

Second Year (2017-18) Overview of Youth Leadership Teams

Background

- ★ The Bureau of Youth Services at DCF is gearing up for the second year of the “Youth Leadership Teams,” which were launched in 2016-17 to ensure that DCF includes youth voices in our youth justice decision making and to support the next generation of leaders.
- ★ Teams meet in four areas of the state, and youth from all over the state with personal experience (past or present) with the justice system are eligible to apply.
- ★ This is an entirely voluntary opportunity for young people (ages 14 to 21) to provide their perspectives on the youth justice system, provide direct input to DCF on its youth justice work, and to develop their strengths and advocacy skills.
- ★ These meetings are of value to the youth, to DCF, and to counties and organizations who support youth in participating. Counties or organizations who bring youth who are currently in their care or on supervision have found it can be a great opportunity to build relationships and get valuable feedback. It could also be an opportunity to complete community service hours.
- ★ Please see the attached *YLT First Year Annual Report* for an overview of what the teams accomplished this first year, and acknowledgment of the many partners who made this work possible.

Second Year Overview

- ★ Meetings for the second year will be held every two months during the academic year: in October, December, February, and April.
- ★ Meetings are from 10am-2:30pm and lunch and snacks are provided for all attendees.
- ★ The map showing which counties feed into which teams is [here](#) (online at dcf.wisconsin.gov/yj under the Youth Leadership Teams tab).

The meetings are scheduled as follows (all meetings are 10am-2:30pm):

- South team (meets in Madison):
October 16, December 11, February 12, April 16 (all Mondays)
- Milwaukee team:
October 9, December 4, February 19, April 9 (all Mondays)
- North West team (meets in Eau Claire):
October 13, December 1, February 16, April 13 (all Fridays)
- North East team (meets in Wausau):
October 6, December 8, February 2, April 6 (all Fridays)



Please see the next page for how to be involved!

How You Can Get Involved

1. Refer Youth

We encourage all counties, tribes, youth-serving organizations, and others who work with youth to refer individual young people to apply for the Youth Leadership Team in their area. Young people who are currently or were formerly involved in the youth justice system and are between the ages of 14 and 21, are eligible to participate.

We need your help reaching out to young people who may be interested in participating; especially those who have not been involved in this type of an effort before and may not otherwise have their voices heard.

What you can do:

- **Provide youth with the flyer:** We have prepared the attached one-page *Youth Flyer* describing the Teams and soliciting youth participation. Please share this with youth who may be interested in applying.
- **Help youth fill out the online application:** The youth application is online at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/YLTapp. It is designed for young people to fill out themselves, but supportive adults are welcome to assist. After they apply, we will get back to them within a week. Youth who are accepted to a team may attend the next meeting in their area, either on their own or with a supportive adult.
- These materials, as well as the report developed by the teams during the first year, are available online at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/yj> under the Youth Leadership Teams tab.

2. Support Youth in Attending Meetings

For those counties or organizations that refer youth who are currently in their care or on supervision, it is up to the youth if they would like their workers or other adult supporters to attend meetings with them.

At the first year's meetings, many case workers or other adult supporters transported youth to meetings and attended meetings (at the youths' request). We found this contributed to a valuable youth-adult partnership experience for both the youth and adults, and allowed for relationship building and discussions about systemic issues that were valuable to all. Please let us know if you would like to be put in touch with supportive adults who attended meetings during the first year to learn more about the experience.

Others had supportive adults (most frequently case workers) who transported them to and from meetings but did not attend. This was also a meaningful way to support the youth's participation.

*If you have any questions, please contact a Youth Justice Policy
Coordinator at DCFJJ@wisconsin.gov or (608) 422-6897.*
