

Developmental Evaluation of Fostering Success Michigan

Liz Brass, LLMSW
Maddy Day, MSW

CFS Webinar Series
May 22nd 2015

www.FosteringSuccessMichigan.com



Overview

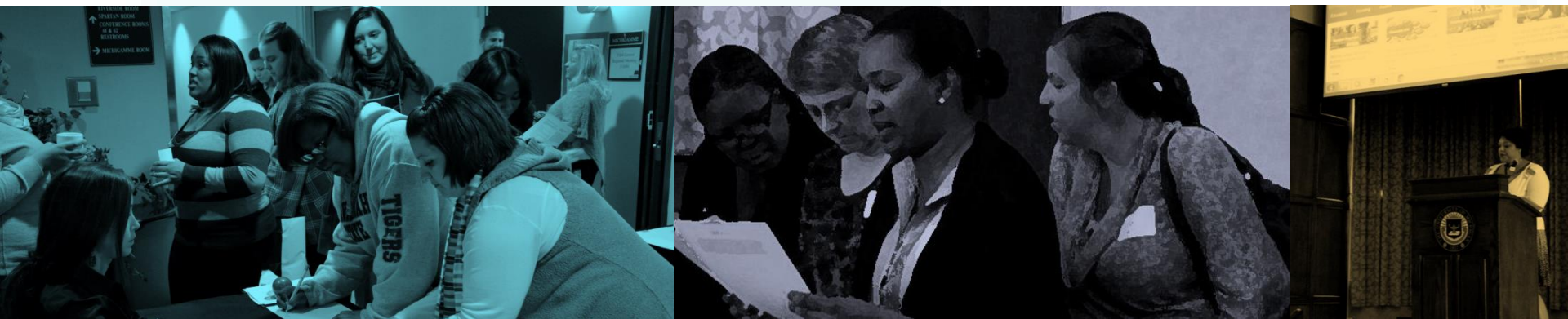


- Brief Overview of FSM
- Developmental Evaluation
 - Methods
 - Findings
 - Recommendations
- Open Discussion
 - Questions
- Feedback Survey

www.FosteringSuccessMichigan.com



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



Brief Overview of FSM



- Started in 2012
- Uses Collective Impact
- Utilizes 3 strategies of Resourcing, Supporting, and Networking

Developmental Evaluation



What is it?

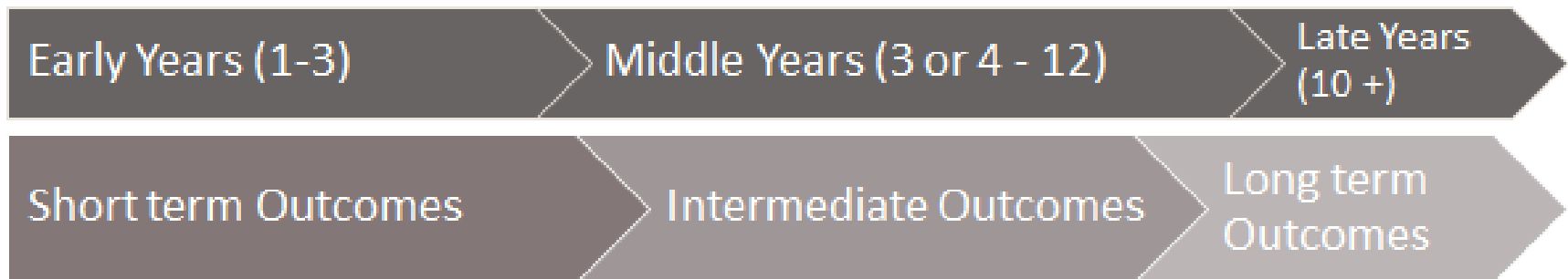
Why did we use it?

- Good fit for FSM

Key questions in Developmental Evaluation:

- What overall progress is being made towards outcomes?
- And, what needs to happen next?

Collective Impact Timeline



Adapted from: Preskill, Parkhurst, and Splanskey (2014). Figure 1: A Framework for Performance Measurement and Evaluation of Collective Impact Efforts. *Guide to Evaluating Collective Impact: Part 1*.

Goals and Outcomes

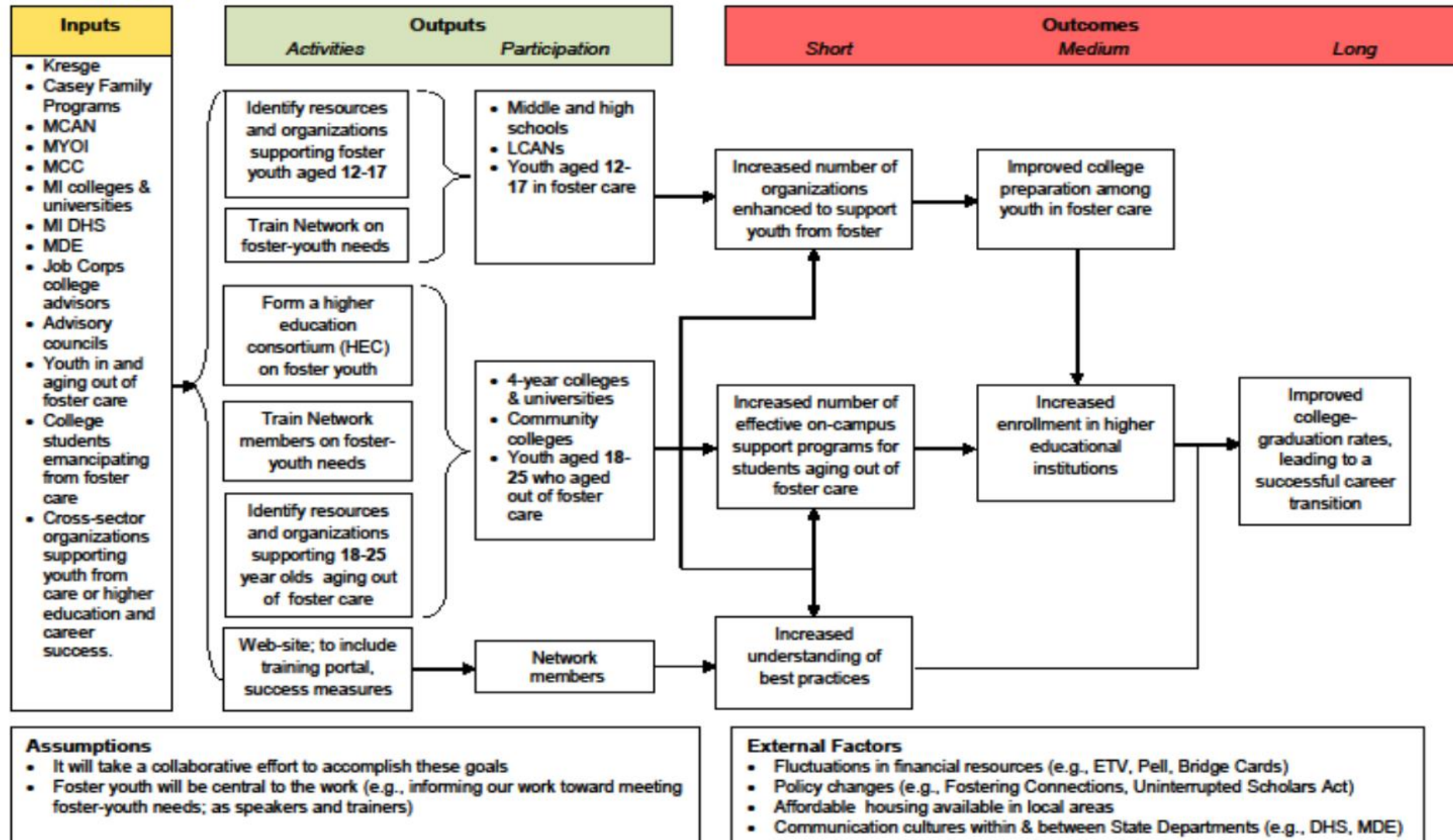


- **2 Goals, 6 Outcomes (3 Short Term, 2 Intermediate, 1 Long Term).**
- **Located on Page 4 of the Evaluation Report**
- **Also located on FSM's Logic Model**

Logic Model – Fostering Success Michigan



Goal: To increase college-going rates (short term), graduation rates (medium term), and successful career transitions (long term) among Michigan's youth aging out of foster care by building a statewide network through a collective-impact initiative.



Methods



Use of Mixed Methods:

- **Objective Data** ← Attendance of partners at meetings and website analytics
- **Subjective Data** ← Partner feedback from website or events

Methods



Use of Mixed Methods:

- **Stakeholder Survey**

Phone Interviews, July –August 2014

Developed questions related to Outcomes, targeted toward specific network partner types

- **Shared Data Measurement**

Number of Students Served in
FSM HEC On-Campus Support
Programs

Number of Students to Graduate
from FSM HEC On-Campus
Support Programs

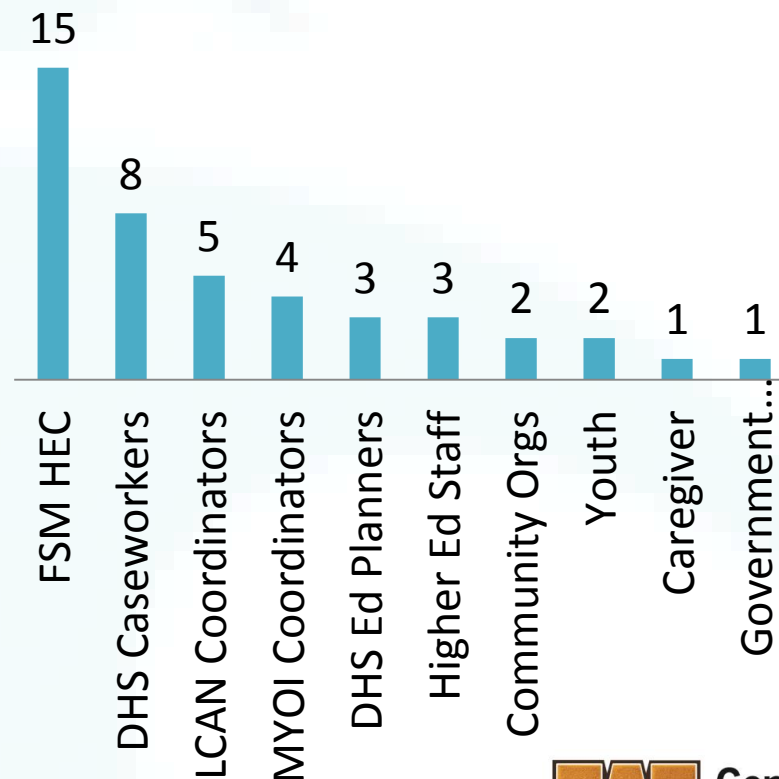
Methods



Stakeholder Survey

- July – August 2014
- Phone Interviews
- Low Response rate called for more purposive sample
- 51 partners reached, 44 completed survey

of Network Partners by Type



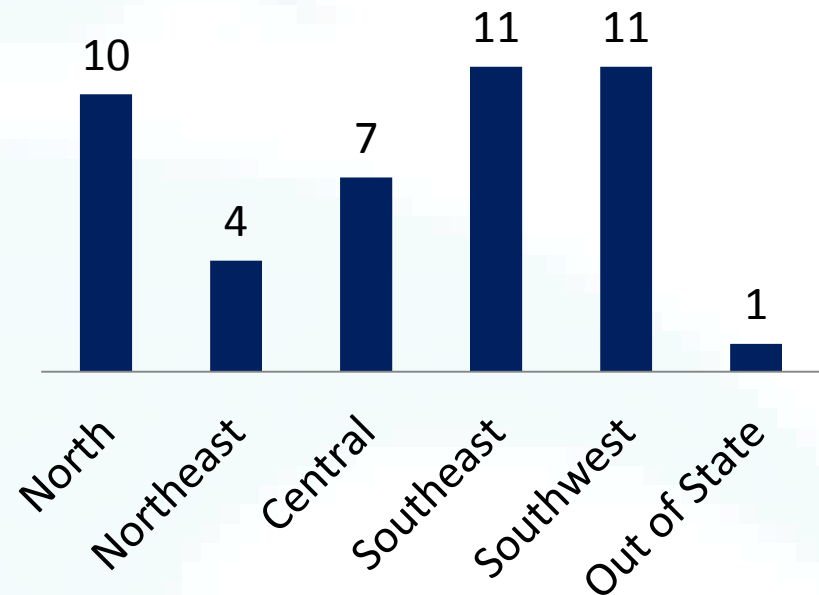
Methods

Stakeholder Survey

- All regions represented
- Generalization of results is cautioned



of Network Partners by Region



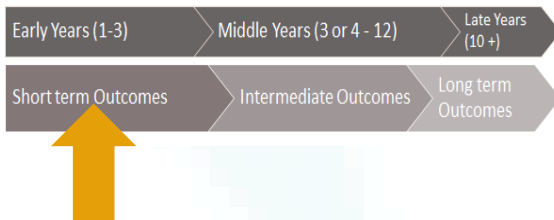
Outcome 1



(Short Term): Increased number of effective on-campus support programs for students emancipating from foster care.

Finding: Five programs were identified in 2012, and as of October 2014, there were twelve on-campus support programs.

Recommendation: As FSM continues to engage new and existing programs, and as programs continue to develop, FSM will have to reevaluate its capacity for this supporting strategy.



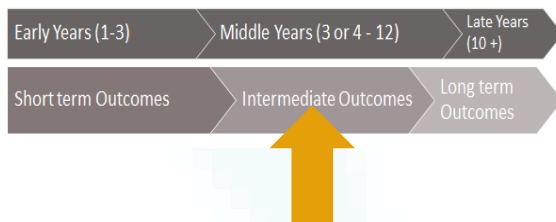
Outcome 2

(Intermediate): Increased enrollment in Michigan higher education institutions.



Finding: Shared data measurement of students served in programs shows an increase from 213 in the 2012-2013 to 238 in the 2013-2014 academic years.

Recommendation: A key to progress in this area will be to determine the understanding of the FSM HEC members about shared data measurement and deciding as a collective how FSM, as a backbone organization, can best support measuring enrollment across the state.



Appendix B: FSM HEC Higher Education Institutions

Fostering Success Michigan Higher Education Consortium (FSM HEC) Higher Education Institutions and On-Campus Support Programs***		
<i>On-Campus Support Programs in 2012</i>	Reported Data in 2013	Reported Data in 2014
Western Michigan University – Seita Scholars Program	X	X
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor – Blavin Scholars Program	X	X
Ferris State University – Ferris Youth Initiative **	X	X
Michigan State University – Fostering Academics Mentoring Excellence (FAME) Program **		*
Aquinas College – Fostering Success Scholarship	X	
<i>On-Campus Support Programs in 2013</i>		
Saginaw Valley State University – The Fostering an Academic Successful Transition (FAST) Program **	X	X
Eastern Michigan University – Mentorship Access Guidance in College (MAGIC) Program **	X	X *
University of Michigan – Flint – Mpowering My Success Program **	X	X
Wayne State University – Transition to Independence Program **		
Baker College – Flint – Living Independently Networking Knowledge (LINK) Program **	X	X
<i>On-Campus Support Programs in 2014</i>		
Northwestern Michigan College – yourNMC Program	N/A	X
Kalamazoo Valley Community College – Campus Support Program	N/A	X

* Data from these programs included students other than youth who have experienced foster care and therefore were not included in the numbers reported in this evaluation. In the case of Eastern Michigan University, the numbers of youth who have experienced foster care were reported separate from the numbers of other youth that the program serves.

** Programs that received the DHS- bid grants for life skills coach positions

*** In December of 2014, Lansing Community College was awarded a Life Skills Coach grant from DHS. For the purposes of this evaluation, LCC was not included in the overall number of on-campus support programs in FSM HEC because programming will start in 2015.

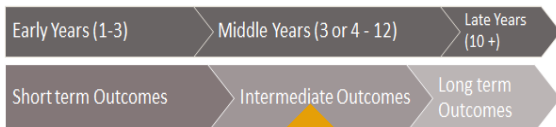
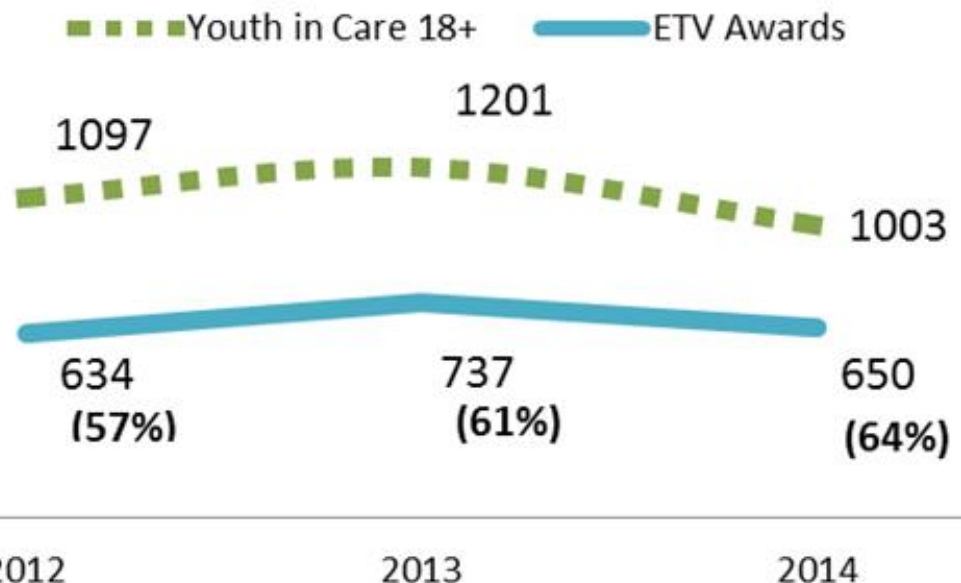
Outcome 2

(Intermediate): Increased enrollment in Michigan higher education institutions.



Michigan
Education and
Training Voucher
(ETV) data shows
a broader picture
of youth
enrollment

Figure 5: Youth in MI Foster Care 18+ and
Awarded ETV 2012-2014



Findings – Outcome 3



Outcome 3 (Long Term): Improved college graduation rates, leading to a successful career transition.

Finding: Shared data measurement revealed that graduation rates remained the same from 2013-2014 (n=22) among on-campus support programs in FSM HEC.

FSM will need to determine how to collect statewide college graduation rates of youth who have experienced foster care. This will take time, resources, and a committed effort involving a variety of network partners.



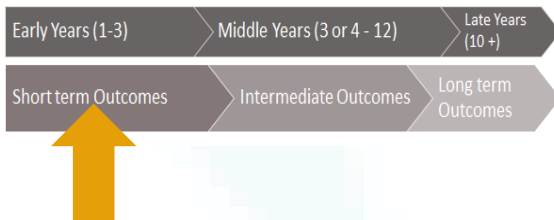
Findings – Outcome 4



Outcome 4 (Short Term): Increased understanding of best practices.

Finding: The FSM website, www.FosteringSuccessMichigan.com was unveiled in 2013 at the 2nd Annual Summit and streamlines and centralizes the accessibility of resources to both youth and professionals.

To remain responsive to the network, FSM should continue seeking feedback from partners to increase the accessibility of needed web-based resources and continue adding and refining resources on the website as a core resourcing strategy.



www.FosteringSuccessMichigan.com

FSM Website Analytics 2013-2014



Pageviews: **65,429**

Top pages viewed

FSM homepage: **15,215**

Library page: **6,636**

Story page: **3,067**

News & Events page:
2,420

Network page: **2,020**

Top unique search terms

**College
Financial Aid
Webinar
Video
Forums
Scholarships
Guides**

8% of visits used site
search

Total unique searches:
2,550

Early Years (1-3) > Middle Years (3 or 4 - 12) > Late Years (10 +)

Short term Outcomes > Intermediate Outcomes > Long term Outcomes



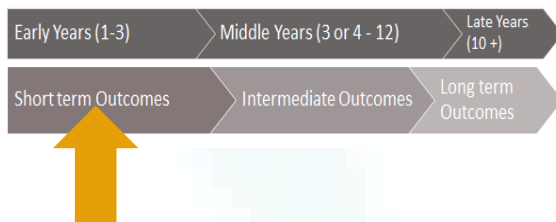
Findings – Outcome 5

(Short Term): Increased number of organizations enhanced to support youth from foster care.



Finding: Student Support Networks were not established and the focus of the partnership with LCAN shifted early on in the FSM initiative.

Recommendation: FSM should revisit the idea of Student Support Networks, given the changing environment across the state of Michigan.



Findings – Outcome 5

(Short Term): Increased number of organizations enhanced to support youth from foster care.



FSM Network Connections during early years show that there is an engaged group of students, supportive adults, and professionals that continue to be enhanced by FSM activities.

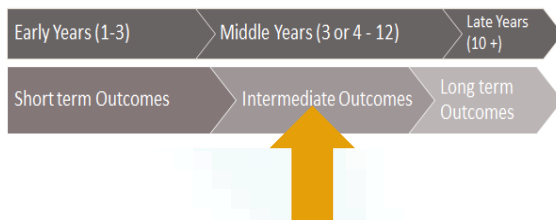
Findings – Outcome 6



(Intermediate): Improved college preparation among youth in foster care.

Finding: Fostering Success Michigan has been increasing awareness of college opportunities through multiple resources that are available to both professionals and youth. This is an incremental step to effectively measure college preparation statewide.

FSM should continue working with partners such as Michigan Youth Opportunity Initiative (MYOI), MCAN, DHS, Community Organizations, Michigan Department of Education, and Middle and High School educators and staff to best leverage resources that help increase awareness of college preparation among youth in foster care.



Fostering Success Michigan partners were asked “What does FSM mean to you?” on a number of feedback surveys from the Annual Summit and Regional Network Meetings. The following are some highlights from these sources.

“An organization that supports and connects the work that is happening at institutions and organizations across the state to improve the services and resources available so that we can best serve youth who have experienced time in foster care.”

“It means that we have a centralized place to go to for support. It means that FSM is thinking about the work as a whole and is trying to better understand how we can be working together more effectively.”

“To me, FSM has always represented advocacy, resources, and support. FSM has personally provided me with a multitude of opportunities which have in turn fostered hope for my future. FSM in so many ways is providing the support and access to resources to young people from care that they may not receive anywhere else.”

“This initiative has created a network of service providers that genuinely care about the success of students that have experienced the foster care system. From this, I have professionals to lean on, bounce ideas off, collaborate with, and plan for future success of the young adults we support.”

“FSM has helped provide resources and guidance in building stronger and more productive relationships with community partners and local colleges and universities. It has been an excellent resource.”

To sum up what FSM does in 3 words it would be...

Resourcing, Supporting, and Networking

Conclusion



The central questions for developmental evaluation are: What overall progress is being made toward outcomes? And, what needs to happen next?

FSM has made progress toward the original identified outcomes.

FSM Evaluation Report

Copies Available on the Website!



Discussion and Questions





Center for
Fostering
Success

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



For More Information:

Liz Brass: elizabeth.k.brass@wmich.edu

Maddy Day: maddy.day@wmich.edu

(269) 568-9142

www.FosteringSuccessMichigan.com

<http://groups.google.com/group/fostering-success-michigan>