

Peer-Powered Transition and Reentry Supports

Ted Ryle, LICSW, MSW, MA
Clinical Director, DCYF/Juvenile Rehabilitation
Ted.ryle@dcyf.wa.gov

Ashley Albert, Certified Peer, Project Manager
JASPR Health
Ashley.albert@jasprhealth.com

www.dcyf.wa.gov



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Opportunity and Project Overview

Young people in JR care

- Are increasingly older youth and young adults
- Are disproportionately black and brown.
- Have a high level of behavioral health needs and obstacles to success.
- Are not as likely to engage due to access barriers, stigma, inequitable experiences with the ‘system’, insufficient culturally relevant services and supports provided by diverse professionals.

Increasing connections and supports with Peers and Mentors of shared experience and background can impact these factors and **“Build Safe & Strong Communities Through Successful Reentry”**.

EO 16-05



Serving Young Adults to Age 25

E2SSB 6160 (2018)

Extends juvenile jurisdiction for four types of crimes up to age 25

E2SHB 1646 (2019)

Allows youth convicted in adult court to remain in DCYF custody until age of 25

6160 Workgroup Report: *(agency reps, community members, people with lived experience, family)*

Peers and Mentoring a priority across principles and goals!

Principle:

Ensure youth/young adult voice in decisions

Principle:

Trust us to explore with mentors

Meaningful Navigation:

Connect to Peer networks

Education:

Peer Mentoring Program

Employment Pathways:

Opportunities to Explore

Healthcare/Treatment:

Culturally responsive community partners.

Healthcare/Treatment:

Trauma informed care & workshops

Social Connections:

Transformational Mentoring Programs

“We need to grow resources so everyone can have a mentor.” **Youth Member**

“We want you to value our labor. We can be good employees.” **Youth Member**



Operationalizing Peer Bridgers in JR

- JR to convene a group of system, youth and community partners to co-design plan for using Operationalizing Peer Bridger toolkit in JR
- Technical Assistance through Health Care Authority with national peer experts
- \$158,000 through HCA for JR Peer Bridger pilot with community contractor(s)- JASPR
- Establish internal Peer Specialist position to lead development efforts and build community relationships with peer-focused organizations (Joshua Smith, Starts 3/1!)

Work Over the Next Year (Milestones)

- Increase access to peer career pathways
 - ✓ SPARK Pilot, Sep 2021; CPC Jan 2022
- Address agency readiness and development
 - ✓ Peer Bridger Toolkit, Q2 2022 w/JASPR
- Continue growing relationships and Peer/Mentor services community providers and advocates.
 - ✓ MST Peer Bridger on-boarded, October
 - ✓ Peer Bridger Pilot with JASPR*

Align with:

- JR to 25 (SB 6160, HB 1646)
- Increase MH/SUD service access and reduce disparities
 - Engage diverse youth, peer, and community to inform approaches with added resources
- Effective reentry planning and implementation
- Supporting and increasing access to community-based resources

