

Meeting Name:	YAB Statewide Meeting	Date:	May 21, 2026
Type of Meeting:	In Person	Timeframe:	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Attendees:	Youth and Staff from Armstrong, Bucks, Butler, Cambria, Crawford, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Lackawanna, Mifflin, Montgomery, Susquehanna, 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 NE Region: Everyone tore off a random number of toilet paper squares. They counted off into groups. For each number of toilet paper squares they had to tell that number of interesting facts about themselves to their group. Summit Updates (Qasim Abrams) - Summit Dates: June 10th and 11th, 2026 - Regions will need to be ready to present their completed CRP Projects at the Summit. - Evening Activity: ABC Bowling Alley (East) - Keynote Speaker: Jim Donovan - Summit Trainings: Engagement/Collaboration, Child Welfare 101, Advocacy YAB Updates (Carl Butler) - Pitt is launching a tuition-free initiative for Pennsylvania residents at regional campuses. Beginning this fall, eligible students at the Bradford, Greensburg and Johnstown campuses, and in the Titusville nursing program, will pay \$0 in tuition through the Pitt Regional Campus Tuition Pledge. - YAB Introductory Questionnaire – An updated version was provided to all participants. The changes were based on the input the youth gave in January.
2	OCYF Updates (Lindsey Glezen) - Lindsey introduced herself as the IL Coordinator for Pennsylvania. - She shared that the Chafee Education Training Grant (ETG) is available for youth ages 16 and older. It assists with post-secondary schooling. 2026/2027 applications opened in April. 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 ended on March 31, and Pennsylvania was able to submit a compliant file for the period. The 2026 B period opened on April 1. The youth surveys help OCYF to know how to better assist youth in care. Counties are encouraged to provide an incentive 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	Juvenile Justice Resources (Qasim Abrams & Deb Seeger) - Qasim and Deb introduced a couple of helpful resources around juvenile justice, including the Incarceration Resource Manual, which was developed as part of the SWAN Toolkit manual. https://ujportal.pacourts.us/ - This can be a tool for youth to see previous charges, when court hearings are, etc. https://jlc.org/resources/know-your-rights-guide-chapter-14-juvenile-and-criminal-justice-system-involvement-and - Guide for youth to know their rights around the topic. - Youth were encouraged to let Carl, Qasim, Meghan, or Cindy know if they would like for this to be a CRP project in the future, or if they would like to have additional resources provided regarding this topic.
4	ACF focus group: Stakeholder Interviews - Sarah Finkey and Monique Davis attended to discuss the opportunity for youth to participate in the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). - Stakeholder Interviews are an opportunity for youth to share their voices to help make the system better for children, youth, and families across Pennsylvania. It is a federal review to see how each state's child welfare system is doing. - These interviews exist to help provide more insight than the data reports. Responses are confidential and are used to look for patterns or issues, and necessary changes. - Youth were invited to take part in the interviews during the meeting.
5	Work on CRP Recommendations (Report out) - SW – Pregnant and Parenting Youth continuation (Fathers) - Working on a brochure, resource packet, and interactive links for the website. - NE – Family Connection - Working on a packet with age-appropriate worksheets. - SE – What to Expect After Adoption - Working on a brochure and youth interview video. - SC – Employment Resources - Working on a packet and wristband with the URL to the virtual packet. - NW - Stop Normalizing What is Not Normal
6	Additional Discussion

- Meghan announced that the Permanency Conference in June will be focusing on older youth talents. There are three youth that have signed up so far to read poems they wrote and play an instrument. They are still looking for a couple more youth's digital art to display. The submissions are due tomorrow.

After-Action Review & Closing

- What went well?
 - Appreciated that youth were able to open up and share their stories during the interviews.
 - Good participation in the focus group.
 - Appreciated the friendliness, teamwork, and good communication between the youth.
 - Felt that these groups are making a positive change.
 - Felt that it was a productive meeting.
- What could we do better?
 - Would like to see the room full of youth.
 - The business casual dress code could be better enforced.
 - A youth felt there was an uneven acknowledgement with the clapping and encouraged the staff to lead clapping for everyone.
 - Prefers icebreakers that get everyone up and moving first thing in the morning. Meghan encouraged the youth to share any icebreaker ideas that they have for future meetings with either Carl, Qasim, or their consultants.

Next Meeting: September 17, 2026