

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (ILSAC)

Planning Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2025, 9:30-12:30
Microsoft Teams: Meeting ID: 295 779 847 943
Passcode: fk2Hx2Yc

Attendance (members in **bold**): Andrea Zigler, Cal Walton, **Alison Fulford**, **Margie Dotson**, Ginger Rockey-Johnson, Marta Torres, **Brian McMillian in for Sara**, Lasondra Forenberry, Denise Stanley, Melody Kohr, Melissa Jagger, Cara Malave, Regina Watson, **Adam Briggs**, Kent Carrol, Daylis Zamora, Demarco Mott, Stephanie Lucas, Taneka Pace, Eric Marshall, Kent Carroll, Kyle Johnson, John Watson and **Maria Batista**.

Please note the following agenda is for reference purposes only. To eliminate unnecessary delays for the public and the council, the Chairs at their discretion may deviate from the published agenda.

AGENDA AND MINUTES

1. Welcome and Review of March Minutes
 - Alison Fulford made the motion to approve, and Adam Brigs seconded.
2. Review of CBC Data Collection from 2024 regarding judicial oversight
 - CBC Data Summary spreadsheet was sent out prior to meeting; Andrea reviewed the information with the group. Successful completion areas had different responses, completing their goals for financial independence. Regina asked if young adult were being terminated could we note if they were going to another program and put it in FSFN and Andrea asked maybe a dropdown box with reasons, and we could ask to pull any type of report.
 - Ginger, Foster Care (FC) take care of everything they need while in care. Extended Foster Care (EFC) is a continuation of FC, and they think they provide everything they need; terms need to change. Demarco stated we have this conversation often, those taken part of EFC, most of them don't even have their high school diploma. Cal stated many people don't know what EFC and the curriculum developed has helped people understand.

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- Substantial compliance reviewed by Andrea. Case plan discussion regarding compliance and successful completion among Cal, Regina, Ginger and Andrea. Melody recommends providing a copy of our JR's and Case Plans. Discussion on transitioning/completing one program and going into another and what the language should be if they opt out of one program but it's because they are entering another program. Melody explains how they put their goals as primary and secondary goals, and it has their outcomes included. Ginger asks couldn't EFC/PESS transition be called Graduation rather than opt out. Melody explains how they address education, and the details are outlined for each young adult. This is our opportunity to state it should be goal oriented, and what to expect from the young adults.

3. Create EFC flowchart for bench book

- Andrea pulled up the dependency bench book to review as a reference to start. Regina sent some examples to work review to start the flow chart for EFC. Start with an outline on paper to help draft and Kyle volunteered to complete the electronic version.
- Andrea pulled up word to capture what should be included on the flow chart. Transition Plan 90 days prior to 18th birthday (Closing Transition Plan).
- Approval from court 39.6035
- Identify post-18 program: EFC, PESS (jurisdiction would terminate on 18th birthday and Opt Out, they would need to complete the EFC for signed and filed; ability to return to EFC prior to 21), Aftercare- Extend jurisdiction to 19, and Your Own Plan (no program).
- Extend jurisdiction to 21 for purposes of immigration status with no IL program (see Dependency Bench book)
- Supervised living arrangement approved by Department/CBC lead agency
- Incorporate different statutes.
- Review young adults progress in meeting goals.
- a) Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
- (b) Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education;
- (c) Participating in a program or activity designed to

promote or eliminate barriers to employment.

- (d) Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or
- (e) Unable to participate in programs or activities listed in paragraphs (a)-(d) full time due to a physical, intellectual, emotional, or psychiatric condition that limits participation. Any such barrier to participation must be supported by documentation in the child's case file or school or medical records of a physical, intellectual, or psychiatric condition that impairs the child's ability to perform one or more life activities.
- 4)(a) The young adult must reside in a supervised living environment that is approved by the department or a community-based care lead agency.
- 39.6251 (4) (a)
- we do want to evoke a spirit of collaboration and partnership but also designating roles and boundaries.
- **65C-41.004 Case Planning and Management Reviews.**
- (1) Transition and Case Plans. Each young adult in extended foster care must have both a transition plan and a case plan developed. Designation staff shall work with the young adult on the development and updates to each plan.
- (a) Transition Plan. The provisions of the transition plan form the basis of the young adult's case plan and delineate the young adult's short-term and long-term goals, the young adult's obligations, and the obligations of the foster parent, caregiver or group home, the designated staff, and any other service provider.
- 1. The transition plan shall be coordinated with the case plan; however, a change in the transition plan does not require an amendment to the case plan or a return to court unless the change in the transition plan conflicts with a provision of the case plan.
- 2. All young adults with diagnosed disabilities or mental health needs shall be provided with an equal opportunity to participate in transition planning. A young adult with a diagnosed disability or mental health need may need additional support; therefore, the designated staff shall work in consultation with the young adult and the young adult's service providers, guardian ad litem, and attorney, if applicable.

- (b) Case Plan. The young adult must have a case plan while in extended foster care.
- 1. The case plan must include:
 - a. A description of the qualifying activity or activities in which the young adult will engage to maintain eligibility for remaining in extended foster care. If the young adult has chosen an alternate or secondary qualifying activity, it shall be included in the case plan,
 - b. A description of the programs and services identified, in consultation with the young adult, to assist the young adult to successfully participate in the chosen qualifying activities, and a designation of who is responsible for providing these programs and services, and who is responsible for paying the costs of such programs and services,
 - c. A description of the young adult's long-term goals for living independently and the services to be provided to assist the young adult in meeting those goals; and,
 - d. A designation of the permanency goal of transition from care to independent living.
- 2. The young adult's case plan shall be initiated within 30 days of the young adult's 18th birthday or approval of entry into extended foster care and shall include the young adult's long-term goals.
- 39.6251 (6) (b) (b) Within 30 days after the young adult has been readmitted to care, the community-based care lead agency shall assign a case manager to update the case plan and the transition plan and to arrange for the required services. Updates to the case plan and the transition plan and arrangements for the required services shall be undertaken in consultation with the young adult.
- case plan in statute
- 39.6251 (8)(8) During the time that a young adult is in care, the court shall maintain jurisdiction to ensure that the department and the lead agencies are providing services and coordinate with, and maintain oversight of, other agencies involved in implementing the young adult's case plan, individual education plan, and transition plan. The court shall review the status of the young adult at least every 6 months and hold a permanency review hearing at least annually

- (4) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN FOSTER CARE.—During each period of time that a young adult remains in foster care, the court shall review the status of the young adult at least every 6 months and must hold a permanency review hearing at least annually.
- (a) The department and community-based care lead agency shall prepare and submit to the court a report, developed in collaboration with the young adult, which addresses the young adult's progress in meeting the goals in the case plan. The report must include progress information related to the young adult's independent living plan and transition plan, if applicable, and shall propose modifications as necessary to further the young adult's goals.
- (b) The court shall attempt to determine whether the department and any service provider under contract with the department are providing the appropriate services as provided in the case plan.
- (c) If the court believes that the young adult is entitled under department policy or under a contract with a service provider to additional services to achieve the goals enumerated in the case plan, it may order the department to take action to ensure that the young adult receives the identified services.
- (d) The young adult or any other party to the dependency case may request an additional hearing or judicial review.
- (e)1. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, if a young adult has chosen to remain in extended foster care after he or she has reached 18 years of age, the department may not close a case and the court may not terminate jurisdiction until the court finds, following a hearing, that the following criteria have been met:
 - a. Attendance of the young adult at the hearing; or
 - b. Findings by the court that:
 - (I) The young adult has been informed by the department of his or her right to attend the hearing and has provided written consent to waive this right; and
 - (II) The young adult has been informed of the potential negative effects of early termination of care, the option to reenter care before reaching 21 years of age, the procedure for, and limitations on, reentering care, and the

availability of alternative services, and has signed a document attesting that he or she has been so informed and understands these provisions; or

- (III) The young adult has voluntarily left the program, has not signed the document in sub-subparagraph b., and is unwilling to participate in any further court proceeding.
- 2. In all permanency hearings or hearings regarding the transition of the young adult from care to independent living, the court shall consult with the young adult regarding the proposed permanency plan, case plan, and individual education plan for the young adult and ensure that he or she has understood the conversation. The court shall also inquire of the young adult regarding his or her relationship with the supportive adult with whom the young adult has entered into a formal agreement for an ongoing relationship, if such agreement exists.
- (f) If the young adult elects to voluntarily leave extended foster care for the sole purpose of ending a removal episode and immediately thereafter executes a voluntary placement agreement with the department to reenroll in extended foster care, the court shall enter an order finding that the prior removal episode has ended. Under these circumstances, the court maintains jurisdiction and a petition to reinstate jurisdiction as provided in s. [39.6251](#)(6)(b) is not required.
- (g)1. When a young adult enters extended foster care by executing a voluntary placement agreement, the court shall enter an order within 180 days after execution of the agreement that determines whether the placement is in the best interest of the young adult. For purposes of this paragraph, a placement may include a licensed foster home, licensed group home, college dormitory, shared housing, apartment, or another housing arrangement, if the arrangement is approved by the community-based care lead agency and is acceptable to the young adult.
- 2. When a young adult is in extended foster care, each judicial review order shall provide that the department has placement and care responsibility for the young adult.
- 3. When a young adult is in extended foster care, the court shall enter an order at least every 12 months that includes a finding of whether the department has made reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan currently in effect.

- Chapter 39 Section 6251 - 2024 Florida Statutes - The Florida Senate
- 39.701(4) JR for Young Adult
- (e) If necessary, the court may review the status of the child more frequently during the year before the child's 18th birthday. At the last review hearing before the child reaches 18 years of age, and in addition to the requirements of subsection (2), the court shall:
 - 1. Address whether the child plans to remain in foster care, and, if so, ensure that the child's transition plan includes a plan for meeting one or more of the criteria specified in s. [39.6251](#) and determine if the child has entered into a formal agreement for an ongoing relationship with a supportive adult.
 - 2. Ensure that the transition plan includes a supervised living arrangement under s. [39.6251](#).
 - 3. Ensure the child has been informed of:
 - a. The right to continued support and services from the department and the community-based care lead agency.
 - b. The right to request termination of dependency jurisdiction and be discharged from foster care.
 - c. The opportunity to reenter foster care under s. [39.6251](#).
 - 4. Ensure that the child, if he or she requests termination of dependency jurisdiction and discharge from foster care, has been informed of:
 - a. Services or benefits for which the child may be eligible based on his or her former placement in foster care, including, but not limited to, the assistance of the Office of Continuing Care under s. [414.56](#).
 - b. Services or benefits that may be lost through termination of dependency jurisdiction.
 - c. Other federal, state, local, or community-based services or supports available to him or her.
- Chapter 39 Section 6251 - 2024 Florida Statutes - The Florida Senate

4. Closing

- a. Plan next month's meeting
- b. Finalize June report writing dates and location