Jerry Milner Visits Des Moines to Discuss Extending Foster Care to 21

Des Moines, Iowa – February 4, 2020 – Jerry Milner, Associate Commissioner for the Federal Children’s Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children and Families that oversees the national child welfare system, recently visited Des Moines to meet with state legislators, leadership from the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), and other key stakeholders from across the state for a listening tour. The visit allowed Milner an opportunity to answer questions regarding fiscal and policy implications for examining the extension of Foster Care to 21 in Iowa.

Commissioner Milner presented information on the importance of extended care, sharing successes in other states and identifying legislative and policy changes that are needed for Iowa to access federal funding. Milner was also able to offer his unique perspectives toward the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act and the implications for older youth in care.

Over the course of the three-day visit, Insight board member, Kayla Powell, and Commissioner Milner facilitated a productive series of meetings fielding questions and addressing challenges regarding Foster Care to 21, the Family First Act, and best practices for youth engagement.

“We were so excited for the opportunity to host Commissioner Milner and his team,” says Carol Behrer, Youth Policy Institute of Iowa Executive Director. “We look forward to continuing these conversations with the legislature and the leadership within the Department.”

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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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