


STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Children and Families  
Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Memo Series 2010 -11  
October 14, 2010  
Re: National Youth in  
Transition Database  
Outcomes Survey

To: Area Administrators/ Human Services Area Coordinators  
Bureau Directors  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Developmental Disabilities  
Services Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Licensing Chiefs/Section Chiefs  
Tribal Chairpersons/Human Services Facilitators

From: Cyrus A. Behroozi   
Administrator

### **Background**

In 1999, Congress established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Act requiring states to assist youth to transition from out-of-home care to self-sufficiency. The law also required the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop a data collection system to track the independent living (IL) services provided to youth and to develop outcomes that measure states' success in preparing youth for the transition to independence. To meet this requirement, ACF created the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).

In conjunction with the IL services data Wisconsin has been collecting since January 2009 (Memo 2009-08), the collection of outcomes data for 17 year olds in out-of-home care will begin through the NYTD survey in October 2010. Outcomes information must be obtained by directly surveying youth who are or were in out-of-home care as follows:

### **Baseline Population**

Youth who are in out-of-home care at the time they turn 17 years of age.

### **Follow-up Population**

Baseline youth at ages 19 (beginning in October 2012) and 21 (beginning in October 2014)

The survey results will offer ACF, DCF and county agencies the opportunity to obtain important information on how Wisconsin youth fare once they leave out-of-home care. The survey will ask youth questions about their financial self-sufficiency, any experience with homelessness, educational attainment, positive adult connections, high-risk behavior and access to health care and insurance.

To efficiently manage this volume of data, DCF has engaged the services of FosterClub, a Nationally-recognized virtual support site for children and alumni of foster care. The site will become a point of

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### Document Summary

Beginning October 2010, new federal reporting requirements for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) will require Wisconsin to collect youth outcomes information on youth in an out-of-home placement at age 17; subsequently conducting follow-up surveys with those youth at age 19 and 21.

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connection for the youth as well as the place where they will access the survey at age 17 and beyond.

### **Baseline Population**

Any youth in out-of-home care who reaches his or her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday beginning October 1, 2010 and going forward is a part of the baseline population for the NYTD outcomes survey process.

#### **Baseline Survey Implementation Requirements**

On a youth's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday (or when a youth comes into care anytime within 45 days of their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday), an eWiSACWIS tickler is activated to notify the primary worker that the NYTD Outcomes Survey for 17 year olds must be completed within 45 days of the 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Upon receiving the tickler, the primary worker or designee must make an appointment with the youth to complete the online survey hosted on the FosterClub website. During that appointment, the youth, with assistance from the worker, will register for membership on FosterClub, using the youth's eWiSACWIS ID to create his or her profile (or update the profile with the WiSACWIS ID if necessary).

To improve the likelihood of completion of the surveys for youth at ages 19 and 21, workers must obtain information from the youth about how to contact them after they leave out-of-home care in order to follow-up with them at age 19 and 21. This information must be entered on the Contacts Tab on the IL page in eWiSACWIS

In order to ensure that youth complete the surveys at ages 19 and 21, two things must occur: 1) youth must be registered with FosterClub, and 2) caseworkers must enter updated contact information on the IL page in eWiSACWIS.

In order to ensure information is collected timely, it is recommended that workers arrange their monthly visit to take place immediately following the youth's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday in order to complete and submit the survey within the required 45 days.

In instances where there is no computer access, the survey needs to be administered in a language other than English, or the youth cannot meet with the worker face-to-face, workers may complete a paper survey (see attached) with the youth and enter the answers electronically via the FosterClub website within the 45 days.

Spanish and Hmong paper version of the survey, will be made available for agency use as soon as possible

FosterClub will submit completed surveys to DCF, allowing county agencies to view the results on the Outcomes Tab of the youth's IL page in eWiSACWIS. Counties will also have the ability to obtain a eWiSACWIS report listing youth who must take the survey and those who have completed the survey.

### **Follow-up Population**

Each youth who participated in the NYTD Outcomes survey as part of the baseline population at age 17, becomes the follow-up population at ages 19 and 21. Those who participated in the data collection at age 17, but not 19 for a reason other than being deceased, remain a part of the follow-up population at age 21.

Since eWiSACWIS ticklers cannot be activated on closed cases, DCF has enlisted FosterClub to assist agencies in conducting outreach to 19 and 21 year olds to complete the survey. FosterClub will have each baseline youth's birth date and electronic contact information on record enabling them to send emails and instant messages to youth encouraging independent participation in the NYTD survey at age 19 and 21, as long as a youth remains a member of FosterClub, The FosterClub website will also promote participation in NYTD for anyone who continues to access their site. In addition, youth

participation in the follow-up surveys will be enhanced when youth have ongoing contact with their independent living program once they leave out-of-home care, especially for those who do not remain FosterClub members. Youth who complete the survey at ages 19 and 21 are eligible to participate in a drawing to receive an incentive for their participation in the survey process.

#### **Follow-up Survey Implementation Requirement**

A monthly report will be available via eWiSACWIS Reports indicating which of their youth are included in the follow-up populations at ages 19 and 21 and which youth completed the survey on their own in response to the emails and instant messages that will be issued by FosterClub. This report will also be available on-demand to authorized staff.

Agencies are responsible for reviewing the report monthly and following up with youth who, at 90 days after their 19<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays have still not completed survey, to support their awareness and completion of the survey.

A webcast will be offered on October 7<sup>th</sup> outlining the purpose and requirements of the NYTD Survey for workers and supervisors. The webcast will be archived for review on the eWiSACWIS KnowledgeWeb. Further guidance on contacting 19 and 21 year olds will be provided closer to the time (the first group of 19-year-olds for follow up will occur in October 2012). In addition, the new eWiSACWIS functionality associated with these requirements will be provided in the eWiSACWIS pre-release notes and webcast.

The Wisconsin NYTD Tip sheet provides ideas on preparing for, administering, and maximizing response rates to the NYTD survey.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: DCF Area Administration

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Youth Services Section Manager  
Division of Safety and Permanence  
Bureau of Youth Services  
608-422-6993

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments: Wisconsin NYTD Tip Sheet

NYTD Survey Explanations

Caregiver Letter

Caseworker Talking Points

NYTD Survey for 17 year olds, DCF-F-2574  
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/forms>

# Wisconsin NYTD Tip Sheet

## ***Preparing for NYTD***

1. NYTD is not just data collection! Rather, NYTD serves as an opportunity to make sure every youth has what he or she needs to succeed as they transition to adulthood. Envision NYTD as an opportunity to stay connected with youth so no one falls through the cracks!
2. Build Partnerships for the data collection effort – it really will take a village to make sure the required data is collected within the 45-day window. Identify your partners.
  - a. Youth
  - b. Child welfare agency workers/supervisors
  - c. Foster parents, kin and congregate care staff
3. Preparing partners
  - a. Develop and disseminate information about NYTD;
  - b. Develop talking points and notify caseworkers in advance of the start of administering the survey;
  - c. Present the information at meetings;
  - d. Send a birthday card and brochure to youth 2 weeks before youth's birthday explaining NYTD and the importance of their participation;
  - e. Notify caseworkers in advance to give them a heads up about the start of the data collection.
4. Use of Data
  - a. Think about how your agency will use the data collected. For example, share the findings with all stakeholders in the form of presentations and brief reports to strengthen programs.
  - b. Cross-system implications (Department of Children and Families, Department of Health Services, Department of Corrections, Department of Commerce, etc.)

## ***Administering the survey***

1. Informed Consent
  - a. The data collection required by NYTD is not considered a research activity that is subject to the Federal regulations for the protection of human subjects. Therefore, there is no specific Federal requirement or procedure to seek informed consent of a youth, or parent.
  - b. Agencies are encouraged to develop their own procedures to ensure that youth understand the purpose and use of the survey, including that it is voluntary. A consent form could explain the study and gives the youth clear decision-making authority regarding their participation, and if worded in a youth friendly manner, may actually assist in garnering the participation of youth in the NYTD survey.
2. Plan on using a variety of methods to administer the survey
  - a. NYTD questions must be communicated verbatim as they appear on the survey. However the methodology can vary depending on what is most appropriate for the

youth being surveyed. It is likely that accommodations for youth with special needs will be necessary.

- Online survey
  - Phone interviews
  - In-person interviews at small gatherings
  - Be prepared to accommodate the specific needs of youth
3. Youth in congregate care may require special attention due to policies relating to access at individual facilities. Ask congregate care facility directors to designate a contact person to work with you to make sure every eligible youth completes a survey.
  4. Surveying incarcerated youth
    - a. Agencies will need to make arrangements to survey youth who are incarcerated but maintain an out-of-home care placement at age 17.
    - b. Agencies will need to make arrangements with correctional facilities to survey youth ages 19 and 21 who participated in the NYTD baseline survey at age 17.
  5. Surveying youth with special needs. Some youth may have difficulty participating in the survey because of a disability. Youth with special needs include:
    - Youth with visual impairments,
    - Youth with learning disabilities,
    - Youth with cognitive disabilities,
    - Youth with hearing impairments,
    - Youth with speech impairments, and
    - Youth with physical disabilities that preclude writing and computer use.
    - a. **Youth who are incapacitated** (i.e., have a severe mental or physical disability that prevents them from answering the survey questions) are not required to be surveyed for NYTD, however, particular consideration should be given to youth with special needs as much as possible to ensure that their experiences are accurately reflected in NYTD outcomes data.
    - b. **Youth with limited vision** may need copies of the survey in large print. Youth who cannot read even large print may need to have the survey administered by an interviewer or caseworker who can record their verbal answers.
    - c. **Youth with learning disabilities** may have difficulty completing the NYTD survey, due to reading problems; however caseworkers can read the question, and have the youth complete the responses on his or her copy of the survey form. Most youth will be able to identify and check “yes” and “no” responses as the interviewer reads them aloud.
    - d. **Youth with severe cognitive disabilities** may be unable to complete the survey but those with mild cognitive delay’s should be able to answer the questions successfully with assistance from the interviewer; explaining questions when needed.
    - e. **Youth with hearing impairments** may be able to complete the survey as a self-administered web or paper survey. Text Telephones (TTY) could also be a resource. To call a youth who is hard of hearing or deaf, the interviewer dials 711 to call the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS). The TRS operator will type the interviewer’s questions which will appear on the youth’s TTY device. The

TRS operator will then read the youth's typed responses to the interviewer. TRS operators are legally and professionally bound to keep all information confidential.

- f. **Youth with speech impairments** may be able to self-administer the survey via web or paper surveys. If administering the survey directly, the interviewer should feel comfortable asking the youth to repeat what he or she said or asking for clarification. E.g. "I'm sorry, I didn't understand. Can you please repeat that?"
6. Quick Tips for surveying youth with special needs:
    - a. Determining whether a youth can read the questions can be a simple matter. One widely used approach is to tell the youth, "We often read these questions to youth taking the survey. Would you like me to read them to you or would you prefer to read them to yourself? I am going to have you mark your answers on this sheet." This approach avoids asking the youth directly if she or he cannot read; which can be viewed as patronizing or stigmatizing.
    - b. Modifications to keep the youth's interest and attention may include:
      - Keeping the survey environment free of distractions (e.g. turning off the TV or conducting the interview in a room free of other activities).
      - Repeating the youth's name often.
      - Attentiveness to behaviors that suggest the youth needs a break (agitated or becoming distracted).
      - Youth with short attention spans or become fatigued may need to have breaks or have interviews scheduled at a time when they are most alert and not, for example, at the end of a long school day.
      - Give encouragement probes such as saying "Your answers are very helpful for this study" or "Take your time".
      - Youth who are physically limited in their ability to use a computer or a pen will need to have a caseworker administer the survey and record the youth's verbal answers as the youth watches to see that his or her responses are being recorded accurately.
  7. Surveying youth with limited English proficiency:
    - a. Youth with limited English proficiency often face discrimination based on misperceptions about their capabilities and interests. Providing appropriate accommodations allows these youth to participate in the youth outcome survey as fully as their peers.
    - b. Use of an interpreter or someone fluent in the language should be considered if necessary.

### ***Maximizing Response Rates/Understanding Motivators for Youth Participation***

1. Research on survey participation demonstrates that people are motivated to respond to surveys for three primary reasons:
  - a. Altruism: Wanting to be helpful to the researcher or others who may benefit from the survey results;

- b. Survey Related Reasons: Interest in the topic, liking the interviewer or organization sponsoring the survey; and
  - c. Egoistic: Likes completing surveys, is motivated by money.
2. Many 17-year-old youth in foster care may be willing to participate in NYTD out of interest in seeing the survey help other foster youth and/or because they have an interest in hearing about the obstacles and successes of other youth from foster care. To the extent that agencies can communicate the importance of the NYTD survey in helping other youth and make the survey sound interesting, youth will be more likely to participate in baseline and follow-up surveys.

*“NYTD is giving us a chance to communicate our experiences through the survey and to be viewed as experts. It is critical that foster youth are engaged in all decisions being made regarding our lives; ‘No decisions about us, without us’. The NYTD Survey allows me to use my experience in foster care to make things better for future foster youth. Current and former foster youth deserve the chance for our input to be valued and acknowledged. NYTD encourages current and former foster youth work together and take the survey to establish ownership while positively changing foster care.” – JT, Former Foster Youth*

3. Incentives: When incentives are used, all respondents should be treated equally. They should not be given solely to convert refusals, or treat specific subgroups differently. Appropriate nonmonetary incentives include providing a summary of the survey results to participants, the opportunity for youth to learn about current services that are available to them and having a caseworker that stays in touch with the youth to assist them when needed.
4. Practical Strategies for Tracking and Locating Youth
- a. **Gather and maintain good location information.** One of the best ways to ensure that youth can be located is to have good information on how to contact them. Obtaining this information prior to the youth’s transition from foster care increases the chances of their participation in future surveys. This can be done through the Independent Living Transition to Discharge Plan or by conducting an exit interview at the time they leave care.
  - b. **Other identifying information.** This information includes but is not limited to; all e-mail addresses, nicknames, aliases, driver’s license or other identification number, public assistance ID, names and addresses of individuals the youth is close to etc., can be helpful in finding youth once they have left care.
  - c. **Social Networking.** User name for MySpace or Face book
  - d. **Places the youth frequents** such as community centers, churches, schools, gyms, other “hang outs” (restaurants, coffee shops, pool halls, etc.)
  - e. **Update locating information** when you have contact with youth such as when they contact you for services to apply for ETV or Scholarship funds, etc. If they didn’t have a phone number when they left care, maybe they do now.
  - f. **Procedures for updating youth information** may be helpful when agencies have high turnover of staff, making following up with youth difficult.
  - g. **Continue direct contact with youth.** Suggested ways to engage youth and maintain contact include some of the strategies listed below.

- Send youth a reminder postcard or other special mailing (e.g. birthday cards, holiday cards) and specify “Return Service Requested” so that undelivered mail will be returned to the agency so it can note that the address is no longer current. Inserting a self-addressed postage-paid envelope and change of address form can also be effective.
  - Consider holding a lottery for those youth that respond to mailings.
  - Send a newsletter that provides independent living tips and reminds them of NYTD follow-up surveys.
- h. **Engage youth and others before the youth leaves foster care** to ensure their participation. Educate youth about the purpose and the importance of NYTD during their Independent Living Transition to Discharge planning.
- i. **Make multiple attempts to locate youth.** Use different contact modes during different times of the day and days of the week.



## NYTD Survey – Youth Friendly Explanations

### General instructions:

The questions on this survey should be answered from YOUR perspective. In other words, you should answer based on what you know... there is no need for you to try to track down the information to complete the survey. Don't get discouraged if you don't know some of the answers – this is *not* a test and you won't be graded. Part of the goal of NYTD is to measure what young people understand about their own situations.

However, if you don't know some of these answers, FosterClub encourages you to download a list of the questions AFTER YOU COMPLETE THE SURVEY and go over it with your caseworker, foster parent, or another supportive adult. This will help you make sure that you understand all of the resources that are available to you.

Another note: any questions you leave unanswered will be reported as DECLINED TO ANSWER.

(Note: this is per fed guidance 3.13,

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/systems/nytd/faq/data\\_elements/outcomes.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/systems/nytd/faq/data_elements/outcomes.htm))

### GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

#### MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT. IF THE SAME, SKIP DOWN TO L. HOME PHONE)

Do you have your mail sent somewhere other than what you listed above? Some people might list a P.O. Box, for example. If you live away at college, you might list a parent's address as a mailing address, if you prefer to have mail sent there.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Currently are you employed full-time?

Select YES if you are currently employed 35 hours per week. This should be the TOTAL hours per week you are employed, whether it's at one job or multiple jobs.

#### Currently are you employed part-time?

Select YES if currently employed LESS THAN 35 hours per week TOTAL, whether you work at one job or at multiple jobs.

#### In the past year, did you complete any apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training, either paid or unpaid?

Select YES if you participated in an apprenticeship, internship, or other on-the-job training. It could have been an experience where you were paid or volunteered. Select no if you did not participate in a program like this.

### OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

#### Currently are you receiving social security payments (Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or dependents payments)?

Select YES if you are currently receiving payments from the government to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter because you or a parent or guardian has a disability or because your parent or guardian died.

**Currently are you using a scholarship, grant, stipend, student loan, voucher, other type of educational financial aid cover any educational expenses?**

Select YES if you are currently receiving scholarships, grants, student loan or stipends to pay for your education, whether the money comes from your state, the Federal Government, or a private scholarship or loan source. Your educational expenses could include tuition, housing, books and supplies, or transportation costs that are required to obtain your education.

**Currently are you receiving any periodic and/or significant financial resources or support from another source not previously indicated and excluding paid employment?**

Select YES if you are currently receiving financial support from someone else. This could be from your biological family, foster or adoptive family or even another supportive adult or friend. Select YES if you receive funds from a legal settlement. DO NOT INCLUDE occasional gifts, such as birthday or graduation checks or small donations of food or personal incidentals, child care assistance, or other financial help that does not benefit you directly in supporting *yourself*. Also, select YES if you receive child support payments for YOURSELF), but do not include child support if you have a child.

**Currently are you receiving public food assistance?**

Select YES if you are currently receiving public food assistance such as food stamps, which are government-issued coupons or debit cards that can be used to buy food. Public food assistance also includes assistance from the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

**Currently are you receiving any sort of housing assistance from the government, such as living in public housing or receiving a housing voucher?**

Select YES if you currently live in public housing, which is rental housing where the government covers a portion of the cost that keeps rents affordable for eligible individuals and families. This does not include payments from the foster care or child welfare agency for room and board payments, such as money through your Chafee Independent Living program to pay for housing or housing provided through a Transitional Living Program.

**Currently are you receiving ongoing welfare payments from the government to support your basic needs?**

Select YES if you are currently receiving ongoing welfare payments from the government to support your basic needs. Does not include payments or subsidies for unemployment insurance, child care subsidies, education assistance, food stamps or housing assistance.

**EDUCATION**

**What is the highest educational degree or certification that you have received?**

Choose the highest degree or certification from the list. They are listed in order, from lowest degree (the ones that usually take the least amount of time to complete) to the highest degree. If you have not yet earned one of the degrees, then select "None of the Above."

**Currently are you enrolled in and attending high school, GED classes, post-high school vocational training, or college?**

Select YES if you are enrolled in and attending school. Select yes if you are enrolled in school but you're not currently attending because you are on summer break. Do not select yes if you have future plans to attend school, but have not yet signed up.

**PERMANENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS**

Currently is there at least one adult in your life, other than your caseworker or any other State agency staff who are employed to work with the youth, who you can go to for advice or emotional support? (excludes spouses, partners, boyfriends or girlfriends and current caseworkers):

## HOUSING

### **Have you ever been homeless?**

Explanation: Select YES if you have ever not had a home to live in (including when you were a younger kid). This could include living in a car, "couch surfing" (which means staying overnight at the home of different friends or family members), living on the street, or staying in a homeless shelter.

## LIFESTYLE QUESTIONS

### **Have you ever referred yourself or has someone else referred you for an alcohol or drug abuse assessment or counseling?**

Select YES if you have ever been referred to, or asked to go to, a drug or alcohol assessment, treatment center, or counseling session, whether or not you think you have or had a drug or alcohol problem.

### **Have you ever been confined in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility, in connection with allegedly committing a crime?**

"Allegedly" means that you were accused of a crime, even if you were never convicted. Answer YES to this question if you have ever spent ANY amount of time in a jail, prison, correctional facility, or juvenile or community detention facility because someone suspected that you committed a crime. DO NOT count times you may have visited any of these places for a school field trip, for example.

### **Have you ever given birth or fathered any children that were born?**

Select YES if you have given birth or fathered a child, even if you are not currently parenting the child. Do not select yes if the pregnancy ended in a miscarriage or abortion and the child was not born.

### **If you responded yes to the previous question, were you married to the child's other parent at the time each child was born?**

Select YES if you were married to the other parent of any or all of your children at the time the each child was born.

## HEALTH

### **Currently are you on Medicaid?**

Select YES if you currently receive Medicaid (or the State medical assistance program), which is a health insurance program funded by the government, from your state.

### **Currently do you have health insurance, other than Medicaid?**

Select YES if you have other health insurance through a company or organization other than Medicaid. This could include health insurance provided by a parent, through your employer, or a plan that you pay for yourself. This also could include access to free health care through a college, Indian Tribe, or other source.

### **Does your health insurance include coverage for medical services?**

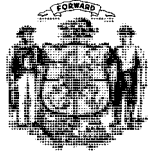
If you have health insurance, does it cover at least part of the cost of medical services, such as doctor's appointments, emergency room visits, or surgery? Select YES if it does.

**Does your health insurance include coverage for mental health services?**

If you have health insurance, does it cover at least part of the cost of mental health services, such as psychiatrist visits, counseling or therapy? Select YES if it does.

**Does your health insurance include coverage for prescription drugs?**

Select YES if your health insurance covers a portion or all of the cost of prescription drugs.



Jim Doyle  
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**State of Wisconsin**

**Department of Children and Families  
Division of Safety and Permanence**

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Dear Foster Parent/Relative Caregiver:

I would like to begin by thanking you for the care and support you have given to a youth at a time of a family crisis.

As part of the transition to adulthood, foster youth, are provided with independent living skills and services. As a foster parent, you assist with this preparation for adulthood.

The Department of Children and Families wants to ensure that youth are successfully moving toward adulthood. To do this, **all youth in care at age 17 are asked to fill out a survey**. The case manager will work with your youth to complete the survey. The survey results become part of a **nation-wide information gathering project called National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)**.

We also want to survey youth again when they are ages 19 and 21. This will tell us how they are doing after they leave care. **This is where you can help us keep in contact with your foster youth**. We know that we will not be able to locate some of our youth once the case is closed. We hope that through the relationship you have developed with your youth, you will keep in touch and encourage him or her to participate in the survey again at ages 19 and 21.

**If you continue to have contact with your foster child, please encourage him or her to stay in touch with the independent living program in your area.** The case manager will tell your child how to do this. The survey is taken through the **FosterClub web site**, which is a great resource for former foster youth and foster parents alike. FosterClub will send reminders to those registered about the future surveys and other information.

The NYTD survey gives youth who have been in foster care an opportunity to tell us how we can do better. Please encourage participation.

Once again, thank you for opening your heart and home to a child in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cyrus Behrooz'.

Cyrus A. Behrooz

[www.dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov)

## Talking Points on NYTD for Case Managers to Use When Communication to Youth

- We are **asking that you take a survey**. This survey will record your status at this point in your life regarding some important areas, like school, employment, a support system, etc.
- The survey results become part of a **nation-wide information gathering project called National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)**. Across the country, we are gathering information from youth who are 17 so that we can improve services.
- We know that it is hard for young adults, especially those who don't have a lot of support from parents. As part of the transition to adulthood, you will be provided with **independent living services**. The Department of Children and Families wants to ensure that youth have received these services. The surveys will tell us if we need to do more and what we need to do to make our services better.
- The survey **does not ask about your parents or your family**. It doesn't ask why you went into foster care. It will ask about employment, school housing, and finances.
- I will work with you to register you for the survey and complete it if you need help. You'll take the survey by connecting to the **FosterClub** web site. I think you'll like the web site because it is a web site for youth in foster care and has information for youth who have left the foster care system. We'll set you up with an account and they'll send you information.
- FosterClub will contact you **when you are 19 and when you are 21 through emails, instant messaging or the site itself** to ask you to fill out another survey. These surveys are let us know how you are doing.
- The information is confidential and will be used as what we call "aggregate data." That means it your answers are combined with the answers from other youth and looked at as a whole. Your personal information will not be studied separately.
- I'd also like to make a contact list, so we know how to reach you regarding independent living services you might be eligible for once you leave foster care. This can be a friend or relative – anyone you think you will keep in touch with. The way our independent living program can keep in touch with you about any services you may be able to receive.
- One last thing - when you take the survey again at age 19 and 21, your name is entered into a drawing for a chance to win a gift card.