

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

June 3, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: AREA EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: FREDERIC M. SIMMENS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: *WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?* – A GUIDE BOOK FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER
CARE

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S DIVISION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to remind staff to utilize the ***What's It All About?- A Guidebook for Youth In Out-Of-Home Care (WIAA)*** for all foster care youth ages fourteen and older. Six stakeholder planning meetings were held to promote and support the implementation of the Missouri State Plan in response to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. Stakeholders, including current and former foster care youth, identified the need for youth in out-of-home care to have information about the foster care experience and the names and contact numbers of significant adults in their lives that may play a part in helping them plan for their future. WIAA can serve both purposes. Included on page one of the guidebook is space for youth to record phone numbers of the case manager, juvenile officer, family court judge, Guardian Ad Litem, life skills training instructor, and other individuals important to them. WIAA provides information for youth, their rights and responsibilities while in out-of-home placement, and can address an array of questions they may have.

NECESSARY ACTION:

1. Case Managers should assist youth with recording the names and phone numbers listed in the guidebook.
2. Copies of WIAA can be ordered through the supply warehouse using order number Lit-20. The entire guidebook can also be downloaded from the Children's Division website at <http://dss.missouri.gov/cd/chafee/wiaa.pdf>.
3. All questions regarding this memorandum should be referred through normal supervisory channels to Lee Temmen, Program Development Specialist, at 573-526-3735.

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