



Following Their Lead

Empowering youth voice to implement youth-centric treatment goals with a strength-based perspective.

June 9th, 2025

Goals of Today:

- Practice utilizing a trauma-informed approach to build connection and trust with youth to gain youth perspective and voice.
- Articulate the link between evidenced-based models that support the mission with youth success and system change.
- Utilize youth-centric, strength-based language to effectively advocate for youth.

Who we are:



Savannah Fay, LICSW
She/her
Clinical Manager
Dover Children's Home

RENEW Coach



Daley Buckwell, MSOL
She/her
Educational Coordinator
Dover Children's Home

RENEW Facilitator



Sarah Gordon, MSW
She/her
Director of Treatment Services
Dover Children's Home

RENEW Coach
TBRI Practitioner



Kathy Francoeur, M. ED.
She/her
Co-Director of Training
& Technical Assistance
Institute on Disability
University of New Hampshire

RENEW Coach/Trainer



Let's learn about who's in the room?

Our Programs:

LEVEL 1: PILOT HOUSE

Program: Independent Living Residential Program

Population: Young adults ages 18-21

Housing: (1) studio apartment, (1) apartment with 3 bedrooms

Census: Up to 4 residents

LEVEL 2: MAIN HOUSE

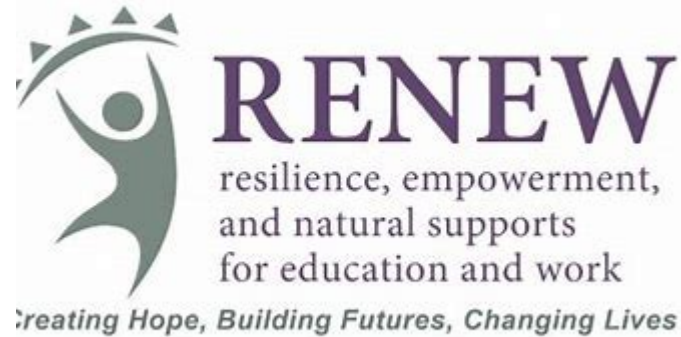
Program: Intermediate Residential Treatment Program

Population: Youth ages 10 – 21

Housing: 10 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms

Census: Up to 12 residents

DCH MODELS OF CARE & PRACTICE

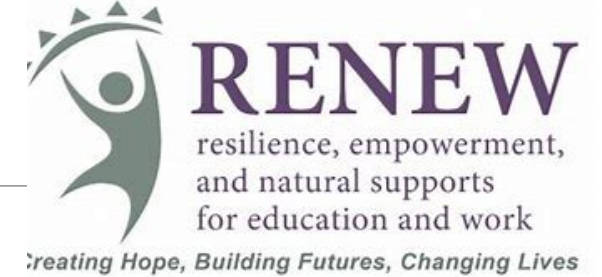


The Mandt System®



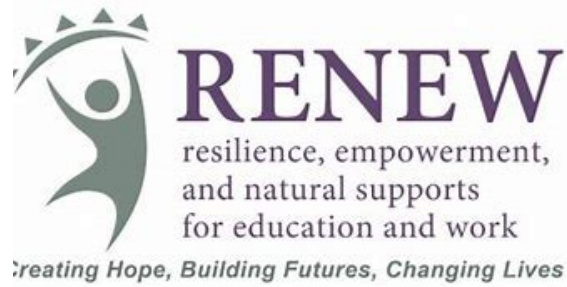
What is RENEW:

- Framework focused on building **R**esiliency, **E**mpowerment and **N**atural Supports for **E**ducation and **W**ork



RENEW Goals

- High School Completion
- Employment
- Post-Secondary Education
- Community Inclusion



RENEW Core Values

Youth-driven

Community-based

Culturally and linguistically competent

Trauma-responsive

The RENEW Focus

RENEW Principles

Self-Determination

Empowerment

Strengths-Based

Self-Efficacy

Developing Natural and Formal Supports

Unconditional Care

Equity

Full Inclusion

Population Recommended for RENEW:

High rates of:

- School dropout
- Anti-social behavior
- Trauma

Low rates of:

- Income and employment
- Access to mental health services
- Community and social supports

Youth with EBD
Experience Poor
Functioning at Home, at
School, and in the
Community

Growth of RENEW:

- **1996** -Developed in 1996 by staff at the UNH Institute on Disability (IOD)
- **2002–present** High schools tertiary level intervention
- **2008–present** Community mental health providers in NH
- **2014-** International training, technical support, and coaching
- **2022-** Expands to residential treatment facilities and juvenile justice system in NH

3-tiered PBIS model: NH, IL, PA, WI, IA, MA, ME, CT, RI, NC, MD, CA

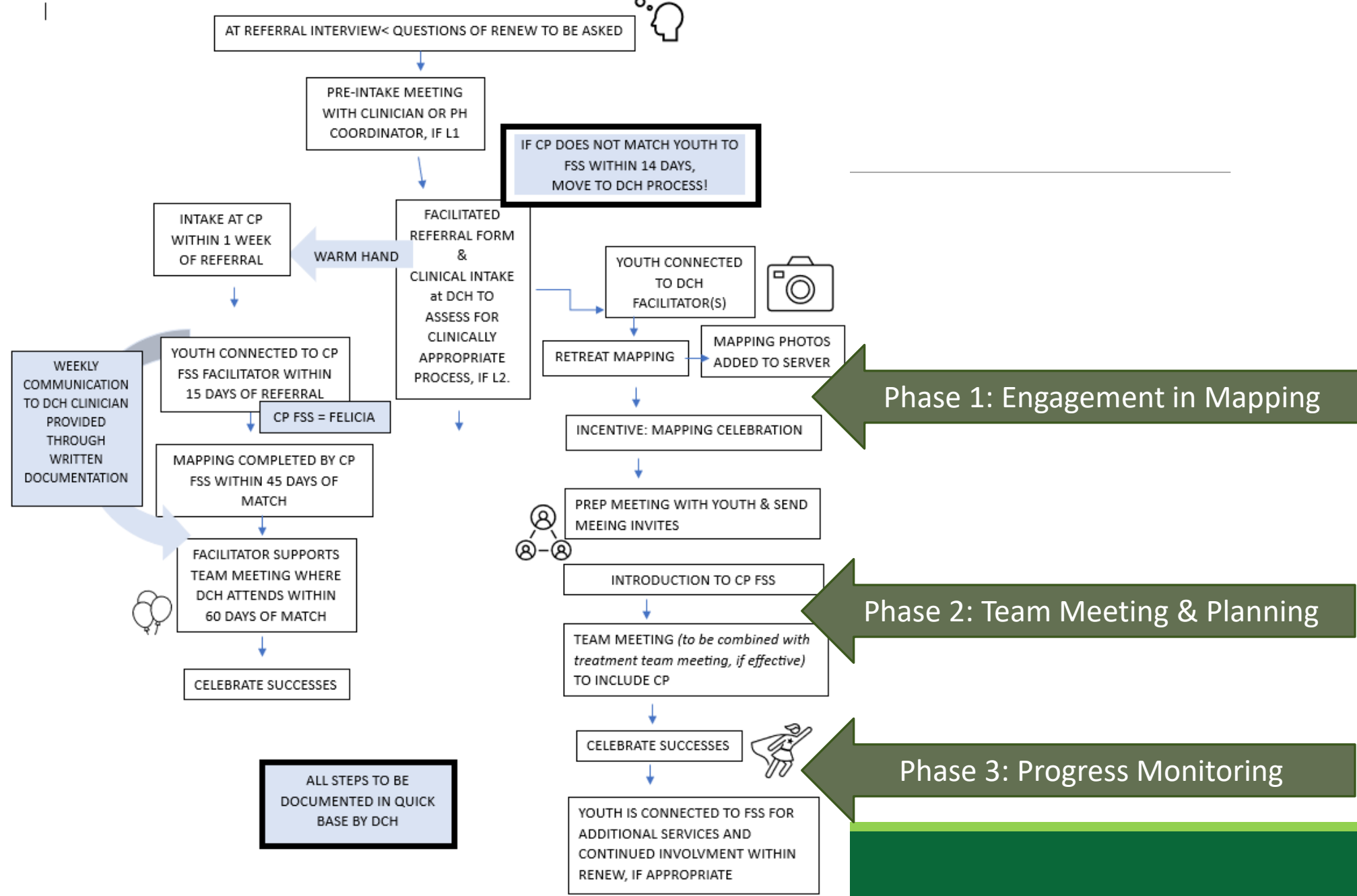
5th Leading Tier 3 intervention in the nation

RENEW Implementation in the US



RENEW
Representation
in NH...

RENEW AT DCH WITH CP OVERVIEW OF PROCESS



Maps Include:

1. My History
2. Who am I today
3. Strengths & Accomplishments
4. My People/Resources
5. What works/what doesn't
6. My Dreams
7. Fears, Challenges, Barriers
8. Needs
9. My Goals
10. Next Steps



DCH's RENEW Implementation Team

Director of Treatment Services

Clinical Manager

PILOT Program Manager

Educational Coordinator

Transition Coordinator

Family Support Coordinator/Clinician

PILOT Program Coordinator

**Community Partners*

**UNH IOD- Kathy/External Coach*



Implementation Team Quarterly Meeting Schedule (Rotating)



Youth Status Updates



Data Party



Booster Training

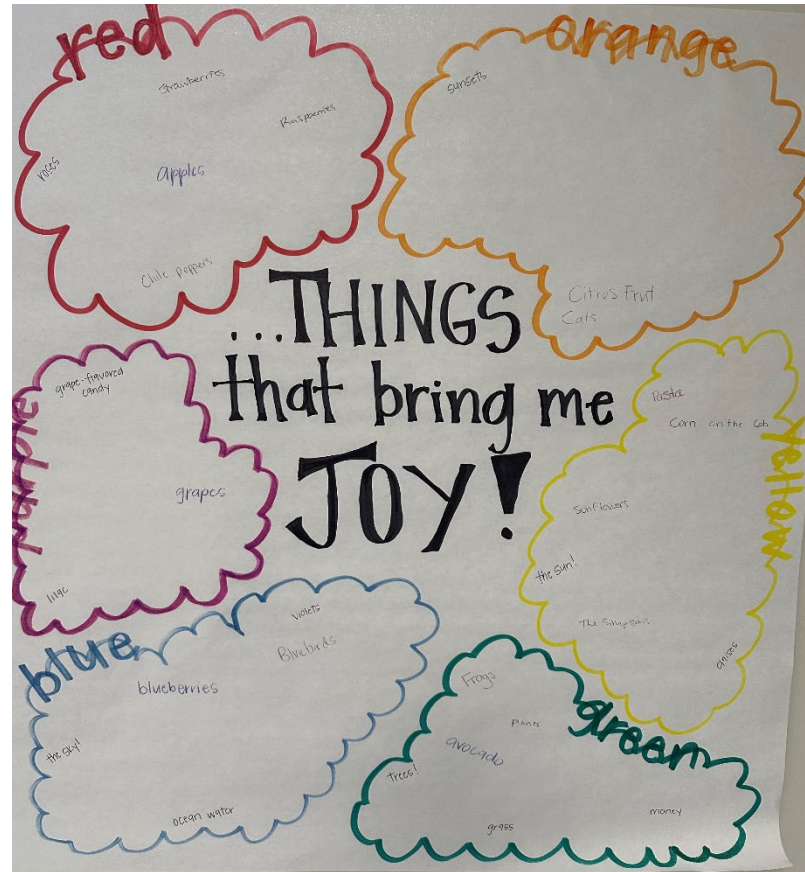
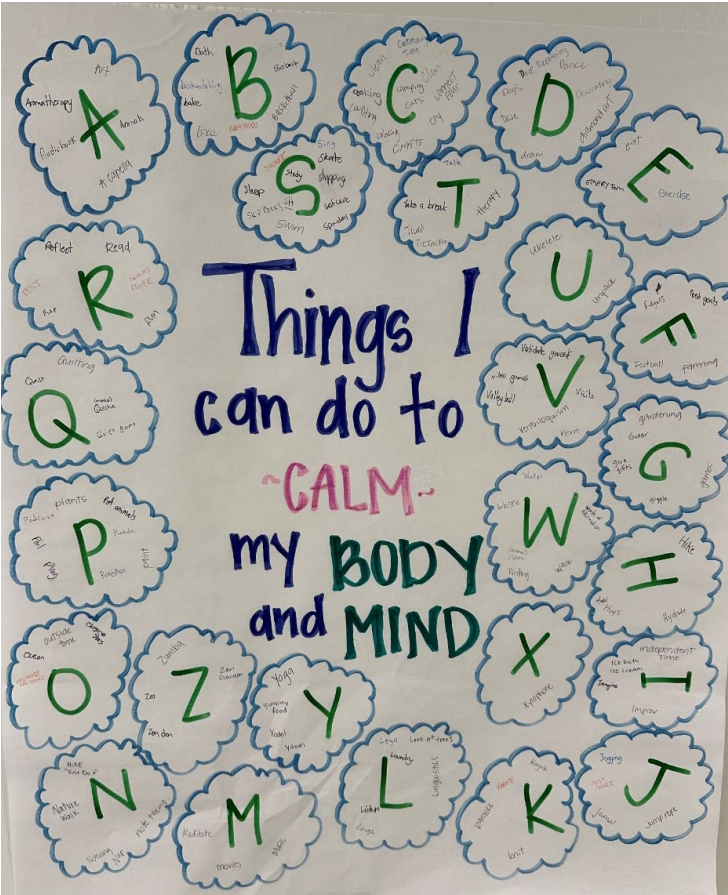
Connecting to Treatment

. Key Concepts:

- The youth is the leader of the team
- Every youth has different needs, skills, and goals
- Collaboration is key
- Identify opportunity for balancing needs and expectations with what is realistic and attainable



Integration into the Programs



Passive Programming

Structure of Services

Meeting Structures (team meetings)



Youth Voice Emphasized in Documentation

****Integration for
youth specific**



Mental Health

Youth's Goal Statement: "I don't want more therapy."

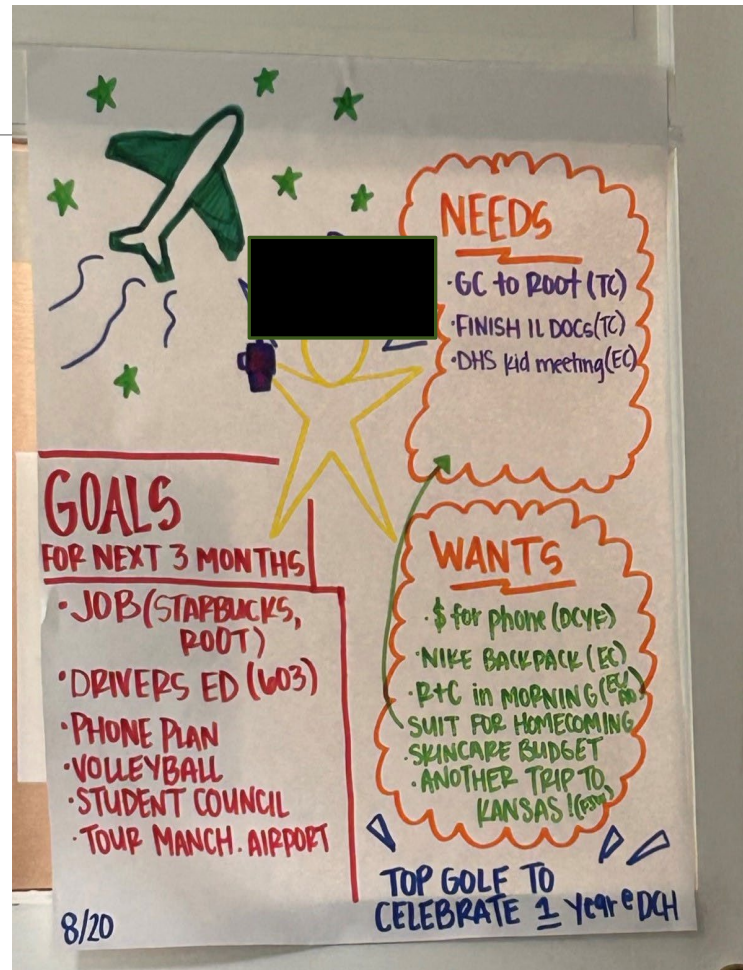
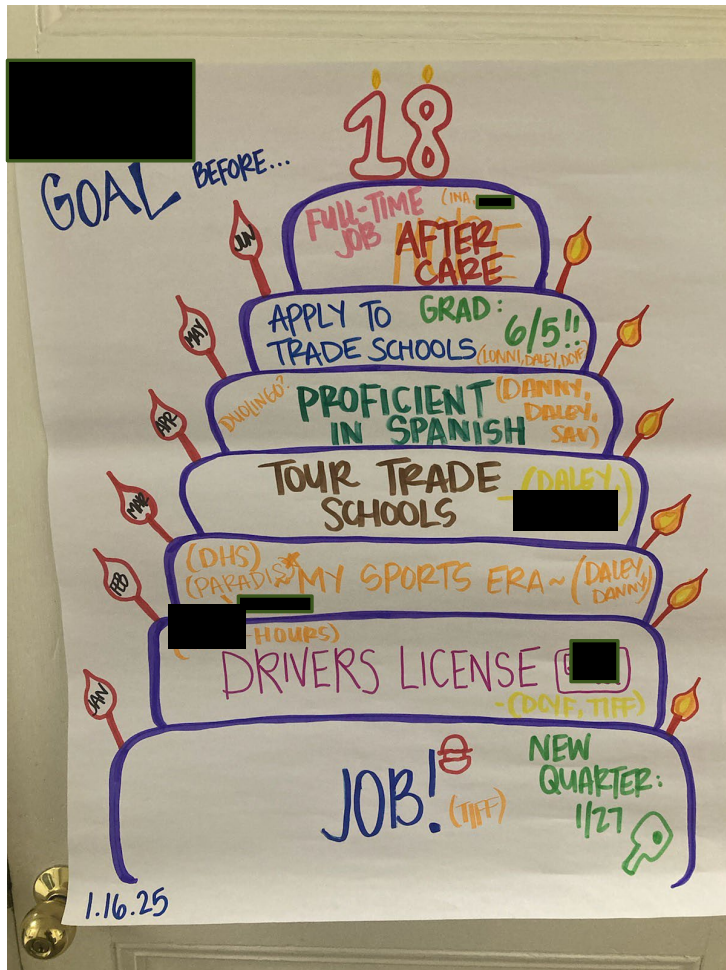
Treatment Goal Statement: During the next three months, YOUTH will increase his confidence and advocacy skills to support his body and mind through engaging in identified therapeutic supports, collaborating with staff around interventions and services, and utilizing identified plans for support.

Identified need from Staff/Support:

- "To leave Community Partners eventually."
- "To see if Marissa will do my meds."

Action needed:

1. The Clinical Manager will collaborate with YOUTH to identify alternative options to address his mental health needs.
2. The Clinical Manager, YOUTH, Youth Service Manager and Program Assistant will collaborate to explore alternative options to address his medication needs through conversations with YOUTH's current prescriber, PCP, and DCYF.
3. YOUTH will be encouraged to explore this option at his next medication management appointment and PCP appointment to further understand potential impact and ability. DCYF, as YOUTH's guardian, will be brought in to ensure communication occurs.



Integration within the Community


- Exploring services that honor what the youth finds supportive
 - Talk therapy, equine-based services, occupational therapy, body movement, functional support
- Collaborating with services to increase connection
 - Ex. Community mental health- collaborating to support implementation and future transition





Enhancing Buy-in


- Get started ASAP- clinical intake
- Futures Planning- retreat days offered
- Youth voice and choice essential to all
- Youth Team meetings- choice on who is supporting them
- Using trust based relational intervention (TBRI) skills to create buy in
- Youth centric language- focuses on what works for them, their strengths, their accomplishments
- Making RENEW work for a residential or non-school setting
- Flexible Thinking


What Works

Facetiming 


Texting 

downtime 


Cooking 

Reminders  VOICE HEARD

Consistency


Space to process 


Spending time with


Supports 

Phone

Holding each other accountable


Celebrating 


Looking forward to something 


Support in learning 

Better alarm 

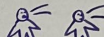
What doesn't work


Not setting alarm 


Phonecalls 

Miscommunication 

Too much communication

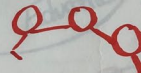
Repeating 

loud people/screaming 

Staying in space 

Needs

-\$-\$-\$
Job (soon)

Family


Driving
(License
Driver's Ed)

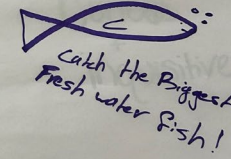
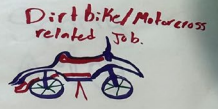
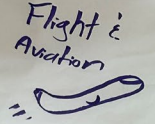
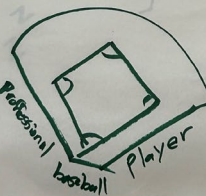
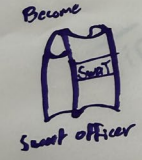
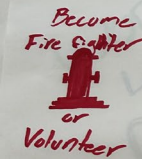
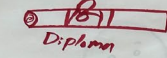
Education

- H.S.

- Finishing
8th grade

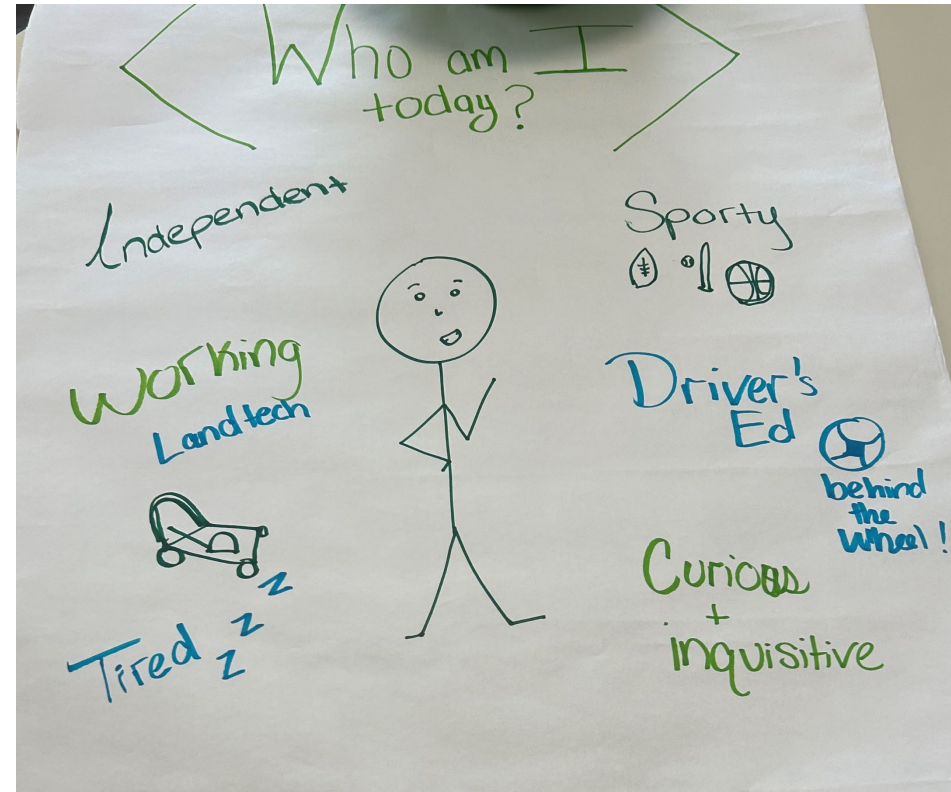
Friends

Goals



Keeping Growth as the Focus

- Updating Maps as needed
- Frequent celebrations when a goal is met
- Team Meetings
- Change in meeting space
- Engaging team members
- Transitions
- Incorporating graphic facilitation into programming



Strengths

* Sports - baseball ✓
soccer ✓



Pickleball ✓

football ✓

Boxing ✓

Karate ✓

Running ✓



* Scaring people

* ~~Travel~~ Handy MAN

FISHING - 36 in 1 Day

* Music

* Adapting to change

* Inspired Easily

Adoles

Accomplishments

* Traveling w/ Carnival
(Build rides)



* Slowed down swearing

* Honor Roll

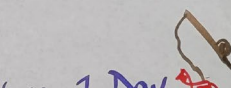


- MATH
- Science

* Fixed Cars



* Got a Job - Landscaping



Trying New Things

Strengths

Accomplishments

Sports



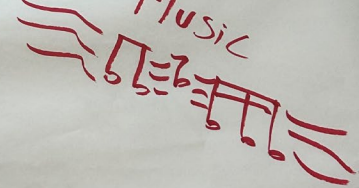
Employed

@ Land tech

Commitment

Talking Accountability

Music



Honor
Rank in a New School!

Adaptability



Inspirational



Mathematics
Award

$+ \div \times - \Sigma!$

Trying New
Things



Modeling: PRACTICE

Goals: *Consider your current work.*

What are you working towards? What is the hope of the service?

Modeling: PRACTICE

Next Steps: *Identify top goal.*

What steps are needed to achieve that goal? Where do you start? Who is responsible?

Additional Resources

(Click on the links below)

Dover Children's Home
207 Locust Street
Dover, NH 03820
(603)742-4289



DOVER CHILDREN'S HOME



indeed



LinkedIn



Institute on Disability/UCED



University of
New Hampshire



The Original
Intuitive Eating Pros®



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Dover Children's Home

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