



# Supported Education

Creating Effective Outcomes for TAY  
Students

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Supported Education



# Key Goals

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Same As For Other Students:

1. Opportunity: Achieving success
2. Inclusion: Being part of society
3. Adaptation: Efficacy; Life skills

Key Goals



# Supported Education

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So what's different ?

1. Philosophy
2. Strategies
3. Program components
4. Research based exemplary practice

Supported Education



# What Is Supported Education?

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- The use of key supports to assist TAY students in achieving educational success and experiencing greater life satisfaction.

What Is Supported Education?



# Philosophy

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- Focus on recovery
- Focus on prevention
- Students are welcome and worthy

Philosophy



# “Stepping Stones” Program Philosophy Statement:

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“We believe adolescents and young adults with emotional and behavioral difficulties can make progress along a developmental continuum toward adult roles and achieve success in academic, vocational, personal, relational and community domains through learning skills and receiving support.”

“Stepping Stones” Program Philosophy Statement:



# Key Strategies

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- Active Engagement
- Mentoring
- Developmental Perspective
- Community Building
- Sensitivity to Diversity
- Meet youth at their level
- Role redefinition

Key Strategies



# Key Program Components

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- Outreach and recruiting
- Intake and assessment
- Strength based curriculum
- Peer support
- The “right” staff
- Reasonable accommodations
- A variety of outcome options
- Transition planning

Key Program Components



# Research Based Exemplary Practice

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- Boston University research
- University of Michigan: Carol Mowbray
- San Mateo Community Rehabilitation Coalition and the San Mateo Community College District
- The “Stepping Stones” Program

Research Based Exemplary Practice



# A Few “Stepping Stones” Outcomes

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In a typical semester (N=46):

61% completed classes with an average  
G.P.A. of 3.50.

89% of these students judged overall  
functioning to be excellent or good, a 30%  
improvement from beginning of semester.

A Few “Stepping Stones” Outcomes

## “Stepping Stones” Outcomes (cont’d)



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76% of students felt the program was of value and liked their classes.

Short term follow up found that 48% of students went on to complete key educational goals/53% reached key employment goals.

“Stepping Stones” Outcomes (cont’d)

# System Change: A Critical Need



- The plight of transition age youth.
- “Youth aren’t the problem, the system is the problem.”

System Change: A Critical Need



# System Change Strategies

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- Develop working coalitions
- Identify barriers: funding isn't the main barrier
- Work to reduce stigma
- Do your homework: build on existing models and research
- Utilize local creativity and community strengths

System Change Strategies



## For More Information

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- Clark, H.B and Davis, M. (Eds.) (2000). Transition to adulthood: A resource for assisting young people with emotional or behavioral difficulties. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.
- Unger, K.V. (1998). Handbook on supported education: Providing services for students with psychiatric disabilities. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

For More Information

LARKIN

STREET

YOUTH SERVICES

# Larkin Street Youth Services



Larkin Street Youth Services' mission is to create a continuum of services that inspires youth to move beyond the street. We will nurture potential, promote dignity and support bold steps by all.

# More Demographics

- Overall agency serves over 3000 youth out of estimated 4000 youth on San Francisco's streets every year.
- Over 550 youth received Education and Employment services from our Hire Up department last year.
- 40% of San Francisco's homeless population spent some of their childhood in the foster care system.

# LSYS Demographics

- 73% cannot return home because their families are unwilling or unable to care for them.
- 60% have had one or more placements in out-of-home foster care.
- 43% self-report being gay, lesbian, bisexual, or trans-gendered.
- 82% have been physically, sexually and/or emotionally abused
- 80% of youth who enroll in comprehensive LSYs services exit street life permanently.

# LSYS Demographics

## ETHNICITY

58% Caucasian

16% African American

11% Multiracial

3% Other/Unknown

2% Asian/Pacific

## PLACE OF ORIGIN

20% San Francisco

31% California

42% Out of State

7% Out of Country

# Hire Up Model and Effective Practices

- Developed in 1998 to meet the unique needs of homeless youth, ages 18-23
- Program design based on information from focus groups and surveys with youth
- Designed to provide multiple entry-points into services, accommodating diverse abilities and preferences.
- Provides flexible and individualized services including: job placement, education, career development and advancement, and career track training.

# Hire Up Model and Effective Practices

- Coordinated web of services that allows Hire Up Staff to communicate with client's case managers.
- Regular area meetings where life circumstances that effect progress are discussed
- Hire Up services are integrated with outreach, housing and social services.



# HIRE UP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Day Labor Program
2. Job Readiness Class
3. Education-GED/ABE & College Counseling
4. Wire UP-Computer Skills Class
5. **Institute for HIRE Learning-Career Track Training**
6. Job Placement Services
7. Retention and Career Advancement
8. HIRE Style Clothing and Image Consulting

# Day Labor Program

- Provides a motivated workforce of 7 – 10 Larkin Street Youth that can assist businesses in a variety of different projects
- A Larkin Street supervisor is on-site to manage the team and ensure effective and timely completion of all projects
- Serves large and small Bay Area businesses that are looking for temporary (day-to-day) workforce to help with major or minor projects

# Workforce Readiness

- **Job Readiness Class**

- Prepares youth for employment by identifying their interests and strengths
- Provides training in transferable skills to excel in the workplace
- Teaches interviewing techniques, resume writing and standards of professionalism

- **Wire Up Class**

- Helps young people increase MS Office skills, and improve typing speed
- Allows for development of project management skills through the completion of a client-driven project

# Institute for HIRE Learning

- Career-track training and advancement services, which provide paid internships within local business community
- Weekly hour-long workshops to support young people throughout the 12 week program
- Weekly one-on-one meetings with program coordinator allows for greater understanding of individual issues faced by clients

# Workforce Placement & Retention

- Employment Development Specialists works closely with youth to identify career goals of young people
- Services are free – goal is to develop strong ties with business community to create meaningful and sustained employment for young people
- Regular check-ins with employers to extend support, and offer regular skills trainings to placed youth
- Hire Up offers retention workshops where industry experts offer experienced insight into how to advance in the workplace