

TO: Donna Wilson, Downstate Region(s) Monitor
SUBJECT: FY18 – YEAR END Report for PFL

Primed for Life, Inc. (PFL) facilitates leadership and development training as well as transportation and food services to foster youth in Illinois at Regional Youth Advisory Board (RYAB) meetings five times a month at locations to include; Marion sub-region at 320A Withers Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL, East St. Louis sub-region, Peoria sub-region at 2001 NE Jefferson, Peoria, IL – Springfield sub-region at 816 S. College, Springfield, IL and Champaign sub-region at 1010 W. Nevada, Urbana, IL. PFL engages older adolescents and young adults in care in transitional and adult preparedness and work exploration prior to emancipation from the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (IDCFS). This training and engagement prepares them for leadership on the Statewide Youth Advisory Boards (SYAB) as well as gives them skills towards working alongside professionals in the legislative and group advocacy initiatives'. The purpose of the RYAB is to allow youth in care between the ages of 14-21 to have a safe and fair place for them to collectively voice their individual and/or group issues and concerns about their safety, well-being, and developmental services within their placements.

PFL provides intensive 1:1 leadership and board development training for hundreds of youth in care that reside in Central and Southern Illinois. Youth leadership and development training has a positive impact on youths self-esteem, self-confidence, decision making skills, and value system. Between July 2017 and June 2018, PFL staff dedicated many administrative, training, coaching, marketing, networking, and transportation hours to ensure that as many youth in care within downstate regions have access to a platform where their voices can be heard as well as be empowered toward academic enrichment, personal and professional development workshops.

PFL staff has also gone above and beyond to address youth crisis situations outside of RYAB and SYAB business as well as provide additional training hours outside what is required from the program plan. PFL invest significant time in training and developing the youth's opportunities for public speaking for group as well as self-advocacy. Although we have specific public training workshops, every meeting, ILM/MOM, and community event is an opportunity for advocacy and public speaking training. Coordinators have the chance to observe and give constructive criticism to better that young person for the next time they stand up to speak in public. More than 150 hours of public speaking training was provided for downstate southern and central RYAB members between July 2017 and June 2018 including training given at SYAB meetings.

We give the youth opportunities to lead meetings, take lead on choosing community service projects, create committees to teach them how to lead smaller groups of people. We develop leadership and advocacy skills within the youth by empowerment (praise and encouragement), opportunities to lead by example, trainings, workshops such as professional development and legislative processes, recommendations to participate on committees and important panels, and partnering with universities and other stakeholders to give our youth specific training from trained professionals on how to navigate the civic and legal system and effectively advocate for their needs. Coordinators encourage youth to practice their leadership and advocacy skills outside Primed for Life, Inc. – FY18 YEAR END – Downstate RYAB

of the board; in their schools, homes, and workplace. This training includes the ability to facilitate oral and written reports on behalf of their local YAB and contribute to the statewide initiatives. Coordinators spend hours coaching and role playing with board members prior to meetings to empower them to take the lead on specific task. Through the exposure to all of the workshops and consistent encouragement and support from the coordinators, youth go on to use this experience as part of their college entrance essays and other professional based organizations where their previous volunteerism is counted for in the process of acceptance.

As previously mentioned, RYAB staff are frequently looked upon as role models and mentors for many active members. Youth often contact the YAB coordinators for immediate assistance to their personal matters. The YAB coordinators participate in DCIPP’s, Family Team Meetings, IEP’s, ACR’s and other meetings when requested on behalf of a member. This includes working with the youth’s case manager, GAL, and other coordinated staff involved in the youth’s case matters.

Between July 2017 and June 2018 there were 309 unduplicated youth participants. 158 were new youth attending for their first time this fiscal year and of all participants 130 were active and registered members. An active and registered member is a youth that meets the eligibility criteria, has a completed file, and attended at least 50% of the schedule RYAB meetings and activities from their time of new membership. PFL is responsible, per program plan, for securing 150 unduplicated youth participants for an entire fiscal year (July 1st, 2017 thru June 30th, 2018).

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Month	13-15 year olds	16-18	19-21
July '17	15	32	7
August	17	49	4
September	17	40	5
October	13	45	11
November	17	37	10
December	30	46	5
January '18	29	31	11
February	19	28	8
March	30	31	7
April	23	42	6
May	29	46	6
June	32	43	10
Total:	281	470	90
End-Year Monthly Average:	23.41	39.16	7.5

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY RACE

Month	Caucasian	African-American	Hispanic	Other
July	26	22	2	4
August	31	33	4	2
September	29	28	4	1
October	33	29	4	3
November	38	23	2	1
December	45	26	4	6

January '18	39	29	0	4
February	24	26	2	3
March	36	21	1	9
April	44	24	2	0
May	46	25	5	5
June	39	36	1	9
End-Year Monthly Average:	32.9	32.4	9.3	6.8

NUMBER OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER

Month	Male	Female
July	41	13
August	39	31
September	44	18
October	41	27
November	47	17
December	53	28
January '18	48	24
February	35	20
March	48	20
April	46	25
May	55	26
June	56	29
Total:	470	278
End-Year Monthly Average:	39.16	23.16

Number of New Youth Participants Per Quarter

Month	New Youth Guest
Quarter 1- July 1 through Sept 30, 2017	37
Quarter 2 – Oct 1 through Dec 31, 2017	44
Quarter 3 – Jan 1, 2018 through Mar 31, 2018	34
Quarter 4 – April 1 through – June 30, 2018	42
Total:	158

YOUTH ISSUES & CONCERNS – FY18

Month	Youth Issues and Concerns
Quarter 1- July 1 through Sept 30, 2017	18
Quarter 2 – Oct 1 through Dec 31, 2017	39
Quarter 3 – Jan 1, 2018 through Mar 31, 2018	36
Quarter 4 – April 1 through – June 30, 2018	20
Total:	113

Youth Issues and Concerns Themes During Open Discussion and Shared Forms:

- Family visits
- Parent visitations (ill parent – youth denied visit)
- Fictive kin placements
- Placement movements
- **Improper restraints**

- Staff disrespect to youth (use of profanity, excessive yelling, etc)
- Staff allowing destruction to property by others
- Staff threats and staff cursing out youth
- Staff alleged involvement w/gang activity
- Academic Assistance
- Therapy
- Caseworker contact
- Caseworker – new assignment
- Stolen belongings
- Pets
- Youth transportation to events

List of workshops and trainings conducted for youth advisory board members:

- Advocacy Training
- Team Continuity & Strength
- Resume Writing
- Self-Awareness
- Board Officer Training
- Robert Rules of Order and Board Development Training
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Legislative Process
- Individual and Group Public Speaking
- Educational Resources – DCFS
- Conflict Resolution
- Resiliency
- Financial Literacy
- Executive Member Training
- Social Connections
- Responsibility & Concrete Support
- Educational Preparedness Workshop
- Writing Workshop
- Ethics Training

Program Plan Outcomes For All Regions

75% of participants will be informed about the youth in care website. (100%)

This outcome is based on the youth informed of the DCFS website for additional information necessary to continue their self-advocacy. PFL puts this website on every agenda, every month, and highlight the information during announcements each meeting. Each youth receives a copy of the agenda and while attending the meeting gets the information shared that includes the Youth hotline and YIC and website.

75% of youth will be empowered to express themselves, their choices, and issues affecting youth in care. (96%) This outcome is based on the number of youth in attendance versus those who sign the advocacy sheet showing they participated in this session of the meeting. The variance is based on those youth who either showed up late to a meeting and/or left early.

75% of board members will develop an understanding of the structure and function of RYAB/ SYAB. (76%) This outcome is measured by the number of filled officer positions at the time of the SYAB meeting. We take the 5 SYAB meetings and the officers elected in position, those who participate on the agenda and come up with a percentage based on participation and attendance and ultimately their overall ability to present on RYAB matters for their region.

75% of elected board officials will commit to learning and demonstrating leadership skills by facilitating RYAB/ SYAB meetings. (76%)

80% of participants will have a working knowledge of IDCFS policies, procedures, and programs to promote the resources of the Department. (83%) This measure was determined by the total number of youth in the fiscal year, and those who participated in the trainings on IDCFS policy/resources for the year.

90% of SYAB members will collectively participate in bi-annual evaluations (100%) All youth on regional and downstate officers are participants in the evaluation both quarterly and bi-annually.

Client satisfaction survey results:

Every three months we issue out quarterly surveys to our youth to ask for their feedback on our meetings and recommendations on what we can do better in the future. We ask three direct questions and leave the last question opened so they can write down their feedback or recommendations. For the entire fiscal year we had 170 youth complete the quarterly surveys. Below is the breakdown of the responses by questions:

Question 1: My feeling about the RYAB meetings: 120 checked excellent, 29 checked good and 1 checked fair

Question 2: Are you interested in coming back again? 135 checked excellent, 14 checked good and 1 checked fair

Question 3: Was the information you received resourceful? 120 checked excellent, 20 checked good and 10 checked fair

Quarter 1: 48 collected

Question 1: My feeling about the RYAB meetings: 34 checked excellent, 6 checked good and 0 checked fair

Question 2: Are you interested in coming back again? 35 checked excellent, 4 checked good and 0 checked fair

Question 3: Was the information you received resourceful? 40 checked excellent, 8 checked good and 5 checked fair

Quarter 2: 42 collected

Question 1: My feeling about the RYAB meetings: 32 checked excellent, 10 checked good and 0 checked fair

Question 2: Are you interested in coming back again? 29 checked excellent, 3 checked good and 0 checked fair

Question 3: Was the information you received resourceful? 25 checked excellent, 3 checked good and 0 checked fair

Quarter 3: 43 collected

Question 1: My feeling about the RYAB meetings: 35 checked excellent, 8 checked good and 1 checked fair

Question 2: Are you interested in coming back again? 36 checked excellent, 5 checked good and 0 checked fair

Question 3: Was the information you received resourceful? 30 checked excellent, 6 checked good and 4 checked fair

Quarter 4: 37 collected

Question 1: My feeling about the RYAB meetings: 19 checked excellent, 5 checked good and 0 checked fair

Question 2: Are you interested in coming back again? 35 checked excellent, 2 checked good and 1 checked fair

Question 3: Was the information you received resourceful? 25 checked excellent, 5 checked good and 1 checked fair

Variances are due to youth who took a survey but may not completely answer all questions, those who took surveys but did not return them.