

LINDA – Fieldnotes – May 22, 2007

Subject: Phone conversation with Ms. Jones, In the Spirit of the Child

Time: around 5:45 [not sure how long conversation lasted]

[I typed these notes as we talked, so much is missing. This is a great education for me in terms of not assuming that the phrase “supplemental education” is going to open doors for me. Ms. Jones’ voice “sounds black,” with the cadences and pronunciations of AAVE.]

You say with regards to your focus area is supplemental education, which is what IUME does

We are not an educational program in terms of academics

The population that we work with are young people who have aged out [of the foster care system] or are about to

So we do...

I guess it would be considered a form of supplemental education

[Ms. Jones appears highly skeptical that this could fall under supplemental education.]

Individual living skills

The way we do it is very different

We’re getting adolescents or young adults 18-21

Practical application

Because they were still in care

Now that they are out of placement

They have to apply [the skills]

In many instances it was not...

It is a form of development

[on Ed Gordon]

He’s gonna beat me up because I missed the last meeting [IUME task force]

[She calls him Poppa something]

We do sessions with the youth on Saturdays once a month

18-21 yo and the bulk of our census is 21 and up ???

Our whole goal is to help them avoid homelessness

It’s easy to take you through the process

58p

288

352

4p

353

354

355

356

357

358

359

360

A young person can be referred to us through their law guardian
3 weeks prior to their 21st birthday
At that point, when we receive a referral form and they're contacted, so we can take them
through who we are and what services we provide them
From that point on, the young person has to implement their plan
We don't make their plan

We're not a child welfare agency
Transition them out of foster care

No, really,
It's a lot deeper than you think

It takes time
A lot of work and a lot of prodding

The instructional piece,
In terms of dissemination of information

If you're time can avail you on this TH=thursday
If you want to sit and observe
Plus we're gonna have an intake

Sit and observe and get a sense of how we go about this process
One coming in
Two or three more
already received them

Thursday 12:00
They have a tendency to come late

To mentally transition them out of care
Dependency

Oh Lord! She's gonna get an education

Many are children when they enter in care
We focus primarily on adolescents
Everything is done for them.
Everything!

Generally by the time we get them they've already lost so much time on knowing how to make decision for them

Caseworkers do it

Law guardians

Judges

Get out!

They're standing there like frightened animals

So we teach them how to navigate

We're here!

We're not gonna to do it for you

Now you're grown

whether you wanna be or not

[both wanting to be grown and not wanting it]

I don't wanna be grown

We start the process

You need to see an actual intake

When we come in

At that very moment

They have to develop their own folder

We don't do it

And they're so accustomed to a case worker doing it

Social security card

We literally give them a blank card

They have to fill out their own profile

Ok the copier is over there

And they're looking at you like, huh?

That's the first thing we have to let them know that they're not in care anymore

So it starts from day 1

You have 50 [] days to begin the implementation of your plan

So if that means to finish high school

We literally make them sit down at the telephone and make a call

And if you choose not to do this that's ok

From what we understand

There's no other program like this

We're a community-based organization

We're not a child welfare program

Many of the staff all have backgrounds in child welfare
That's foster care
When a child is removed from his or her home

Meaning they've been with us maybe 3 months, 6 months
6-9 months
And one coming
126th park and Lexington

Maroon awning
Building is located closer to metro north trestle

Take the 60 bus and get off by metro north
You're gonna cross the street by Washington Mutual
We're on 126th behind it

You'll see the metro north gate where they park their trucks
Second building in

Mr. Penn should be there

Say 11:30
I'll have a couple minutes to sit with you.
And give you a feel
We'll put you at a desk [and write all you want]

Linda: nobody will mind if I'm taking notes?

St. Johns univ was up there about 2 months ago
And that was their lower division
I don't know

Linda: You're used to this!

Last two and three years
At least the media is

We're making noise
So yeah I beat up the commissioner on a regular basis
But it's a good thing

L: you're fighting for them

Jones: And they know it

They're coming out without housing
Learning to communicate with people who are not case workers

We've had young people who found themselves with public assistance
No, this is not like Child Welfare.

Yes!

That's a lot of teaching
It's more like surrogate parenting

It sounds like she does not have time to do a full interview.