Unite Miami: wraparound support for youth in foster care or experiencing homelessness

June 23, 2020
Welcome!

Kathy McDonald, MBA
Assistant Director for Network Partnerships

kmcdonald@FloridaCollegeAccess.org
Twitter: @kathy_mcdonald
Questions & Conversation

• Submit your questions in the box

• Share on social media
  Twitter:  @FLCollegeAccess
            @EducateTomorrow
            #FCAN

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording
Guest Presenter

Dr. Amy Rubinson
Chief Program Officer & Care Coordination Manager
Educate Tomorrow
Guest Presenter

Andrea Arrechea
Care Coordinator
Educate Tomorrow
Our mission:
We lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career.

Our vision:
A Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.
FCAN’s Work

Research and Data FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida’s talent pool.

Local college access networks (LCANs) LCANs represent 82% of the state’s population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.

Statewide Initiatives FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that support students in continuing their education after high school.
7 Conditions for Success

**Opportunity for everyone:** To build a talent-strong economy, all Floridians need access to a postsecondary education and the supports to complete it.

**Clear information and guidance:** Students and families need exposure and counseling early and often to make informed decisions about their futures.

**Affordable:** Postsecondary education needs to be within everyone’s financial reach, regardless of household income or life circumstances.

**Multiple pathways to success:** Floridians benefit from multiple learning opportunities for academic achievement and career advancement.

**Lifelong learning:** No degree or credential is “one and done;” Floridians need to prepare for career changes through continuous learning.

**Effective use of data:** Transparent access to data on education and economic outcomes, especially for Florida’s diverse populations, helps achieve our goals.

**Community collaboration:** When community partners work together toward a shared vision, they remove barriers, build a robust workforce, and improve the quality of life for their regions.
Introduction
Homeless students in Florida

3.1% percent of total Florida students who are homeless = 95,860

8.2% Unaccompanied youth = 7,844

Source: Florida’s Council on Homelessness, 2019 Annual Report
Numbers of Florida Children in Foster Care

Source: US Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children and Families, AFCARS, August 22, 2019
Source: Promoting Degree Attainment Among Former Foster Youth, Helios Education Foundation
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Unite Miami: Wraparound Support for Youth in Foster Care or Experiencing Homelessness

FCAN
June 23, 2020

Amy Rubinson, Ph.D.
Andrea Arrechea, M.S.Ed.
Evolution of Unite Miami

**Year 1**

**WHO**
How to identify who will receive services?

**WHAT**
How to ensure the services are being provided?

**Year 2**

**HOW**
How to provide support and services to students in a collaboration as opposed to a silo?

**Year 3**

**HOW**
How to create a timeline of intentional student supports during transitions between life phases?

**Year 4**
Unite Miami Partners

Partners are defined by having at least one of the following with Educate Tomorrow:

- An MOU to share services
- A financial agreement to pay staff at partner organizations
- A standing relationship of strong referrals and common mission
Partnerships and Programming: A Holistic Lens

**Academics** - MDCPS, AOK Scholars, Miami Dade College, FIU

**Legal** - Lawyers for Children America, Americans for Immigrant Justice

**Housing** - Casa Valentina, Chapman Partnership, Lotus House, The Homy Collective

**Emergency Funding** - Family Stabilization Funds, DCF Specific Funding

**Special Needs** - Disabilities Independence Group, The Early Learning Coalition

**In Person & Online Workshops** - Life Skills Training, Lunch & Learns

**One on One Sessions** - Trust & Confidentiality

**Mentoring** - Support System

**Care Coordination** - Identifying the needs before addressing the academics, coordinating resources
Unite Miami Participants

Unite Miami Student Exemption
number of participants = 241

- African American: 142, 59%
- Caribbean: 99, 41%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 21, 9%
- White: 49, 20%
- Other: 38, 16%
- Missing Data: 4, 2%

Unite Miami Student Genders
number of participants = 241

- Female: 142, 59%
- Male: 99, 41%

Unite Miami Student Exemption
number of participants = 241

- DCF: 117, 49%
- Homeless: 75, 31%
- Neither: 49, 20%
Student Lead Student Focused

- Trauma-Focused
- Self-authorship
- Self-advocacy
- Appreciative Advising

Student Mentee
Hazel’s Story: From Summer Camper to AOK Scholar

- Summer Camp - TCE 1
- Permanency & Legal Support
- Professional Development
- College Coaching
- Summer Camp - TCE 2
- AOK Scholar
Unique Successful Characteristics about Unite Miami

Guided by a Participant-Centered Approach to Collective Impact Theory

- Non-profit organization
- Grant-funded to support partnerships
- Strong relationships with community partners
- No limits on client populations
- A secure App that makes data collection and sharing easy
- Youth and alumni are represented in staff and leadership
- Innovative environment of continuous improvement
Challenges in Unite Miami

- Missions and activities mutually reinforcing for all organizations
- Accurate and confidential data collection and accountability
- Funding to support salaries of team and leader
- Developing trusted relationships with partners
- Partners having time to do the collaborative’s work and their own organization’s work
Who Completed the Survey?

- 180 total respondents between April 14 and May 8, 2020
- 67% (122) of the respondents were college and university students
  - Of those, 6% (7) were also parents
- Student respondents represent areas throughout Florida, including Miami-Dade, Tallahassee, Orlando, Boca Raton
- 7% of respondents had contacted 211 for support during COVID-19
The order of priorities remains the same; however, the urgency of the priorities has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>During</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My schooling</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying healthy (mind + body)</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working or finding a job</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning for graduation or next year</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting a family member</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding a place to live</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of students = 122
55% of students’ wages have been temporarily or permanently reduced or cut off

Effects of COVID-19 on Employment
Number of students = 122

- Did not have a job before: 28%
- Laid off during COVID-19: 27%
- Temporarily furloughed: 16%
- Working remotely + fewer hours: 12%
- Working in person + same pay: 8%
- Working remotely with same pay: 7%
- Working in person with more hours + higher pay: 2%
Differences between College and University Students Needs

More university students were concerned with their schooling compared to college students

More college students worries about finding a job compared to university students

More university students had their employment affected by COVID-19 compared to college students
Most needed supports for education include paying fees, study skills, making choices about the next educational step.
Students have been more challenged with paying bills, finding employment, finding food, and maintaining emotional health.

Basic Life Needs that Have Become More Difficult Because of COVID-19
Number of students = 122

- Household supplies: 67% (self), 67% (friends)
- Food: 63% (self), 58% (friends)
- Employment: 50% (self), 54% (friends)
- Emotional stability: 58% (self), 54% (friends)
- Paying bills: 63% (self), 50% (friends)
Student Financial Supports

**AOK Scholar Requirements:**

- 9+ college credits earned before first semester as an AOK @ Educate Tomorrow Scholar
- Enrolled in 9+ credits for each semester as an AOK @ Educate Tomorrow Scholar
- Using a tuition exemption or equivalent tuition coverage
- 2.3 minimum GPA
- Funding Categories: basic needs, academic support, professional development
- Good grade and graduation bonuses

### AOK @ Educate Tomorrow Scholars' Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar 13, 2020 - April 17, 2020</th>
<th>Feb 1, 2020 - Feb 29, 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$3,825.40</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Supplies and Fees</td>
<td>$2,216.95</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Household</td>
<td>$15,198.57</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$57.86</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>$21,298.78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nine weekly group sessions for college and university students

- 3 Lunch and Learns with a structured session followed by questions or conversation for college students; the average is 20 students per session
- 3 Resource Center Zoom Sessions where students can join with their own questions or do homework for middle school, high school and college level; the average is 10 students per session
- 1 P3 Women’s SEL and Leadership Development Workshop for college-level students; the average is 15 students per session
- 2 Music Solutions Lab sessions for learning music development and production for middle school, high school and college level; the average is 5 students per session

Graduation Zoom Party

Individual Zoom sessions
Questions

Amy Rubinson Ph.D. - rubinson@educatetomorrow.org
Andrea Arrechea M.S.Ed. - andrea@educatetomorrow.org
Learn More:

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Conclusion