
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Department of Human Services, adolescent services unit has contracted with two providers and partnered with Hennepin county staff to form three Youth Leadership Councils. Among other responsibilities Youth Leadership Councils will provide recommendations on an annual basis for improvements of the foster care system including improvements for youth that have aged out of care.

Youth developed the following statement at their convening in January 2008:

Purpose, Vision, and Mission

It is the vision of Minnesota to further develop a system of youth councils that will provide increased youth voice in the foster care system. In utilizing youth from all regions of Minnesota to develop a speaker's bureau, to include the voices of youth in the implementation and evaluation of policy and practice as well as being a tool of education and training to other youth, resource families, child welfare workers, and the overall public in general.

In August 2008 the three councils will meet at the annual summer youth conference to begin development of a youth advisory group to the Department of Human Services. This advisory group would include representatives from each of the three Youth Leadership Councils.

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