

Child Welfare: The Challenges of Collaboration

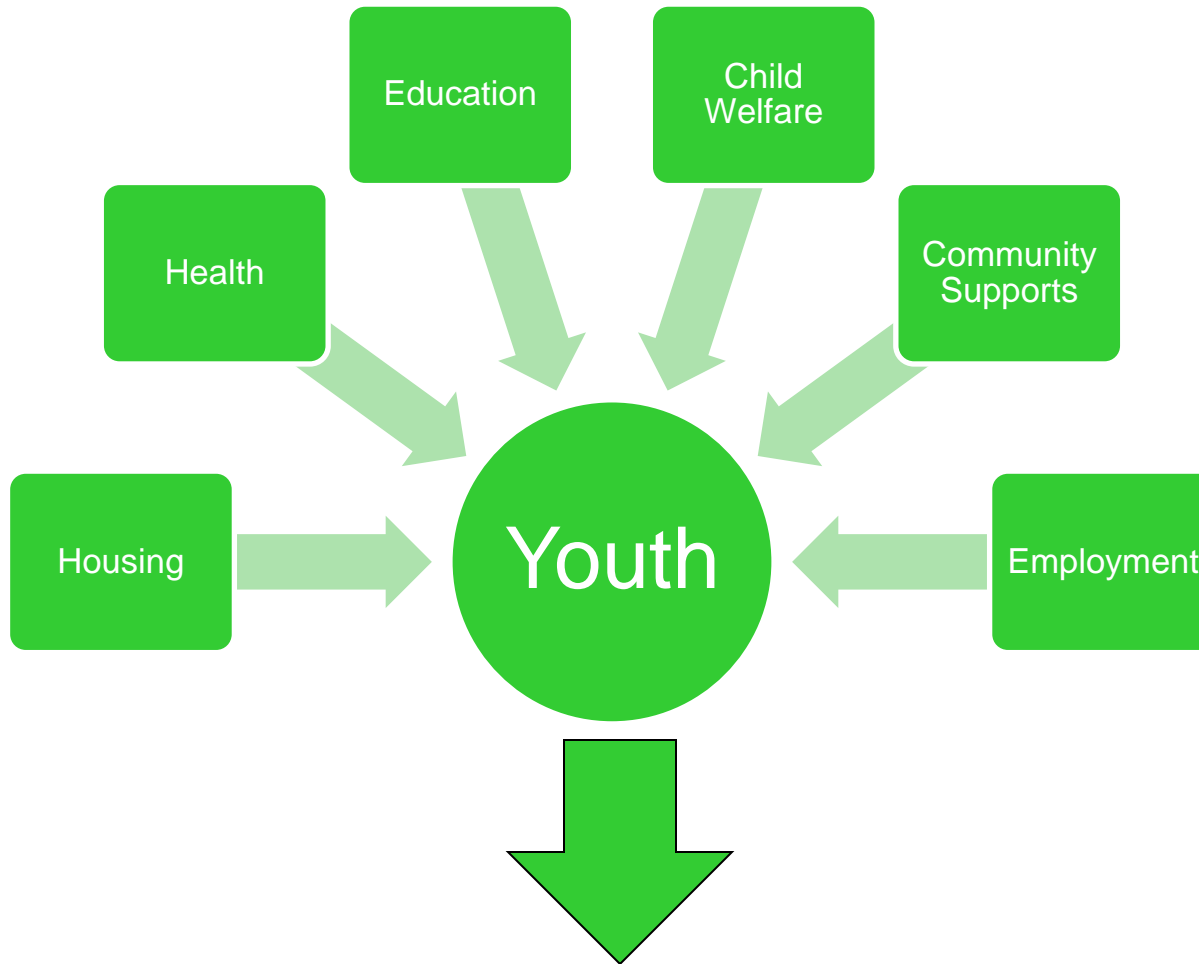


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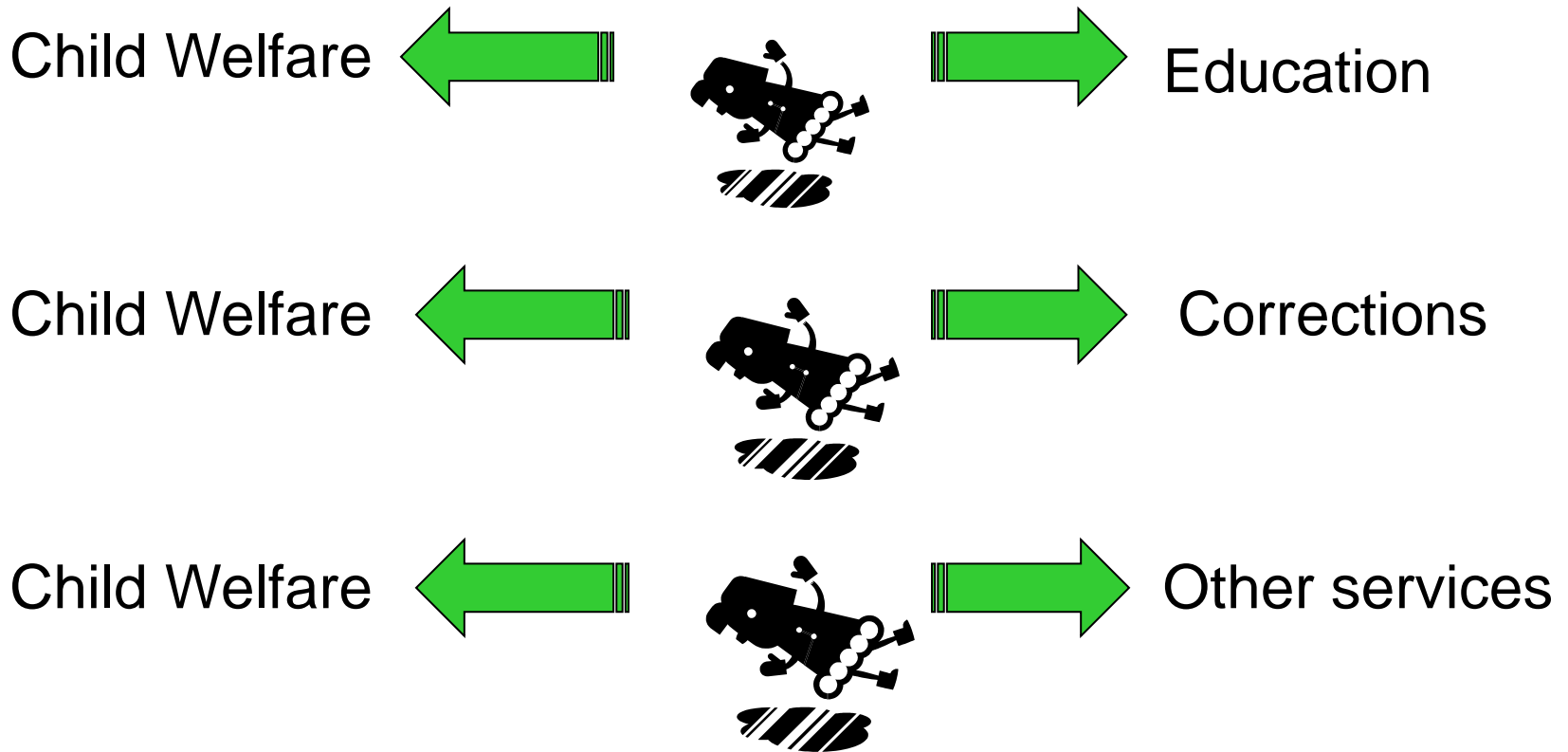
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*September 25, 2009
Child Welfare Brain Trust Panel
Congressional Black Caucus*

Services for Child Welfare Youth



Gaps In Services for Youth in Foster Care

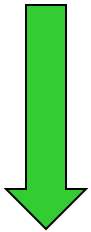


System Failure



Child Welfare and Education

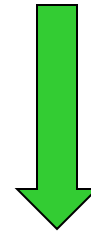
Youth Enters Foster Care



- School Transfers
- Loss of credits
- Inappropriate programs
- New peer groups



Youth Leaves Foster Care



- Need specialists in education, training and employment
- Virtually no programs for low literacy youth

Child Welfare and Corrections

No letters

No phone calls

No visits

Termination of Parental Rights



Solutions:

1. More Flexible Funding to Help Prevent or Shorten Stays in Foster Care
2. Invest in Technology to Improve Information Flow
3. Funding to Replicate Demonstrated Solutions
4. Consider Children and Youth in Foster Care in All Family Legislation

Conclusions

- Child welfare services are often uncoordinated with other necessary services
- Uncoordinated services hurt the life chances of children in foster care
- These problems can be solved



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