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THE MAACADEMY EXPERIENCE:

Creating Connections, Embracing
Partnerships & Empowering Youth

”

Erica Davis-Woods & Dyonne Miles



SWITCHING PLACES ACTIVITY

If you want to make the world
a better place, take a look at
yourself, and make a change.

Michael Jordan



TYPES OF LOSS

- Predictable (losses you choose)
- Random (losses you may not want, but because of your choices happened)
- Random & Unpredictable (losses that someone chooses for you)

ACTIVITY

- Yellow Slip- write 4 PEOPLE that you love.
- Blue Slip- write 4 THINGS that you cherish.
- Pink Slip- write 4 IDEAS that you value.
- Green Slip- write 4 PLACES that you never want to forget.

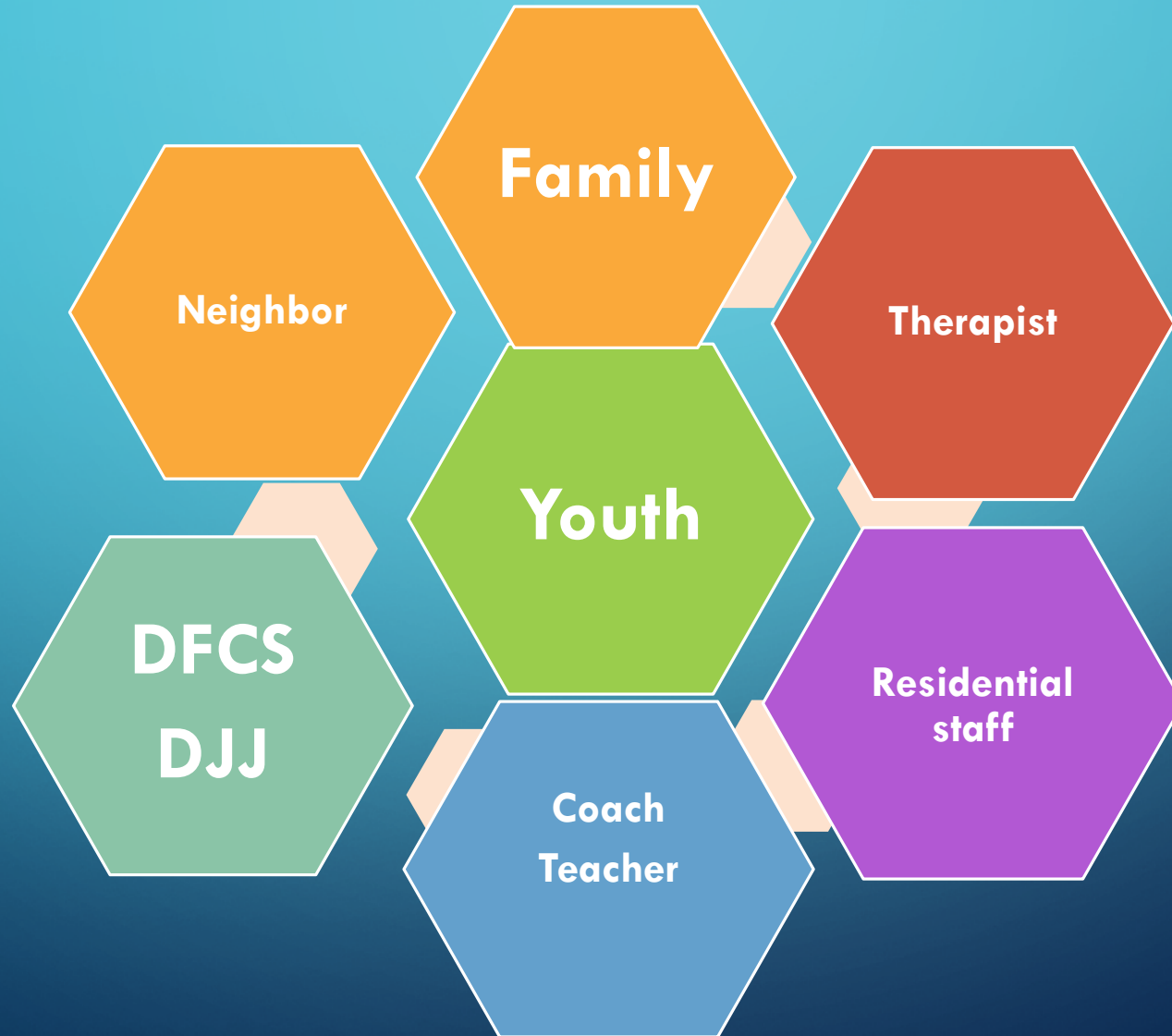
KEY OBJECTIVES

- Learn how to effectively create out of the box ways to forge and nourish partnerships
- Learn key ingredients on how to provide specialized approaches to engage youth
- Learn to meet youths' needs across multiple domains as they transition to adulthood

LETS BREAK IT DOWN

- What key people come to mind from your internal toolkit?
- Who are some people you would want on Alex's team? Or Supporting Alex?
- What solutions would you have implemented?
- At one point would implement the solution(s)?

COLLABORATION





ABOUT MAAC

VISION: All youth impacted by multiple child-serving systems receive coordinated care and support to experience a path to permanency and well-being.

MISSION: MAAC coordinates people, resources, information, and a network of quality providers to create positive outcomes for vulnerable youth and families.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

- All kids should live in families when possible.
- Kids do better when they are connected to caring people and invested communities.
- The definition of family can vary from youth to youth and can expand (or contract) as young people grow.
- Kids with mental health challenges and behavior problems need connections as much (or more) than any other youth.

HOW WE DO WHAT WE DO

- Assess each youth's needs differently
- Include the youth in every step of the plan
- Share values with youth and get their perspective
- Be welcoming of families of all kinds
- Help all team members develop a common definition of permeance
- Follow youth through the whole process
- Be welcoming of like minded team members
- Work together with a common vision
- Approach obstacles as opportunities ("barrier bust")

MAAC RESOURCES

- Network
- Coordination Support
 - LEADS
 - PACT
 - P2P
- Georgia EmpowerMEnt
- Youth Support
- Teen Parent Connection
- Opportunity Passport
- Independent Living Workshop

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Embark

- Founded and housed by the J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development at the University of Georgia, EMBARK works to improve access and completion of post-secondary programs for youth who have experienced foster care or homelessness.
- Their work includes working with post-secondary institutions to better serve these young people and maintain the points of contacts for institutions-every public post-secondary institution has a single point of contact for our young people, easing the transition process for them.
- <https://www.fanning.uga.edu/embark-access-toolkit>

Education Training Voucher (ETV) Funds:

- Contact your Independent Living Specialist (ILS)
- In care for 6 month by age of 14; non-consecutive
 - Ages 18-21:12,500 per yr
 - Ages 22-23: 10,000 per yr
 - Ages 24-25: 5,00 per yr

*Towards only 1 degree for entire program

Contact:

Jason Bedgood

706.542.5266

jasonbedgood@fanning.uga.edu

www.Embarkgeorgia.org/etv

Link to Informational ETV Webinar:

<https://youtu.be/VvUJtoLvKGc>

SCHOLARSHIPS

- **FIRST STEP: Complete YOUR FASFA**
- The nsoro foundation www.thenf.org
 - Mentoring programs, internships, scholarships, and a Pre-Collegiate summer program for high school rising sophomores and juniors
- Monica Pantoja
404.524.0807
- CACG- College Access Challenge Grant- programs and services for populations not represented in post-secondary education.
- HOBY- Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar
 - National leadership program for high school sophomores
 - 2-3 scholarship positions a year for the Georgia weekend long seminar on a college campus.
 - Participants learn about personal and group leadership styles as well as public speaking

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE GROUPS

- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative
 - www.jimcaseyyouth.org
- Foster Care to Success
 - www.fc2success.org
- Foster Care Alumni of America
 - www.fostercarealumni.org
- FosterClub
 - www.fosterclub.com
- Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute
 - www.ccaainstitute.org

ONE SIMPLE WISH

An organization that grants wishes for youth in care

- We submit requests based on what our Moms or Dads tell us.
- The teens may ask for clothes, laptops, cameras, kitchen items, bedroom items, etc.
- Gifts should range in price from \$50 - \$100 for the holiday requests. Requests for baby's might include a walker, winter coat, baby doll, dump truck, Fisher price little people.
- DO NOT ask for a gift card without what it is to be used for. Its best to ask for the item and then provide the vendor name. OSW often sends a gift card for the store or vendor.
- Please Contact Molly Casey for more information. Mcasey@maac4kids.org

EMPLOYMENT

- The Ringer Center of Excellence, INC.
 - Nattie Ringer
 - 404.763.9005
 - www.ringercenterofexcellence.org
- Teen Works
 - Contact Carmen Callaway
 - Phone: 404.463.4334
 - carmen.callaway@dhs.ga.gov
- Work Source
 - www.worksourceatlanta.org

- Juma
 - 18 -21 years old
 - Candice Henderson
 - Candiceh@juma.org
 - www.juma.org
- Job Corps
 - 16-24 years old
 - Crystal Lewis 912-644-0187
 - Lewis.crystal@jobcorps.org

FREE & LOW COST RESOURCE

- Foster Care Support Foundation www.fostercares.org
 - Donation center that provides FREE clothing, infant equipment, foster parent trainings, and more.
- The Bloom Closet
- Debra's Closet
- Vita
 - A program through the IRS will assist with free tax preparation for people that make under \$10,400 annually.

BEYOND THE NOW WHAT'S YOUR SPECIAL SAUCE

Ask yourself, do I:

- Advocate for children to have at least 1 permanent connection.
- Work to transition youth beyond their current setting? Program?
- Work to improve relationships amongst the youth/family teams?
- Work to engage family connections
- Actively participant on the youth/families team?
- Represent youth/family as I would a member of my family?

QUESTIONS?



CONTACTS

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