

EMPOWERMENT

hearing the "me" in the voices
of Georgia's foster youth



An initiative of the Multi-Agency Alliance for Children, Inc.

MAAC EmpowerMent Champions - 1.20.2010

Announcements:

- **Opportunity Passport (Train the Trainer)**
 - Sarah Bess will follow up with ILP and update team on options for agencies to train and certificate status for youth who have completed financial literacy
 - We confirmed that financial literacy training is not required through ILP Coordinator if there is another trained community provider
- **Committee/Project Update – Parenting Youth – System of Care grant** and opportunities for youth to be referred or serve in program planning, implementation and governance structure
- **Fostering Connections** - bill and summary will be posted to Resources page of EmpowerMent website; training forum TBD soon to train youth and agency staff who want to be part of the advocacy process Spring Legislative Session 2010; extension of foster care to 21 pending budget review by the state and we will update team as we know more; Senator Unterman sponsoring bill and Representative Manning following in House
- **CASA/ILP Day at the Capitol** – Tuesday, February 23rd, 9:45AM (if not attending breakfast); Freight Depot, Downtown Atlanta – we will host a prep session prior to for youth and Adult Supporters interested in attending both pertaining to roles & responsibilities & flow of the day AND Fostering Connections advocacy strategy
- **Regional Updates – Anthony** – will be posting to the Events/Announcements page of EmpowerMent website; upcoming meetings on the radar: Griffin/LaGrange, Macon, Augusta, Bridge (Fulton), Athens; Sandy discussed needing to identify mentors/EmpowerMent leaders in Habersham (Region 2) and Troup (Region 4)
- **Youth Summit** – projected for May 2010; opportunities are open for agency staff and youth to help in planning – CCS and Elks identified teams they wish to participate; we will keep team posted of details as we know more
- **EmpowerMent Awareness Breakfast** – coming Spring 2010, details will be forthcoming
- Next meeting we will brief team on opportunities for youth on **Courts Team** with EmpowerMent, and **JUSTGeorgia initiative**

Communications:

Site Visit scheduling through EMP champs

- Spring Qtr. 2010.

Goals:

- 1) **Educating agencies on EMP/MAAC** (train the trainer, MAAC assistance, role as liaison) - 2010
- 2) **Communication b/w EMP & agencies**
- 3) **Tightening partnership with GA ILP** (state program):
 - Requested from Ebony Harris, Director what to do in the event of workshops being full, late notice of meetings or cancellation of meetings
 - Requested how we can discuss with ILP as a team how to handle accommodations for out-of-region youth (i.e. Quarterly brainstorming session)
 - Requested problem solving for when agencies are not being reimbursed for services.
- 4) **Facilitate involvement of youth at partner agencies...what would help?**
 - Training Committee Review (training hours for foster parents & agency staff to bring youth to meetings)
 - Contracted for brochure development – will keep team posted when printed copies available
 - Frequently Asked Questions section to be developed Spring 2010
 - Will update calendars more frequently as guides for meetings
 - Continued backing from MAAC through Board for internal agency support (staff time allocated, etc.)
- 5) **Conference calls tabled to as-needed basis**

Next Meeting: April 21, 1pm, MAAC conference room