

The Center for Fostering Success

Best Practice, Best Fit

Webinar Series



**Discovery Driven Solutions Related to Educational
Attainment for Students from Foster Care**

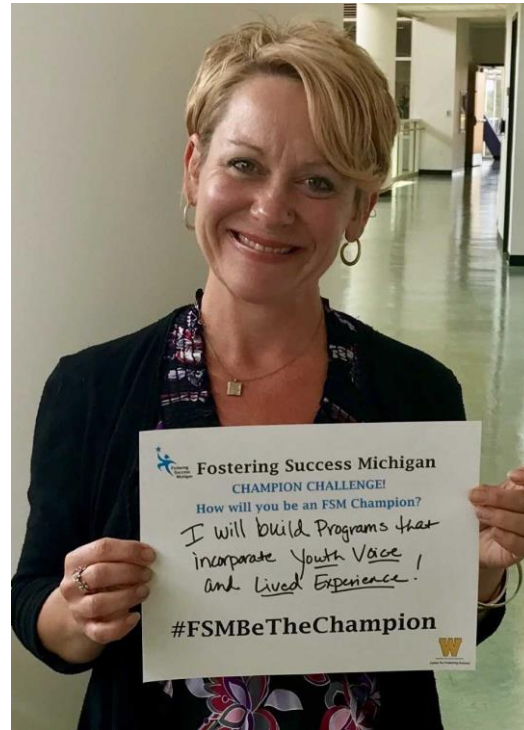




The Center for Fostering Success

Best Practice, Best Fit

Webinar Series



Karie Ward, MSW
Program Coordinator
Fostering Success Michigan
Center for Fostering Success
Western Michigan University
Email: karie.j.ward@wmich.edu



Thank you to our funders!



WESTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

THE
HAVIRMILL
FOUNDATION



 Center for Fostering Success
An initiative of WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



The Center for Fostering Success

Best Practice, Best Fit

Webinar Series



Megan Hayes Piel, PhD, MSW
Assistant Professor
Wayne State University
School of Social Work
Email: megan.piel@wayne.edu



Fostering Health: Addressing the Healthcare Needs of Foster Care Alumni

Megan Hayes Piel, Ph.D.

School of Social Work

Wayne State University



Background and Significance

- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) impact health outcomes_{1,2}
- Experience higher rates of acute and chronic health issues_{3,4}
- Adolescents more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, such as smoking, alcohol use, drug use, or unprotected sex₅
- Placement instability creates inconsistency in access to care_{3,4,5}
- Longitudinal impact of health conditions after aging out of care₃
yet, few are engaged in healthcare services after turning 18_{3,6}
- Limited knowledge of how emerging adults with a history of foster care understand physical health and services



Research Question

What are the healthcare experiences of emerging adults with a history of foster care?

- Explore health challenges that may arise after aging out
- Identify how history in foster care impacts current health
- Identify strengths and challenges surrounding service utilization



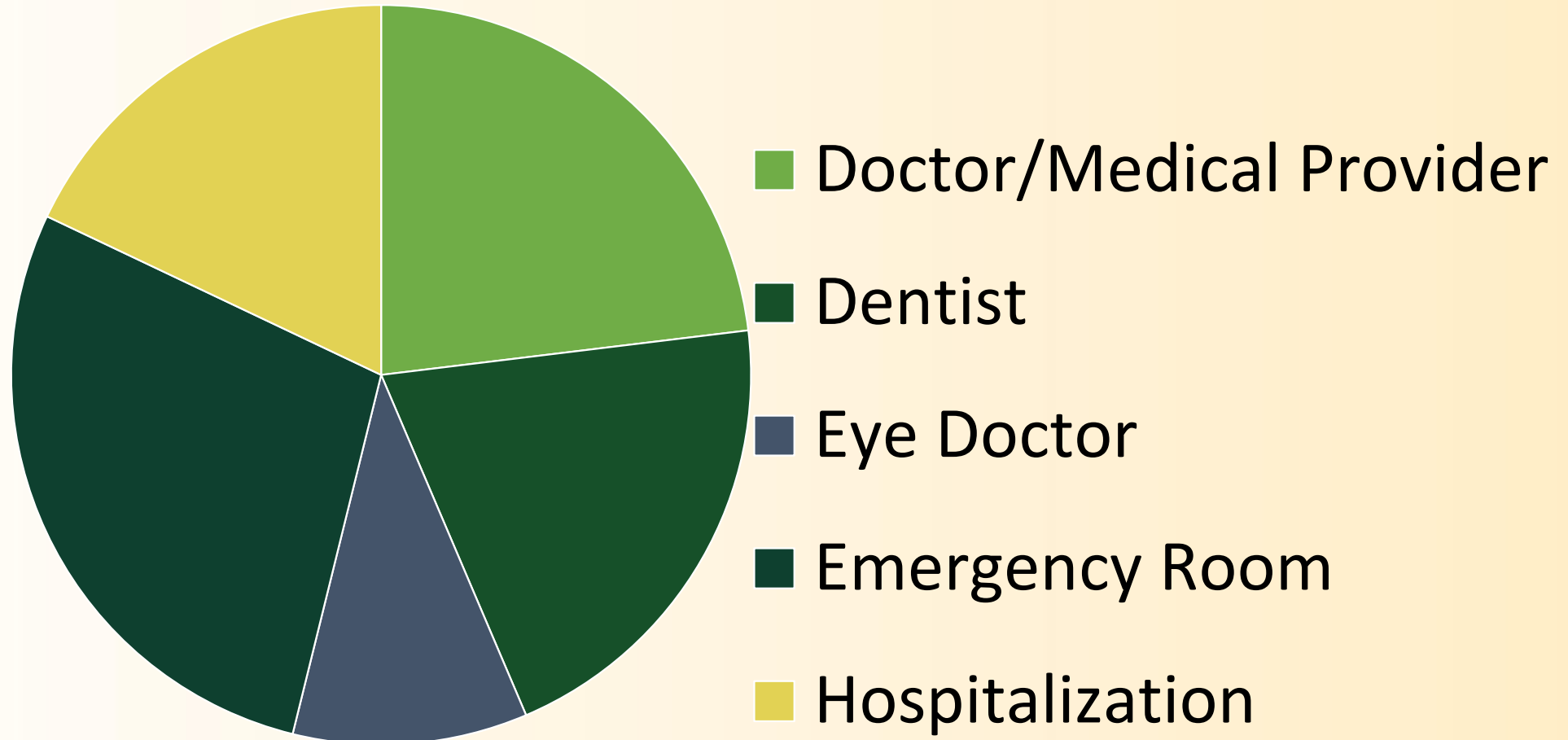
Research Design

- An exploratory examination of experiences with health care services was conducted through a concurrent triangulation
- Convenience sampling of students ($N = 14$) with a history of foster care at a Midwestern university (18-25 years old)
- A 24-item demographic survey of service utilization/knowledge
- Semi-structured interviews regarding overall health, access, preventative care, insurance, and engagement



Table 1. Sample Demographics (N = 14)		<i>n</i> (%)
Age		<i>M</i> = 22.15 (<i>SD</i> = 1.62)
Gender		
Female		11 (78.57)
Male		3 (21.42)
Race/Ethnicity		
African American		11 (78.57)
Latino/a or Hispanic		1 (7.14)
Multiracial		2 (14.28)
Student Status		
Part-time		6 (42.85)
Full-time		6 (42.85)
Health Insurance		
Currently Insured		10 (71.42)
Insured After 18 But Not Currently		2 (14.28)
Uncertain if Insured		2 (14.28)

Healthcare Services Utilized after 18 (N = 14)



Utilization of Campus-Based Health Services (n = 7)

Acute Illness Care



HIV/STI Testing



Wellness Counseling/
Physical



Immunizations



Qualitative Themes

Attitudes Towards Help-Seeking

Access to Services

Guidance/Navigation

Attention to Trauma/Mental Health

Sexual Health/Family Planning

Impact of System Involvement

Discussion

- Exploratory examination of the knowledge and experiences of health care services for former foster youth
- Difficulty accessing services due to inconsistent insurance coverage, and previous experiences with service providers
- Campus based support programs, previous caseworkers, and mentors were particularly helpful in making connections
- Importance of family planning and attention to trauma
- Although campus-based health services are available, only half of the participants chose to utilize these services



Practice and Policy Implications

- Actively engaging college students in decision-making prior to 18
- Ongoing support from mentors and campus-based support programs can provide needed information and referrals
- Professionals are uniquely positioned to advocate for policies and programs to support healthy development and well-being
- Increase awareness of preventative or ongoing health services (e.g. dental issues, diabetes, and follow-up care/check-ups)
- Campus-based services may help address some of the ongoing or unmet health needs reported by participants





Contact Information

Megan Hayes Piel, PhD, MSW

Wayne State University

School of Social Work

megan.piel@wayne.edu



References

1. Felitti, V.J., Anda, R.F., Nordenberg, D. Williamson, D.F., Spitz, A.M., Edwards, V., Koss, M.P., & Marks, J.S. (1998). Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 14(4), 245-258.
2. McLaughlin, K. A., Green, J. G., Gruber, M. J., Sampson, N. A., Zaslavsky, A. M., & Kessler, R. C. (2012). Childhood Adversities and First Onset of Psychiatric Disorders in a National Sample of US Adolescents Childhood Adversities and Psychiatric Disorders. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 69(11), 1151-1160.
3. Ahrens, K.R., Garrison, M.M., Courtney, M. (2014). Health outcomes in young adults from foster care and economically diverse backgrounds. *Pediatrics*, 134(6), 1967-1074.
4. Leslie, L.K., Kelleher, K.J., Burns, B. J., Landsverk, J., & Rolls, J.A. (2003). Foster care and medicaid managed care. *Child Welfare*, 82(3), 367-392.
5. Szilagyi, M., Rosen, D., Rubin, D., Zlotnik, S. (2015). Health Care Issues for Children and Adolescents in Foster Care and Kinship Care. *Pediatrics* 136(4), 1142-1166.
6. Zlotnick, C., Tam, T.W., & Soman, L.A. (2012). Life course outcomes on mental and physical health: The impact of foster care on adulthood. *American Journal of Public Health*, 102, 534-540.





Thank you for attending!

The Center for Fostering Success

Best Practice, Best Fit

Webinar Series

- Visit www.fosteringuccessmichigan.com for more information about upcoming webinars or to access a recording of today's webinar.
- If you like this content and would like to see it continue, please donate today by visiting our website!

