

MODULE 8 – POLICY AND RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS

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In policy, as in research, goals, problems and solutions are not separate from one another. They influence and affect the other. In the case of youth in the child welfare system who are transitioning out of the children's behavioral health system, our goal is to create a seamless transfer into the adult behavioral health system.

We identified a problem. Children who transition from one system into the other are more prone to becoming homeless, entering the criminal justice system, and being unemployed. Our possible solution is creating a transition system that starts two to three years before these children transition out, to prepare them for being out of the child welfare and behavioral health systems.

To create policy, we must build a case for why this is a problem, what our goal is, and formulate a solution.