

NC CHILD WELL-BEING TRANSFORMATION COUNCIL



Overview of Services for Transition Aged Youth

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July 20, 2020

Overview of Services for Transition Aged Youth

| LINKS | Foster Care 18 to 21 |
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| <p>Helps youth and young adults ages 13 to 21 with foster care history make the transition to adulthood by providing services and financial support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic resources• Safe and stable housing• Academic or vocational/educational goals• Developing and maintaining a supportive network of caring adults and peers• Avoidance illegal/high risk behaviors• Postponing parenthood• Accessing physical and mental health services• Ongoing opportunities to participate in age or developmentally-appropriate activities | <p>Offers young adults who are still in foster care upon their 18th birthday the opportunity to continue foster care placement and services until their 21st birthday as long as they meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completing high school or equivalent credential• Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education• Participating in a program or activity to promote, or remove barriers to, employment• Employed for at least 80 hours per month• Incapable of completing the educational or employment requirements due to a medical condition or a disability |

Transition Age Youth Policy Review

- NC DSS Internal Review
- Stakeholder Review

Child and Family Services Plan: Permanency Design Team

- North Carolina Division of Social Services Staff
 - Youth and Young Adults from Strong Able Youth Speaking Out (SaySo)
 - Family Partners from the Child Welfare Family Advisory Council
 - County Departments of Social Services Child Welfare Staff
 - Court Partners
 - University Partners
 - Private Agency Partner
- DSS Director Review

Transition Age Youth Policy Review

Feedback and Recommendations

| LINKS | Foster Care 18 to 21 |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add protocol for continuing to use virtual contacts with youth (in certain circumstances) after COVID-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify policy on Intercounty Placements and Transfers that if a young adult requests services, services must be provided, and provide more detail about how to resolve disagreements between counties in providing services to young adults |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen monitoring process to ensure accountability and consistent application of policy and practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update policy to provide more detail about helping youth and young adults execute a health care power of attorney and aid in the transition from pediatric to adult primary care |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide more information to youth and young adults prior to aging out of foster care about Medicaid and Social Security – services, coverage, or potential benefit changes that may occur once they turn 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin planning for transition from foster care earlier – before the required 90 Day Transition Plan/Planning Meeting |

Cross-County Collaboration

LINKS

- New annual planning process for counties to define their LINKS program plans and goals for the year, including providing services to youth from other counties
- Modifications to Inter-County Agreement on the Placement of Children to include the provision of LINKS services to eligible youth placed across county lines

Foster Care 18 to 21

- Clarification to intercounty placement and transfer of Foster Care 18 to 21 cases - if a young adult requests services due to a change of residence, services must be provided
- Outreach to youth to ensure that they are aware of option to transfer services
- Revision to existing policy to include clear resolution process when disagreements occur between counties in providing services to young adults, process will mirror conflict of interest/change of venue policy for foster care

Questions?