AMP Day on the Hill 2020

Des Moines, Iowa – January 29, 2020 – Members of AMP (Achieving Maximum Potential), Iowa’s State Foster Care Youth Council, gathered at the Iowa State Capital on January 27 for their annual AMP Day on the Hill. AMP participants and facilitators joined state legislators and Iowa’s new Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS), Kelly Garcia, to discuss their 2020 Legislative Agenda. Garcia, who joined DHS in late 2019, addressed the crowd of passionate young people, emphasizing her commitment to them, and added that her devotion to her own children inspires her to fight for all Iowa youth.

AMP members are often invited to share their insights to help inform decisions and improve practice because of their personal experience in Iowa’s child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These youth meet several times throughout the year to develop and prepare their legislative agenda. Highlights contained in this year’s agenda include requests for additional foster parent and kinship training opportunities specific to teenagers; safe, affordable housing resources for youth aging out of care; and an opportunity for home schooled youth to be dual enrolled in public schools for extracurricular activities.

Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII) provides research and evaluation services for AMP, and partners with them for various activities throughout the year.

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About Youth Policy Institute of Iowa

Founded in 2000, the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa (YPII) works to expand and improve the delivery of services and supports for Iowa youth by partnering with public and private entities throughout the state. YPII is involved in a wide range of initiatives but specializes in policies and programs affecting youth transitioning from adolescence to adulthood, particularly those who have been involved in child welfare (foster care) or juvenile justice systems. YPII also provides coordination, outreach, and evaluation support to the Iowa Aftercare Services Network.

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