

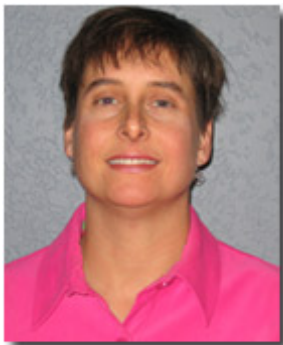


WEBINAR MATERIALS

"Students with Disabilities in Foster Care: What Special Education Advocates Need to Know"

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presented by



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The Advocate Academy is a project of



A not-for-profit organization dedicated to services and projects
that work to improve the lives of children, youth and adults with disabilities.

www.AdvocacyInstitute.org

	<p>Dr. Sarah Geenen</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Director of two federally funded studies (My Life and Project Success) that are using a randomized design to examine the impact of enhanced self-determination on the education and post school outcomes of students who are in both special education and foster care.■ Has conducted extensive research around the transition and educational experiences of at-risk youth with disabilities, with a focus on foster care.■ Doctorate from DePaul University, 1998■ Dr. Geenen's life experience as the sibling of two adopted brothers with special needs has fueled her commitment to and interest around supporting the education and transition of foster youth with disabilities.

	<p>Students with Disabilities in Foster Care: <i>What Special Education Advocates Need to Know</i></p>

	<p>Efforts to date</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Fostering Futures Project<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Funded by US Dept of Education (OSEP)- 3 studies documenting educational and transition experiences.■ My Life Project<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Funded by NIDRR- Randomized field test of intervention designed to promote SD and transition outcomes■ Project Success<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Funded by US Dept of Education (IES)- Randomized field test of intervention designed to promote SD and educational outcomes

	Foster Care: Prevalence data and other statistics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In the U.S., 800,000 youth are in foster care each year. (Children's Bureau, 2008) ■ ACF summarizes AFCARS data on it's website: www.acf.hhs.gov

	Foster Care: Demographics																		
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnicity</th> <th>Foster Care</th> <th>U.S.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>46%</td> <td>60.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>African American</td> <td>36.6%</td> <td>15.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native American</td> <td>2.6%</td> <td>1.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian</td> <td>1.4%</td> <td>3.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hispanic</td> <td>13.5%</td> <td>17.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnicity	Foster Care	U.S.	White	46%	60.9%	African American	36.6%	15.1%	Native American	2.6%	1.2%	Asian	1.4%	3.6%	Hispanic	13.5%	17.0%
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	Foster Care: Demographics	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gender: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 52% male - 48% female ■ Placement type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24% kinship - 46% non-relative - 30% other <p>AFCARS: Preliminary 2006 estimates as of 1/2008</p>	

	Foster Care: Demographics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Case goals:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reunification with parent: 51%- Adoption: 20%- Emancipation: 6%■ Outcomes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reunification: 54%- Adoption: 18%- Emancipation: 9%- Runaway: 2% <p>AFCARS: Preliminary 2006 estimates as of 1/2008</p>

	Foster Care Demographics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Average length of stay in foster care is 28.3 months; median=15.5■ 42% of children in foster care spent 11 months or less■ 22% spent 1-2 years■ 12% spent 2-3 years■ 24% of children in care 3 years or longer <p>AFCARS: Preliminary 2006 estimates as of 1/2008</p>

	Foster Care Demographics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Age in care:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mean age: 9.8; median: 10.2- Infants (less than 1 year): 6%- Age 1-4: 23%- Age 5-10: 25%- Age 11-15: 25%- 16 years and older: 21% <p>AFCARS: Preliminary 2006 estimates as of 1/2008</p>

	Foster Care Demographics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ What percentage of youth experience a disability?<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 30-40% receive special education services (Geenen, 2006)– If we include youth who receive mental health services and/or have a DSM IV dx, 70% experience a disability (Hogansen, 2008)

	Foster care: Demographics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Nationally, 20,000 teenagers age-out of foster care each year.■ An additional 12,000 youth runaway <p>AFCARS: Preliminary 2006 estimates as of 1/2008</p>

	Foster Care: Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Youth aging out of foster care struggle as young adults:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 50% used illegal drugs– 25% were involved in the legal system– 17% were self supportingWestat, 1991

	Foster Care: Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Midwest Evaluation (2005)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 2X more likely to have at least 1 child, more likely to be single parent– More likely to be unemployed■ Casey Alumni Study (2003)<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Incomes 35% lower– 1 out of 5 homeless

	Foster Care: Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Disability neglected in research<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Midwest study excluded foster “youth with developmental disabilities, severe mental illness.”– Casey study did not include foster youth “who had a major physical or developmental disability, e.g. an IQ score of less than 70”.

	Foster Care: Outcomes
	<p>Foster youth with disabilities were less likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Be employed– Graduate from high school– Have social support– Be self-sufficient <p>Westat, 1991</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– In addition, only 16% of foster youth with ED graduated from HS, 18% left HS because incarcerated. (Smithgall, 2005)

	Foster Care: Resilience
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Best predictor of positive adult outcomes for foster youth: EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (Westat, 1991; Noguera, 2002)

	Foster Care: Education
	<p>Research has shown that compared to the general school population, youth in foster care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- score lower on state tests (Burley & Halpern, 2001)- are more likely to repeat at least one grade (ESM School of Public Service, 1999)- are twice as likely to drop-out (Blome, 1997)- have poor attendance rates (Joiner, 2001)- are more likely to attend an alternative school (Geenen & Powers, 2006)

	Foster Care: Education
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Foster youth in special education<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lower GPAs- Changed school more often- Earned fewer credits- Had lower scores on state testing- Had more restrictive special education placements- Were more likely to attend an alternative school■ (Geenen & Powers)

	Foster Care: Barriers to School Success
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lack of parental advocate- High mobility- Child welfare focus on safety vs. well being- Trauma, poverty, separation from family- Over medication- Challenges around communication & collaboration between systems

	Foster Care: Collaboration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ FERPA■ IDEA/educational surrogate

	Foster Care: IDEA 2004
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Expands definition of parent to include long-term foster parents (Sec. 602 (23) and CFR Sec. 300.20)■ Allows either the LEA or judge to appoint an educational surrogate (Sec. 615(b)(2)(A)(i))■ Ensured that a parent's inability to consent to an evaluation does not delay IEP process (Sec. 614 (a)(1)(D)(iii))■ http://www.childrensdefense.org/site/DocServer/idea_2004_summary.pdf?docID=558

	Foster Care: Chafee
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Foster care Independence Act of 1999<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Provides federal funds for ILPs– Provides funding for room & board after youth exits foster care– AKA John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence program <p>www.casey.org/resources/publications/chafeeFAQ.htm www.fy13.com</p>

	Transition Planning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Chafee: Requires a transitional independent living plan■ Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008: States must have a transition planning process for young people leaving foster care, with a transition plan 90 days before departure■ IDEA: Must include transition planning in first IEP that will be in effect when student is 16.

	Foster Care: ETVs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Educational Training Vouchers■ Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2002<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Adds funding for post secondary education to the Chafee program (ETVs of up to \$5000 a year).

	Other legislation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Shortened timelines for decision making focused on safety<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Permanency hearings– Emphasis on accountability<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Child and Family Services Review

	Foster Care: Oregon Legislation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ SB 808 requires DHS (or contractor of DHS) to have a transition plan for youth 16 and older. Court required to review plan at each permanency hearing■ SB 1034 permits wardship of a youth to be continued until 21 years of age. Stipulates requirements around courts dismissing DHS guardianship■ HB 3075 allows youth to attend neighborhood school if courts determine it is in student's best interest■ SB 414: Permits some information sharing between foster care and schools.

	Strategies for Supporting Education and Transition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Collaborative planning■ School counselors and college■ CASAs■ Youth Participation document■ Educational Liaisons■ Training for foster parents

	Strategies:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Preliminary findings from the My Life study:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Key elements of intervention include coaching, mentoring and coordinated planning– Initial results indicate positive impact on SD, school retention, quality of life, employment & indep. Living– Case examples: http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/121893630311270.xml&coll=7&thispage=1

	Additional readings/reports
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <u>Youth with Disabilities in the Foster Care System: Barriers to Success and Proposed Policy Solutions</u> (National Council on Disability, Feb 26, 2008).■ <u>A Case for Action for Children and Youth with Disabilities in Foster Care</u> (UCP, 2006).

	Foster Care: Famous People
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Eddie Murphy■ Marilyn Monroe■ Dr. Ruth Westheimer■ Dan O'Brien■ Cher■ John Lennon■ Babe Ruth■ Malcolm X■ Eleanor Roosevelt■ www.fyi3.com FosterClub
