

# “Development Doesn’t Stop When the School Bell Rings”

**Tuesday, November 15, 2011  
Abingdon Branch of the Public Library**



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## **Local Management Board**

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[www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/lmb](http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/lmb)  
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# Ready by 21

“Helping state and community leaders improve the family, school and community supports available to young people, in order to help all children and youth get fully ready for college, work and life.”

<http://www.readyby21.org/> - NEW!



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# The Readiness Target

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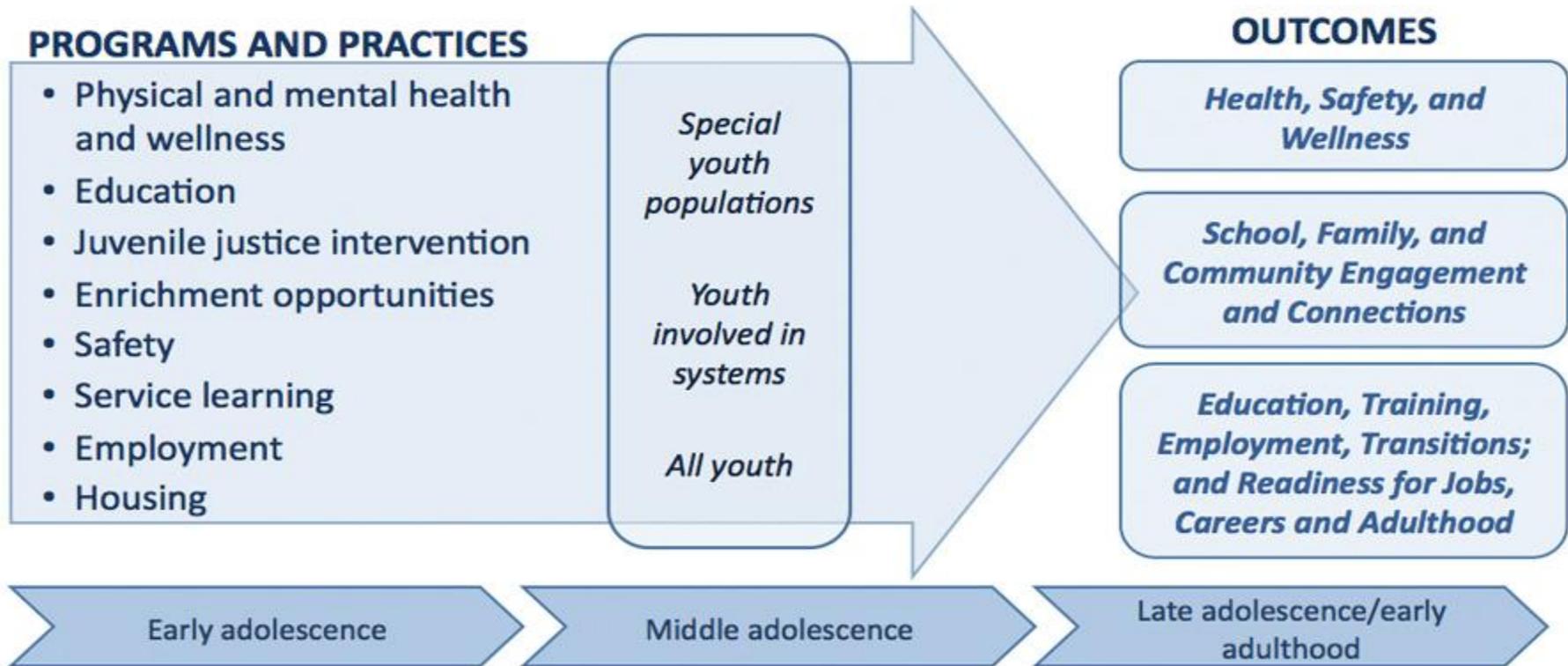


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## Framework for Input on Strategic Plan for Federal Youth Policy



A youth development approach will promote positive outcomes as well as reduce risk, and includes youth as active agents across developmental stages. Youth will be considered in the context of their families, neighborhoods, and communities; as well as their cultural and linguistic contexts.

# Ready By 21 in Maryland

- **January 2008** - The Ready By 21 Team under DHR
- **September 2009** - Maryland's Ready by 21 Action Plan Adopted by the Children's Cabinet
- **March 2010** - Plan is rolled out state-wide by the Governor's Office for Children
- **September 2010** – Harford County Local Management Board's Ready by 21 Task Force convened

## Harford County's Ready by 21 Task Force

- Six sessions – September, 2010 – February, 2011
- 80 + local stakeholders, over 40 agencies represented
- Reviewed youth data – 4 benchmark areas
  - **Education**
  - **Employment**
  - **Health**
  - **Housing**
- Current status of action items in Harford County
- Opportunities for new partnerships and enhanced programming

# Risk Indicators for Our Youth

## Education

- Poor academic performance
- Absences
- Dropout

## Employment

- Lack of high school diploma
- Lack of employment

## Health

- Teen pregnancy
- Substance abuse
- Mental illness

## Housing

- Out of home placements
- Homelessness

# Education

## In the Right Direction



- Students performed at or above the state average in all parts of the HSA in 2010
- High school absence rate decreased from 18.9% in 2009 to 16.5% in 2010
- Dropout rate decreased from 3.2% in 2007 to 2.1% in 2010

## In Need of Attention



- Just over a quarter of students at Aberdeen, Edgewood and Havre de Grace students missed more than 20 days in 2010 – over 50% of students at Alt Ed
- Rate of dropout at Alt Ed was 11.5% in 2010

# Employment

## In the Right Direction



- Graduation rate rose from 86% in 2007 to 88% in 2010
- The majority of youth in Harford County plan to attend college
  - 47% - 4 year school
  - 36% - 2 year school
  - 12% - full time employment and school

## In Need of Attention



- Approximately one quarter of students did not graduate in 2010 from Edgewood and Joppatowne; 36% overall graduation rate at Alt Ed

# Health

## In the Right Direction



- Percent of all births that are to teens (1.38%) is below the state rate (3.27%) and that of peer counties

## In Need of Attention



- Maryland teens report unhealthy habits
  - 43% are not involved in sports
  - 39% watch 3+ hours of TV/day
  - 16% are overweight
- Substance abuse rates remain above state average
  - Over 50% of seniors reported drinking in the past 30 days
- Rate of teens entering public mental health system rising
  - 754 in 2007 to 992 in 2010

# Housing

## In the Right Direction



- Number of youth in foster care placements on the decline from 170 in 2007 to 125 in 2010

## In Need of Attention



- Transition-age youth made up 16% of individuals served by homeless services in the county in 2010 (804 total individuals served)

## Task Force – Top Prioritized Needs

### Education

- Looking at ways to better communicate graduation requirements in grades 6, 7 and 8 to ensure they are on track for a college education.
- Improved communication to both students and parents.
- Expanding efforts of the Greater Excellence in Education Foundation (GEEF) to other areas in the county.
- Track population that accesses college fairs - who are these youth and how to increase outreach to those not engaged.

## Task Force – Top Prioritized Needs

### Employment

- Need for competitive job opportunities, support Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN) in the areas of summer employment opportunities, job fairs, etc.
- Work to reduce barriers of transportation among youth looking for employment.
- Bring employers into the planning process to develop creative employment solutions for youth.

## Task Force – Top Prioritized Needs

### Health

- Utilize systems navigators to help families access medical assistance – have a map of providers developed.
- Offer outreach and medical assistance training to case workers.
- Goal to expand school health centers to middle and high schools, as these are currently only in elementary schools.

## Task Force – Top Prioritized Needs

### **Housing**

- Make roommate sharing resources available.
- Ability to have system navigators to support homeless youth.
- Opportunity to implement trainings for case workers related to tenant rights.

# Harford County's Ready by 21 Task Force Outcomes

- Task Force powerpoint presentations, minutes and the final report can be found online:  
<http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/LMB>
  - Ready by 21 tab
- Ongoing sharing of resources via Task Force email list
- Efforts to continue collaborating and sharing information
- Transition Age Youth Resource Inventory
- Website tailored to youth under development:  
[www.harfordyouth.org](http://www.harfordyouth.org)