

Meeting Name:	YAB Statewide Meeting	Date:	March 19, 2026
Type of Meeting:	In Person	Timeframe:	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Attendees:	Youth and Staff from Allegheny, Armstrong, Bucks, Butler, Cambria, Carbon, Chester, Crawford, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Lackawanna, Mifflin, Montgomery, Susquehanna, Westmoreland, Wyoming, and York Counties, as well as staff from CWRC, OCYF, and SWAN.		
Attendees Not Present:			
Minutes Prepared By:	Julie Hill		

Meeting Minutes	
1	Welcome / Ice Breaker (Carl Butler) - Carl welcomed everyone to the meeting. - The group did an ice breaker led by the SW Region: Youth were handed a list of instructions to follow. At the end of the page the instructions said to ignore the previous directions. The group discussed the importance of reading directions thoroughly. YAB Summit Updates - Summit Dates: June 10th and 11th, 2026 - Evening Activity: ABC Bowling Alley (East) - Keynote Speaker: Jim Donovan - Summit Trainings: Engagement/Collaboration, Child Welfare 101, Advocacy
2	OCYF Updates (Lindsey Glezen) - Lindsey introduced herself as the IL Coordinator for PA. - She noted that today is Absolutely Incredible Kid Day. - She shared that the Chafee Education Training Grant (ETG) is available for youth ages 16 and older. It assists with post-secondary schooling. 2025/2026 applications are open on PHEAA's website until March 31. 2026/2027 applications will be available in April. It is important that youth fill out the correct application when applying. Directions are on PHEAA's website. - FosterEd is a tuition waiver program that is automatically evaluated when youth apply for ETG. FosterEd offers tuition and mandatory fee waivers once all federal, state, and any other scholarships have been applied. It does not cover room and board, meal plans, or books. All institutions are required to have a point of contact on site for FosterEd and ETG. There is a point of contact directory on the YAB website. - National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) is a federal requirement and is attached to Independent Living funding across the state. 2026 A period ends on March 31, and the 2026 B period opens on April 1. The youth surveys help OCYF to know how to better assist youth in care. Counties are encouraged to provide a stipend to youth who complete the survey. 2026 surveys are for a 17-year-old baseline, which is a short survey

	to ask about demographics, milestones, and time in the foster care system. 19 and 21-year-old surveys may be asked of youth who completed a 17-year-old survey. All youth must be registered two weeks prior to their 17th birthday, even if they are unwilling to complete the survey.
3	YAB Introductory Questionnaire (Carl Butler) • Carl thanked the youth for their input on the Youth Introductory Questionnaire at the last meeting. Those changes are being worked on currently. • The updated questionnaire will come to the next YAB Statewide meeting for review.
4	Present YAB Website Resources: Education (Carl Butler) payab.pitt.edu/default.htm • 10 Tips to Help Youth Pursue Post-Secondary Education • PHEAA Brochure • College Application Timeline The youth broke into smaller groups to discuss how these resources could help in specific scenarios. Each YAB Statewide meeting will feature a resource from the YAB website so that the youth know what is available to them and so they may share the resources with other youth who may benefit from them.
5	Work on CRP Recommendations (Report out) • SW – Pregnant and Parenting Youth continuation (Fathers) ○ They are working on a brochure, survey questions, a full packet, and interactive map for the website. • NE – Family Connection ○ They are working on assembling a packet with age-appropriate worksheets. ○ Their goal is to finish the packet at the next meeting. • SE – What to Expect After Adoption ○ They are working on a brochure. ○ A SWAN representative will be attending their next regional meeting where a youth will interview them in a video. The video will be shared at the next YAB Statewide meeting. • SC – Employment Resources ○ They are working on their mock interviews. ○ They identified appropriate work behaviors, boundaries, and benefits. ○ The group designed wristbands that will include a QR code to the YAB webpage. ○ At the next meeting they will work on completing the employment packet. • NW - Stop Normalizing What is Not Normal ○ The group made a plan for their next regional meeting. ○ They are drafting a letter for placement facilities.

6	Employment Readiness (Cindy Gore) • The youth played a Kahoot Employment Readiness Game. • Cindy went over recent situations where youth signed up to participate in a committee or workgroup and didn't show up for that commitment. She reminded the youth that they are chosen to be here to represent the youth in their counties. ○ If an individual cannot attend something they signed up for or if they changed their mind on a commitment, they just need to communicate. ○ Staff should also be making sure youth are following through with their commitments. ○ She stressed the importance of not losing the opportunity to have a youth voice to help better the system, due to individuals not showing up to committee meetings or work groups. There have been many positive changes from previous youth voices, so they would like to see that continue. ○ If a youth attends a meeting/event and feels they are not engaged or respected, they should let CWRC staff know so that it can be addressed. ○ Youth should ask themselves what the whole purpose of them being there is. The youth are there to represent, speak, and advocate for their peers. • Cindy asked the youth to break into groups and discuss barriers and solutions to the following questions: ○ What steps should be taken when youth who participate in the Statewide YAB meeting encounter challenges or fall short of meeting the expectations tied to their volunteer roles on committees or workgroups? ○ How should we respond when youth participating in the Statewide YAB meeting do not follow through on the expectations associated with volunteering for committees or workgroups? • Youth Thoughts/Ideas: ○ Have a calendar on the YAB website with all upcoming meetings and events on it. ○ If someone signs up for something and doesn't show up, they shouldn't be allowed to attend the next thing they sign up for. If it continues, they should not be able to sign up for any future opportunities. ○ Youth could provide a response/statement explaining why they didn't attend a commitment along with a plan for attending any upcoming meetings to show their accountability. ○ Even if the youth do not have an immediate need, they should be speaking up for peers/youth beyond the YAB. ○ Youth may not have the necessary resources to follow through. IL workers could send email reminders along with the importance of the youth's involvement. ○ Mental health and technology are a lot more of an issue than before, but youth should at least text if they are unable to attend and then ask what was missed so they can try to make the next one. ○ Barriers may include Wi-Fi service, lack of commitment, and lack of community. It was suggested to provide encouragement, consistent reminders from other youth and staff, and to have consequences of not being able to attend the next one if they no-call / no-show. ○ Check-ins the night before or morning of could be an option. Group text reminders could be made by the staff. ○ Staff should hold youth accountable and have high expectations.
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	○ Youth should also hold themselves accountable and show up or communicate. ○ Youth should evaluate what they can handle taking on when committing to local, regional, and statewide YAB, before committing to additional opportunities. ○ Another step could be added when signing up for a new commitment, where they must confirm their initial sign up with a typed-up response stating that they are still interested in attending. This shows dedication and allows youth to think critically about the commitment while in front of their calendar. ○ If school or homework is a barrier, school should come first and it should just be communicated with staff if the youth is unable to attend.
7	After-Action Review & Closing (Carl Butler) • What went well? ○ Good discussion about taking responsibility. Youth appreciated hearing how their voices matter. ○ The regions focused on the CRP projects during their worktime and felt they are getting close to the final drafts. The groups locked in and got a lot done. ○ Appreciated being able to speak up and be there to advocate for other youth in their regions. ○ Appreciated group goals that are attainable and allow them to stay on track for their CRP projects. ○ The level of communication was good. ○ There were a lot of opportunities for youth to talk and discuss things. • What could we do better? ○ Speak one at a time and listen to those who are speaking. ○ Stick to the dress code better. IL Workers can help youth if they need business casual clothing. ○ Recent meetings have felt more isolated to the regions. A youth suggested adding time to meet youth from other regions, or swapping seats throughout the meeting to hear other perspectives. It was decided to split up the groups during the Resource Highlight agenda item in future meetings. ○ The ice breaker felt isolated to their tables. Next Meeting: May 21, 2026