How are you holding up? Do you have enough ice cream? Your favorite chips? I'm not proud of it, but I will tell you that I have discovered that the Haagen Dazs bars are on sale at Costco, so that tells you all that you need to know about how I am coping.

Everyday brings more news that shakes us to the core and it is harder to pretend that anything is normal. The Dobbs decision overturning Roe has me full of rage and ready to work. When I think of what the stripping of rights by the Supreme Court means for Opportunity Youth throughout the nation and the pressure it will put on our system in Minnesota, I want to scream. Even though we still have our right to control our reproductive health here, we know that the system will be tapped and those most vulnerable may need even more support to ensure that they have efficient access. (I so appreciate Marcus’s words on this.) And the Supreme Court list goes on. Even today’s ruling on the sovereign right of Tribes has me deeply troubled on what that means for the nations here. With one of the largest gaps of disconnected youth in the nation in the Twin Cities (58% of our disconnected youth identify as Indigenous), this could have an even more devastating impact on the tribe’s rights to determine the welfare of their own children which could lead to even more troubling outcomes.

We do know that bold and collective impact is needed more than ever and community driven responses are where we may see the most fruit from our labors.

Youth Design Workshops for Direct Cash Transfers for Youth experiencing Homelessness

We continue to push towards developing a pilot that would test using direct cash transfers as an intervention for young people who are experiencing homelessness, with a special focus on those who have also experienced foster care. We are hosting design workshops with young people who are currently experiencing homelessness or have formerly experienced homelessness to help design the intervention. Sign up here or pass it along to someone who may be interested. Read more here on the flyer. Connect with Quincy for more information.

Minnesota’s (Opportunity) Youth Recovery Act?

What if we started collaborating to develop a multifaceted bill that would help truly meet the needs of young people to fully launch into the next phase of their lives? Think extension of K12
funding and funding reengagement centers. Imagine finally expunging juvenile records so that young people could choose any career. Dream about PSEO as a tool to reengage those who have left school with wrap around support. Fund the needed support so youth who aged out of foster care could finally use those FYI vouchers the state says they have access to. Ponder full driver’s education and support to take the exam. Let’s even throw in some innovative waivers to avoid the benefits cliff so that young people do not immediately need to choose between benefits and taking a risk with college or a new job. I don’t know. Just dreaming. Want to dream with us? We are looking for policy leads of coalitions and organizations to start pondering a larger effort together for the 2023 Legislative Session. Let's be bold. Connect with Kristy to get an invite or she will haunt you.

Opportunity Youth Network Governance
The Steering Committee is off to a great start! Besides being breathtakingly handsome, we have started the process of deepening the way that we do our work across organizations. Here’s a draft visual of our governance structure. And you can read about the intense “Leadership Sprint” that we have agreed to participate in, courtesy of LEAP.

We will update you all at the next Membership Meeting.

Young Parent Reviews!
The Young Parent Network of Hennepin County is leading a review process to help them understand how young parents are accessing and using services around the county. They are asking service providers to post THIS FLYER. Young parents will complete a survey everytime they use a service. This will help the network know how young parents are using services, how frequently, and how they make sense of the services they receive. The reviews will be collected July 11-August 12, 2022. If you have any questions, reach out to Mary Pat Sigurdson (mary.sigurdson@hcmed.org) who steers the Young Parent Network or Kristy.

Check Yourself!
Have you seen our webpage? Is your logo missing? We would love to add it. Fill out this form to make it official.

Keep reaching out. We will need to stay in community to nurture the hope we need to get through this and to make bold things happen. And for a little hope going into the holiday weekend, here’s a picture of Quincy on his first trip to Europe.

Save the date! September 29 from 2-4 p.m. will be the next Members Meeting!
Much love,
Kristy & Quincy

Other Opportunities to Share or Put On Your Calendar!

**World Youth Connect** is hosting a July 4 Summer Celebration on July 1 from 5-8 p.m. at 2345 Keller Parkway in St. Paul. Look for them at Shelter 1.

**Bridgemakers** is hosting a National Youth Summit this July. Young leaders can apply to attend, but the deadline is July 1 by 11:59 p.m. Apply here: [https://www.bridgemakersmn.org/summit](https://www.bridgemakersmn.org/summit)

July 16! **Hennepin Health** is hosting a People of Color in Healthcare Career Fair: [https://www.hennepinhealthcare.org/poccareers/](https://www.hennepinhealthcare.org/poccareers/)

Our friends at the **Minneapolis Parks and Recreation** are hiring a Youth Employment and Training Program Supervisor: [www.minneapolisparks.org/jobs](http://www.minneapolisparks.org/jobs)