



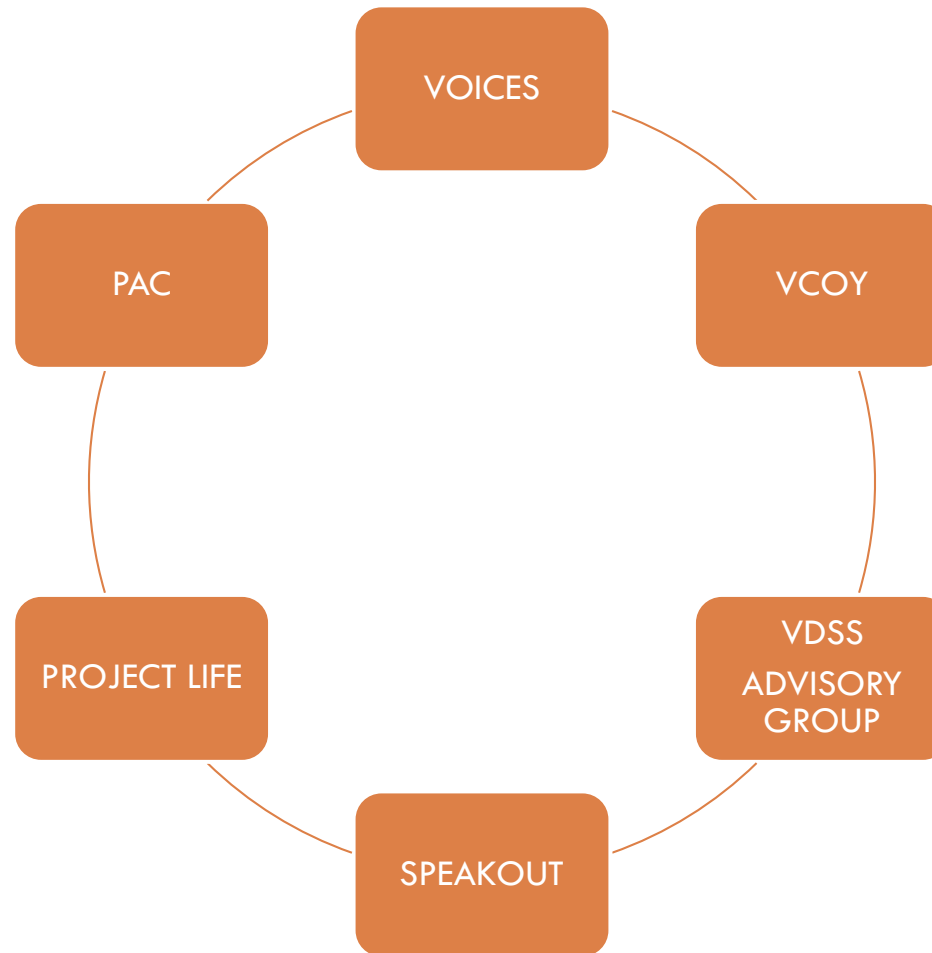
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

DFS Division of
Family Services

SURVEY FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

Virginia Commission on Youth – November 8,
2017

Partnership



The Charge

To gather information about the youth's experience with foster care, provide information about quality of life, preparation for adulthood, and recommendations for improvement in foster care practices. The survey is to include requests for information regarding the youth's experience with and opinion of the Commonwealth's foster care services, recommendations for improvement of such services, the amount of time the child spent in the foster care system and any other information deemed relevant by VDSS or VCOY.

Guiding Principles for Study

- Provide a way for youth to have their voices heard regarding their experience
- Improve specific services: What did youth need that they didn't get?
- Review DSS practice: What worked and what didn't?
- Make the overall foster care experience better

Survey Development

- Primary Source: Great Expectations listening sessions & Youth Conference, Spring 2017.

Categories:

- ✓ Experience with Caseworkers at DSS
- ✓ Involvement in Case Planning and Decision-making
- ✓ “Normal” Adolescent and Teenage Experiences

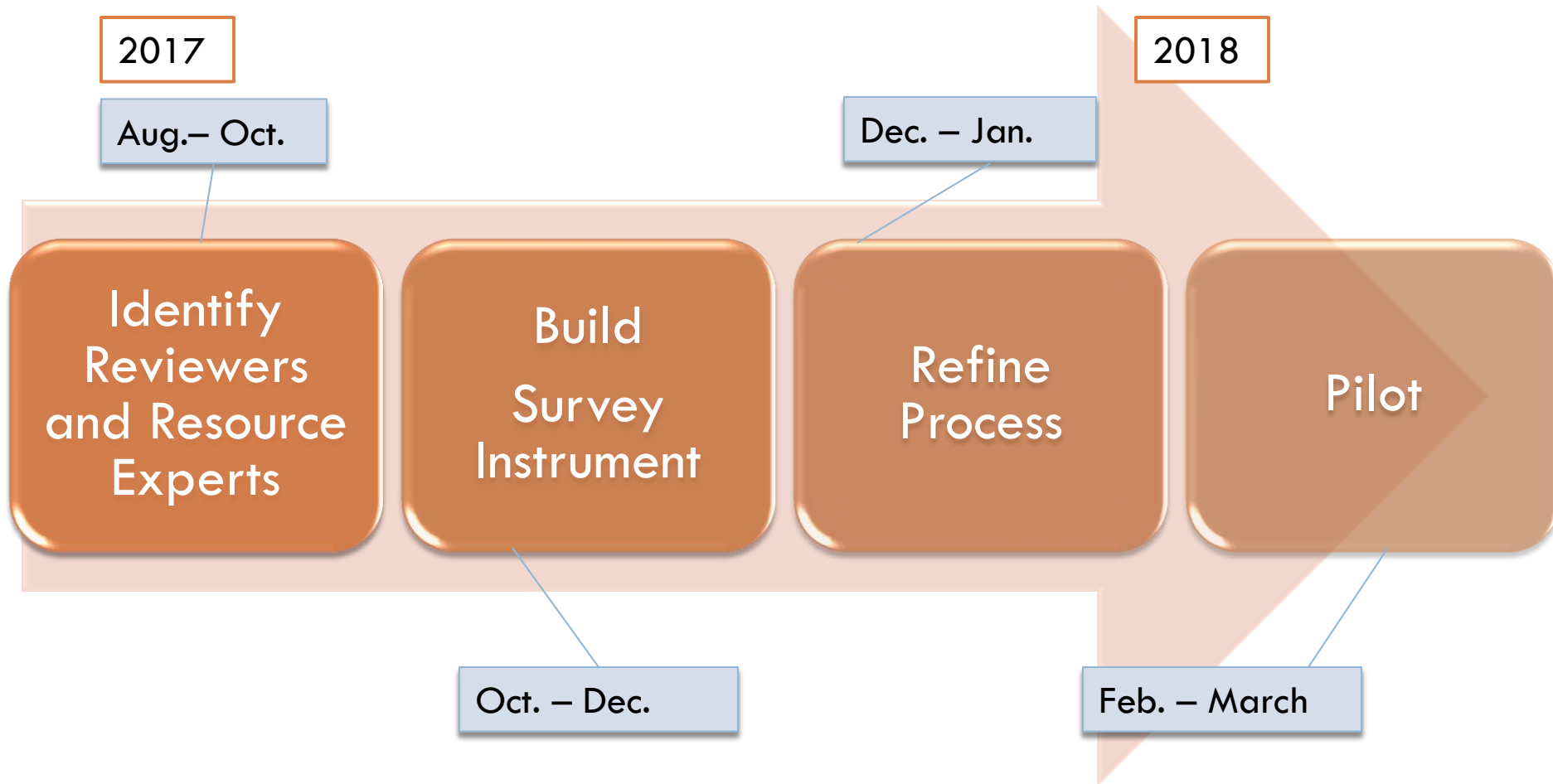
Process for Administering Survey

- DSS worker discuss with youth at 90-day transition plan meeting
- Tell youth about their right to complete the survey, its purpose, and benefit
- Ask about preferred method for receiving survey
- Obtain updated contact information
- Ask about language preferences and need for assistance to complete

Lessons Learned from National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Experience

- LDSS and worker buy-in is critical
- Train staff on protocol and how to explain to youth
- Collect contact information
- Monetary incentives vastly improve response rates
- Staff capacity to analyze the data

Next Steps and Timeline





QUESTIONS?