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Forums address transition of foster youth to adulthood

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NEWS RELEASE

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FORUMS ADDRESS TRANSITION OF FOSTER YOUTH TO ADULTHOOD

MISSOULA —

Two upcoming public forums will discuss ways to help youth transition from foster care to the adult world. The free forums, titled "Building a Path to the Future: Montana's Foster Youth in Transition," will be held Sept. 18-19 in **Billings** at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana and Sept. 21-22 in **Butte** at the Ramada Inn Copper King.

The events are sponsored by Building Skills for Adulthood, a University of Montana-based group that works to match foster youth with mentors in communities throughout the state.

Both forums will bring together policy makers, agencies, businesses, foundations, young people, court employees, tribal leaders and others associated with foster care. Goals of the meetings include raising awareness of the needs of youth as they transition from foster care, assessing programs and services that are working well, developing a plan to coordinate and deliver resources to youth in care, and identifying statewide themes and needs.

Forum organizers hope to give a broad array of stakeholders input into developing focused action plans and create valuable partnerships between public and private agencies.

To register, call (406) 726-7000 or e-mail bsa@meetingresults.com. Online information

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about the forums is available at www.umt.edu/bsa. Call (877) 554-7263 to reserve rooms in Billings and (800) 332-8600 for rooms in Butte. A limited block of rooms are available at state rates at both hotels, and limited stipends are available to assist with transportation and lodging. For further information, contact Building Skills for Adulthood at (800) 556-6803.

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