



UNACCOMPANIED STUDENT INITIATIVE (USI)

STRONG FAMILIES ACTION TEAM

AGENDA

- USI History
- Continuum of Housing
- Legislation
- Questions

USI HISTORY

- Strong Families Action Team with Laramie County Community Partnership
- Facilitated Point in Time
- Youth Retreat
- Continuum of Housing for Unaccompanied Students

EMERGENCY HOUSING

- Identification through school liaison
- Housed in a motel
- Funded by Catholic Diocese

HOST HOME PROGRAM

- Housed under Catholic Charities of Wyoming
- Catholic Charities provides case management to the youth
- Stipend is provided to youth
 - Small portion is given to host family
- Youth Initiated program

HOST HOME FUNDING

- Medicaid
 - Catholic Charities is paid by Medicaid for case management
- Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
 - Community Board Grant pays for stipend

HOST HOME BARRIERS

- State regulations through DFS
 - Child Placement Agency
 - Cannot recruit Host Homes
- State Statutes
 - Mandating Reporting
 - Youth under 18 years old not allowed to sign in regards to lease, documents

UNACCOMPANIED STUDENT RESIDENCE

- Youth Task Force in 2013 - #1 request by youth
- Model Based of Joe's Place in St. Louis
 - House Parents
 - Must be in High School or HSET
 - Currently youth must be 18 – 20 years old
 - Weekends – Host Homes
- Success

UNACCOMPANIED STUDENT RESIDENCE FUNDING

- United Way of Laramie County
- Safehouse
- Kiwanis
- Cheyenne Women's Civic League
- Tremendous support from Churches, Clubs and Associations within Laramie County
- Businesses providing in kind donation
 - Contracting License
 - Engineers
 - Developers

RESIDENCE BARRIERS

- State Regulations with DFS
 - Licensing of home
 - Co-mingling students that are minors and those that are 18 years old and older
- Youth Trepidation
 - USI working with youth to identify how do identify youth and make it safe for them to utilize the residence

LEGISLATION

- Mandating Reporting
 - Youth serving organizations including schools will be exempt from reporting NEGLECT due to Homelessness of youth 16 & 17 years old that are unaccompanied
 - Physical and sexual abuse still reported
- Unaccompanied Youth Right to Sign
 - Unaccompanied youth that are 16 & 17 years old may sign a contract in regards to a lease, an automobile, for birth certificate, driver's license etc
 - State statute already allows youth to sign for medical treatment – this will expand that statute
 - Allows youth to be self-sufficient

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QUESTIONS?

