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Date/Time Stamp

COVER SHEET FOR AMENDMENT OF POST-TRAVEL SUBMISSION

Instructions: Use this form as a cover sheet for any paperwork you may need to submit to the **Office of Public Records** in order to make your Privately Sponsored Post-Travel Submission complete in accordance with Rule 35. **Only complete this form if you need to submit an amendment to a post-travel filing you have already submitted.**

SUBMIT DIRECTLY TO THE **OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN 232 HART BUILDING**

Name of Traveler: Leila Schochet

Employing Office/Committee: Senate HELP Committee

Travel Expenses Paid by (List all sources): American Youth Policy Forum

Travel Date(s): October 8-10 2019

Description/Title of Attached Forms: Personalized itinerary for travel

Purpose of Amendment (describe the reason for amending original submission): updated travel itinerary

4/23/20

(Date)

Leila Schochet

(Signature of Traveler)

(Revised 4/19/2010)

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American Youth Policy Forum

Harnessing the Potential of Young Adults: How Programs Are Using Youth Voice, Education, and Workforce Development to Transform Systems

An AYPF Study Tour
October 8-10, 2019
Boston, Massachusetts and East Providence, Rhode Island

Nationally, there are 4.6 million young adults between the ages of 16-24 that are not in school or working. These outcomes are more troubling for young adults "aging out" of foster care and/or involved in the juvenile justice systems due to additional barriers. For example, incarcerated youth can face systemic discrimination, as many employers and workforce development programs can perceive them as less reliable and workforce ready due to their past convictions. For young adults aging out of foster care, their unemployment rates can be as high as 69% compared to only about 10% of young adults ages 16 to 24 who are not in foster care due to their lack of stable housing and other critical supports. Despite these numbers, three nationally recognized programs in Rhode Island and Massachusetts have found a way to successfully combine youth voice, education, and employment to create a new narrative for the young people they serve. The programs offer social enterprises, job training, case management, mentoring, and share a deep commitment to harnessing the potential of young adults.

The Study Tour will consist of multiple policy discussions, site visits, testimonies from young adults, and presentations from labor/workforce, child welfare, and juvenile justice leaders about the steps they are taking to coordinate systems and streamline services to achieve greater outcomes for youth. Additionally, we will discuss relevant federal legislation and programs that are supporting this work.

Our goals include:

- Highlighting three effective programs that are using education and workforce development as a key strategy for achieving success with young adults.
- Elevating youth voice and hearing directly from young adults about how their involvement in workforce and education programs have changed their trajectory.
- Identifying and including state government departments to highlight the importance of government systems partnering with programs to increase support for youth.
- Discussing how federal/state policies can be improved to better serve young adults involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems.

Agenda

Tuesday, October 8th

12:06pm **Leila Schochet arrival time: American Airlines Flight 2129 FROM WASHINGTON, DC TO BOSTON, MA**

1:00pm-3:00pm Hotel Arrivals
Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor
101 Harborside Drive
Boston, MA 02128

****Participants will arrive at the Boston Airport (BOS) by 1:00pm and take an airport shuttle to the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor.***

3:00pm-3:45pm **Welcome and Introductions**, Aquitana Room (First Floor)
Betsy Brand, Executive Director, AYPF

Participants will learn about AYPF's mission, vision, and educational resources. This will include an overview of previous study tours conducted with congressional staff, webinars, Hill forums, and publications. We will also emphasize our bipartisan approach to our work and end with participant introductions.

3:45pm-4:00pm **The Road Ahead: Overview of Agenda, Goals, and What to Expect**
Samaura Stone, Senior Director, AYPF
Maria Duarte, Policy Associate, AYPF

AYPF staff will review the agenda with participants, highlight key sections, discuss the learning goals for each day, provide logistical details, and answer any remaining questions from participants about the agenda.

4:00pm-4:20pm **Drive to Site #1, Artists for Humanity via charter bus**.

Artists for Humanity
100 W 2nd St., Boston MA, 02127

Site Description:
Artists For Humanity (AFH) is one of the largest employers of youth in the City of Boston, with 250 under-resourced teens employed as artists and designers each year during critical out-of-school hours. During the summer, the teen artists work 25 hours per week and 9 hours per week during the school year. 83% of their youth employees are from low-income diverse families. Moreover, 54% live in the Boston neighborhoods

most beset with violence, and 44% live in single-parent households. These factors place their youth at higher risk for failing or dropping out of school and for significantly decreased employability. AFH counteracts the risks facing young people by giving youth a job; enrichment that comes from the arts and cultural experiences; a safe place to go with their peers after school; a culture of respect, responsibility, and engaged mentorship; an opportunity to learn and conduct business in the innovation economy; and essential life skills.

4:20pm-5:00pm **Artists for Humanity (AFH) Tour**
Richard Frank, Marketing Director, AFH

Participants will have the opportunity to tour AFH's five creative studios and talk with teen artists and designers.

5:00pm-6:00pm **Youth Guided Art Activity**
AFH youth artists will guide participants through a fun, interactive art activity that will tie into the Study Tour theme of youth voice, education, and workforce development.

6:00pm-6:25pm **From the Field: Program Sneak Peeks**
Bernadette Tavares, Program Coordinator, Foster Forward
Geoff Foster, Director of Organizing and Policymaker, UTEC

Staff from Foster Forward and UTEC will provide brief overviews about their programs, populations served, and what we can expect to see during tomorrow's visits.

6:25pm-6:30pm **Closing Announcements**

6:30pm -6:35pm 5-minute walk to restaurant

6:35pm-8:00pm Dinner at Worden Hall
22 West Broadway, Boston, MA 02127

8:00pm-8:30pm Charter bus from the restaurant back to the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor

Wednesday, October 9th

7:30am-9:00am **Breakfast Available**
Aquitana Room

8:30am-9:30am **Walking in Their Shoes: Ice Breakers and Reflections**

In preparation for a full day of site visits and engaging with young people, participants will gain more context around the barriers that young adults in the programs face in their pursuit of workforce and education opportunities.

9:30am-10:30am **Drive to Site #2 (From Boston, MA to Lowell, MA)**
UTEC
35 Warren St., Lowell, MA 01852

Site Description:
UTEC's mission is to ignite and nurture the ambition of its most disconnected young people to trade violence and poverty for social and economic success. UTEC offers several programs and opportunities for young adults, including transitional coaching, workforce development training through social enterprises, GED classes and a dual-enrollment program to earn college credits. In 2018, UTEC served 148 young adults in their intensive enrollment program, and nearly 600 total. Of enrolled young adults, 94% had a criminal record; 66% lacked a high school credential; and 52% were expecting/parenting. As a result of working with UTEC, 97% had no new convictions or technical violations; 88% had no new arrests or technical violations; and 63% received an industry-recognized certification.

10:30am-10:40am **Welcome to UTEC (Main Building)**
Geoff Foster, Director of Organizing and Policymaking, UTEC

Geoff will provide participants with an overview of the various programs at UTEC that young adults can participate in and their recruitment process to find young people with prior involvement in the juvenile justice system. Additionally, participants will be provided with a brief history of the organization, their program model, and success rates.

10:40am-11:00am **Eliminating Barriers: 2Gen Early Childhood Education Center Site Visit**
More than a third of UTEC's young adults are also young parents and finding affordable, high-quality child care is often a major barrier to seeking employment and education opportunities. In 2017, UTEC opened an onsite, UTEC-operated early childhood education center to help young families break the cycle of poverty. With a child-centered, social-emotional based curriculum, their 2Gen Center is inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy that encourages children to lead their own learning. With experienced, educated teachers supporting independence and self-regulation, children at the 2Gen Center are building on the same Core Competencies that their parents are working on next door.

11:00am-11:50am **Youth in Action: UTEC's Food Manufacturing, Café, and Woodwork Social Enterprises Tour**
UTEC's social enterprises offer young adults paid work experience to develop the job and life skills required to excel in any workplace. Their social enterprises achieve a triple bottom line by: 1) facilitating positive youth development, along with paid work experience; 2) generating earned revenue to support their mission; and 3) supporting the communities' economic development.

11:45am-12:30pm **Shifting Gears: How UTEC's Work is Shaping Policy**
A Conversation with Peter J. Koutoujian, Sheriff, Middlesex Sheriff's Office
Working with the Vera Institute of Justice and UTEC, the Middlesex Sheriff's Office created a program for young adults with histories of incarceration, to operate a unit for individuals ages 18 to 24. The Middlesex Sheriff's Office is the first local jurisdiction in the nation to create such a specialized unit. UTEC will be able to integrate their education, job training, and counseling services to support young adults before they are released. This shift will help to improve opportunities for success, and ultimately reduce recidivism among young adults.

12:30pm-1:00pm **A Youth's Perspective: Why This Work Matters Lunch Conversation**
Participants will have the opportunity to hear from several young adults about their experiences and which key elements of UTEC's programs have been the most meaningful to them. Using written statements and personal testimonies, the youth will convey how their lives have been impacted.

1:00pm-2:00pm **Drive to Site #3 (From Boston, MA to Pawtucket, RI)**

Foster Forward
50 Ann Mary St.,
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Site Description:
Foster Forward is a nationally and locally recognized leader committed to empowering lives impacted by foster care. In Rhode Island, the youth unemployment rate is 20%, it is more than double at 52% for youth who have experienced foster care. Works Wonders, a program of Foster Forward was originally started as a research initiative funded through a Children's Bureau grant to research ways to help Rhode Island's foster youth who have aged out of or are about to age out of state care succeed in the workplace. About 60% of youth in the Works Wonders program did not have previous work experience. The program has grown into an

evidence-supported career development and employment engagement program that provides 8-10 hours of skills based training, 12 weeks of one-on-one career coaching, and paid work-based learning opportunities.

2:00pm-2:10pm **Welcome to Foster Forward**
Lisa Guillette, Executive Director, Foster Forward

Lisa will provide participants with an overview of Foster Forward's programs for older foster youth, and provide context around Rhode Island's child welfare system, as it relates to young adults "aging" out of foster care and services available.

2:10-2:30pm **The Power of Community: Foster Forward's Storefront Tour**
As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." This sentiment rings true especially for youth and families involved in the foster care system. Foster Forward's Storefront is an amazing space where those impacted by foster care in Rhode Island may gather for activities and shop for donated clothes, toys, and other household needs. Youth, foster parents, and others can shop for free items during designated days and times. We'll make a brief stop to check out the space and hear about how the storefront began and its impact on those involved in the foster care system.

2:30pm-2:45pm Drive to 55 S. Brow St., Providence, RI (FF's Main Location)

2:45pm-3:00pm **Where the Magic Happens: Foster Forward's Main Building Tour**
Foster Forward runs several programs focused on providing critical supports to older foster youth. These programs include: Works Wonders; Youth Establishing Self-Sufficiency (YESS) Aftercare Services through the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF); Aspiring Young Leaders; Real Connections Mentoring; and ASPIRE, Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and IDA matched savings account. We will chat briefly with program staff as we take a quick tour of their building.

3:00pm-3:30pm **Youth In Transition: A Rhode Island Perspective on the State's New Legislation to Extend their Foster Care Services to Age 21**
A Conversation with State Senator Luis DiPalma and Foster Forward Youth Advocates
Moderated by Victoria Ferrara, Director of Programs, Foster Forward

Last year, Rhode Island passed legislation that would provide eligible 18-year-old youth in foster care with the option to stay in foster care and request services, such as housing assistance and job training. This policy

existed in Rhode Island, until it was eliminated in 2007 due to a budget shortfall. Shortly after, the 2008 federal *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act* allowed states to extend foster care to 21 with federal reimbursement through the Social Security's Act for foster care. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, there are now approximately 25 states and the District of Columbia that have enacted legislation to extend foster care beyond age 18. Youth remaining in foster care after 18 doubled their odds of working or completing high school at 19 and are twice as likely to complete one year of college.

3:30pm-3:40pm Break

3:40pm-4:30pm **Using a Systems Approach to Implement Change: How Foster Forward Leveraged their Partnerships with the Department of Labor, Providence Housing Authority, and DCYF.**

- Pauline Abetti, Director of Career Pathways, Rhode Island Department of Labor
- Scott Jensen, Director of Department of Labor and Training, Rhode Island Department of Labor
- Elizabeth Bioteau, Continuum of Care Planner for Rhode Island-HUD Dollars and Rapid Re-Housing Program

Lisa Guillette, Executive Director, Foster Forward (Moderator)

Aligning systems continues to be one of the greatest priorities and challenges for state, federal, and nonprofit leaders serving young adults involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Many organizations and policymakers struggle to engage with labor and housing stakeholders, despite how critical their involvement is with the youth populations. We will learn about how Foster Forward was able to skillfully develop partnerships with housing and labor to strengthen their programming for youth transitioning out of foster care.

4:30pm-5:15pm **What Makes Foster Forward Different? Closing Activity Featuring Foster Forward Youth**

Several young adults from Foster Forward's programs will talk about their experiences and which key elements of Foster Forward programs have been the most meaningful to them. Using written statements and personal testimonies, the youth will convey how their lives have been impacted.

5:15pm-6:45pm **Drive via charter bus from East Providence back to Hyatt Regency Boston**

6:45pm **Dinner on Your Own**

Thursday, October 10, 2019

***Please check out of your hotel rooms by Noon. You can store luggage at the front desk or in the meeting room.**

7:30am-8:45am Breakfast Available
Aquitana Room

8:45am-9:15am **Program Reflections**
We will open the day with brief reflections from our program visits and discuss a few of the key takeaways.

9:15am-10:30am **Putting It All Together: How Do We Create Stronger Policies Using the Voices of Young Adults Involved in the Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Systems?**

After a day of program visits and conversations, the group will be divided to reflect upon several questions pertaining to creating or improving state and federal policies. The questions will be guided by the statements that youth made regarding the key elements they found most useful when completing their workforce and education programs.

10:30am-11:30am **Group Share Out**

The full group will reconvene to discuss the various themes that emerged within their groups.

11:30am-11:40am **Break**

11:40am-12:30pm **The Path Forward: Reforming our Policies to Support Youth Closing Discussion**
There is a strong momentum and incentive to create policies for young adults that are focused on prevention, youth development models, holistic family supports, and encompass restorative justice approaches. The Family First Prevention Services Act, Diversion Programs, the Foster Youth to Independence Housing Initiative through HUD, the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDPA) and the Cross-Over Youth Practice Model, as well as other state efforts are several examples of new or expanded approaches to serving youth. We will end our day on a positive note, by highlighting and discussing many of the new and exciting policies and initiatives at the federal, state, and local level.

12:30pm-1:00	**Lunch**
1:00-1:30pm	**What Are You Taking with You? Closing Activity** Participants will complete a final reflection about their key takeaways and “aha” moments from the trip.
1:30pm	**Adjourn** **Shuttles from the hotel to the airport will be available and scheduled based on participant’s departure times.*
4:20 pm	**Departure time from Boston, MA on DELTA AIRLINES Flight 5928**
6:24pm	**Arrival in Washington, DC (DCA Airport)**