community agencies. These original meetings set the ground work for our current partnership model.

In 2011 the relationship between the Center and the local workforce board was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which clearly sets out what each party agreed to do.



Key Elements of Cooperation

- Prioritize employment, training and support services, for both current and former foster youth, including child care for foster youth with children
- Identify cross-training opportunities with staff and other community partners
- Coordinate outreach, referral, case management and follow-up services for current and former foster care youth as appropriate
- Designate a point of contact at the Board and each Workforce Solutions office for foster youth and HAY Center staff to access assistance and services

How We Collaborate

- Semi-Annual meetings with HGAC Point of Contact and Transition Center Workforce Staff
- Real time alerts about new initiatives and programs contracted through HGAC to the one stops
- Linkages with key staff of training and employment programs
- Workforce Coordinators have regular contact with most center managers
- Regional Workforce Conference hosted by Houston Community College (HCC) – showcase HCC’s vocational education programs. Attendees include HCC staff, Workforce Center staff, HAY Center staff, and community stakeholders
- HCC also facilitates dialog with HAY Center Staff and special workforce projects (i.e. The Work Based Learning Program)

The major element which works for transitional youth is a strong point of contact within the Workforce Solutions Center to direct the youth to appropriate services and provide feedback to the HAY Center workforce coordinator/case manager.

It Takes a Team!

Example: The Work Based Learning Program

Program Provides:

- Continuum of workplace opportunities extended to a young person over time
- Structured learning component with explicit career awareness and skill development goals and assessment methods
- Supervisor is a workplace mentor who supports job task and skill development goals
- 360° or “all aspects of industry” view of all of the careers and skills that make a particular workplace and career field hum with activity
- All workplace opportunities in the community – public and private sector
- Strategic, systematic relationship with employer

Factors Facilitating Strong Collaboration

- Our region is fortunate in having a Workforce Board area – match the youth transition center’s coverage area – Only one local workforce board (LWB) to work with
- The Center has a history (pre-dating the TWC TANF Transition Center Grant) of having strong community involvement, including the workforce centers and LWB
- The Center operates other contracts and grants which supplement workforce activities. These include the Preparation for Adult Living Contract, and a Hogg Mental Health Foundation Grant
- The Center is a program of Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults – as such the Center has resources of Harris County available
- The Center has the HAY Center Foundation, a non-profit board, which currently funds the Transitional Coaching Program (Mentoring), Bridge Housing Program, and a volunteer program
- The HAY Center Foundation also provides additional funding for youth activities, educational, vocational, housing, and special needs.

It takes the whole youth into consideration.

You can not talk to a youth about employment who does not have a stable place to live, or food to eat.

Next Level Service Coordination for Foster Youth in El Paso



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
EL PASO HUMAN SERVICES, INC.
AND
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS BORDERPLEX

PRESENTERS:

JORGE CONTRERAS, WORKFORCE ADVOCATE

TAYLOR CORTINAS, WIOA YOUTH/TAA PROGRAM SPECIALIST

PRIDE Center



- Intake and Assessment
- Youth driven services
- Case Management:
Holistic Approach
- Workforce Advocate
- Introduce to Workforce
Solutions

Workforce Solutions Borderplex



WIOA Youth Programs

- Alternative Secondary School Services
- Post-secondary preparation
- Internships
- Occupational Training
- Tutoring, Study Skills, Training, Instruction
- Career Counseling
- Adult Mentoring
- Dynamic Futures
- Employment Opportunities
- Work Based Learning
- Leadership Development
- Supportive Services

Overcoming Barriers



Challenges

- Parenting Youth
- Lacking H.S. Diploma/GED
- Disabilities
- Substance Abuse
- Criminal History
- Homelessness
- Domestic Violence

Solutions

- Choices Program
- PRIDE Ascend
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services, S.O.A.R
- Treatment Facilities
- Re-entry/Second-chance employers
- Shelters/Rapid Re-housing
- Center Against Sexual & Family Violence

Project FUTURE

- Alumni of foster care 18-25 years old
- Part-time paid 6-week internship
- Placements at County of El Paso
- Free legal assistance for expunctions
- Lunch & Learns
- Mentoring
- Gateway to long-term employment



Contact Us

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Sample MOU

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
_____ Workforce Development Board
and the
Foster Youth Transition Centers
To Further the Objectives of the
Coordination of services to current Foster Youth and former Foster Youth

I. Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding

Texas Family Code §264.121 requires the _____ Workforce Development Board (Board) and _____ Transition Center to jointly develop and adopt a memorandum of understanding (Agreement) to coordinate services to address the unique challenges facing current and former foster youth who must transition to independent living.

The purpose of this Agreement is to describe the responsibilities of the principal parties insofar as they relate to:

- furthering the objectives of the _____ Board;
- ensuring that services are prioritized and targeted to meet the needs of foster and former foster youth; and
- making referrals, where feasible, for short-term housing referrals for youth needing housing.

The goals of the _____ Foster Youth Transition Center include:

- helping foster youth prepare for leaving foster care and transitioning to adulthood;

Resources

- **WD 43-11 Priority of Service for Eligible Foster Youth**

Directive to prioritize foster youth for workforce center services (2011/Currently in review for 2018 update)

⇒ <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/partners/43-11.pdf>

- **WD 38-11 Change 1 MOU with DFPS to Serve Foster Youth**

Directive to establish MOUs and formal partnerships with DFPS (2011)

⇒ <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/partners/38-11c1.pdf>

- **WD 31-04 Coordination of Services to Foster Youth**

Directive to inform local workforce boards about the needs of foster youth (2004)

⇒ <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/partners/31-04.pdf>

- **TAB 274 Coordination of Services to Foster Youth**

Technical and interpretive details regarding implementation of 38-11 and 43-11 (2016)

⇒ <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/partners/tab-274-twc.pdf>

Questions for Panelists:

- 1) How did El Paso and Harris County crack the code?
- 2) What are the greatest benefits you receive as part of this collaboration?
- 3) What surprised you most about this collaboration?
- 4) What was the most difficult obstacle to overcome in your collaboration?
- 5) What piece of advice would you like to share with others who are building these partnerships now?
- 6) What one word would you use to describe this collaboration?
- 7) What keeps you coming in to work every day?