

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

July 13, 2007

**What's Inside:**

Healthcare for  
Former Foster Care  
Youth ages 18-21

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS,  
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: HEALTHCARE FOR FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH  
AGES 18-21

DISCUSSION:

On July 2, the Governor signed into law The Missouri Health Improvement Act of 2007, SB 577, which, among its many provisions, extended healthcare coverage for former foster care youth. This memorandum is a follow up to [CD07-34](#), issued June 29, 2007, and provides information for staff on how the Children's Division will implement the law into our practice and policy.

INFORMATION SYSTEM CHANGES

In order to identify former foster care youth who were eligible for MO HealthNet, the information system was searched for youth, ages 18-21, who have exited foster care. These youth, excluding those already receiving MO HealthNet through Family Support Division (FSD), have been automatically opened in the Division of Medical Service (DMS) system. This allows any youth in this age group, whose current address is known or unknown to the agency, to be immediately eligible for MO HealthNet.

To accommodate the enactment of SB 577, a new batch search program and a new FACES transaction was created and will be processed nightly to identify individuals between the ages of 18 and 21 years who were in foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and have been released from custody. A MOBIUS report, will be generated from this batch program and will list the Departmental Client Number (DCN), name, health care code (LSM, LS8, or TXIX), as well as the begin and end dates of the youth's MO HealthNet coverage. The initial list will primarily contain youth whose addresses are unknown and will appear alphabetically under County "000-Unknown". As the youths' addresses are obtained and entered into FACES, their names and DCNs will then appear under the appropriate county. Address information will be shared with DMS so that the youth may receive a MO HealthNet card and enroll into a Managed Care plan for physical health services if they reside in a geographic area covered by Managed Care.

The MOBIUS report is available to CD staff authorized to access MOBIUS, but should be shared with the liaison/contact person(s). This batch report can serve several purposes:

1. Each nightly batch report updates the information in FACES when an Alternative Care Client form, SS-61, on a youth 18-21 years old is closed, or when a former foster care youth becomes ineligible for TXIX through FSD. The youth will then be able to be searched by name or DCN in FACES.
2. It provides statistical data on the number of former foster care youth eligible for MO HealthNet and their current healthcare status (LSM, LS8 or TXIX);
3. It can be used to locate former foster care youth by reviewing the alphabetical list of youth whose address is unknown. If a youth is on the list and staff knows their whereabouts, outreach information/services can be offered.
4. The MOBIUS report can provide a quick review of youth on the list, in lieu of searching for a DCN or name in FACES. If a former foster care youth does not appear on the list but meets eligibility requirements, staff should provide the youth's information to FACES staff by contacting the Helpdesk at 800-392-8725, or in the Jefferson City area at 751-3811. Select option "3" for FACES Application Support.

The information gathered in the new batch program will be stored in FACES with a new transaction, **Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth**. This transaction, which is accessed from the General Functions Menu in FACES, will capture and maintain the youth's required address information for the MO HealthNet program. The link is labeled "**SB577**" under "**Other**".

System changes have been made to accommodate the three Health Care Codes which are explained below:

- TXIX-This code is for former foster care youth who are receiving Title XIX MO HealthNet through a Family Support Division (FSD) program.
- LS-8 is currently used to denote the youth receives Chafee Aftercare services. It has been updated to denote in FACES that LS8 youth now receive Chafee Aftercare services *and* MO HealthNet coverage.
- LSM-has been established to denote those youth who will only receive MO HealthNet coverage. We estimate there may be over 900 youth who are eligible for this new healthcare code.

Staff can refer to the FACES Healthcare Directions included in the Attachments for more information on utilizing this screen. Staff who have AC inquiry and update access should be able to enter a youth's address into FACES.

## ROLES OF AGENCY STAFF

Prior to a youth being released from care on or after his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Children's Service Worker (CSW) should have a discussion with the youth informing them of services available when they do exit custody. The Exit Packet, which was provided in

Memo CD07-34, should be provided to those youth currently in care as they exit the foster care system. Staff should follow the steps listed below when a youth currently in care exits the state's custody/or requests services:

1. The CSW will close the Alternative Care Client form, SS-61, in order to capture the exit data in our information system. This will put "closure" to the foster care placement and populate the information system with the necessary data pertaining to the exit from foster care.
2. Upon closing the SS-61, the system will automatically populate the nightly batch program with the youth's:
  - Departmental Client Number (DCN),
  - Name,
  - Date of birth,
  - Health Care Code, and the
  - Begin/end dates for MO HealthNet eligibility.
3. Staff should update the youth's address information on the new Health Care for Former Foster Care Youth screen which will be captured in the nightly batch program updates.
4. If a former foster care youth requests services from the Division, the liaison/contact person should:
  - Update FACES with the youth's current address,
  - Provide the youth with an Exit Packet, and
  - Make a referral to the Older Youth Transition (OYT) Specialist.

The Older Youth Transition Specialist will reopen the SS-61 for services as Legal Status 8. When those Chafee services have ended, the OYT Specialist will close the SS-61 and the system will again automatically populate the youth's healthcare code as LSM. Regardless of a youth's healthcare code as LSM or LS8, the youth will continue to receive MO HealthNet coverage until they reach their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

A map listing the Older Youth Transition Specialists' contact information is included as an attachment and can be used as a reference guide for the liaison/contact staff when making referrals.

There are no requirements for staff to maintain contact with the LSM youth or to provide any on-going case management services, other than to update the youth's address in FACES so that a MO HealthNet healthcare card may be sent to them. The system will automatically close all youths' LSM and LS8 MO HealthNet coverage on their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

As they will be unable to update FACES, Performance Based Contractors must provide information for the youth they serve to the county liaison/contact person so those youth can also be tracked.

## FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION

Eligible youth receiving Title XIX (TXIX) MO HealthNet services through FSD will continue with their current healthcare coverage. If the eligible youth currently receiving FSD services becomes ineligible for healthcare through FSD, they will refer the youth to the Children's Division.

## THIRD PARTY LIABILITY

If the former foster care youth already has health insurance or obtains health insurance from another source such as employment, they must use their third party insurance before using MO HealthNet. The youth will need to inform the health care provider of their medical/behavioral services that they are eligible for MO HealthNet.

## OUTREACH TO FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

If staff knows the whereabouts of any former foster care youth who were in care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and who have not yet reached the age of 21, they should take the opportunity to inform them of their eligibility for MO HealthNet. The OYT Specialist should contact those former foster youth currently receiving Aftercare services to make sure they have a current address. They should also contact those former foster care youth who recently received Aftercare services to notify them about MO HealthNet. The liaison/contact person is responsible for updating the youth's address in FACES so the youth can receive a healthcare card. Central Office is developing an outreach program to inform former foster care youth of their eligibility for MO HealthNet coverage. Healthcare for former foster care youth is vital for their future success in life. With all CD staff working together to reach these youth, we can inform them of their healthcare options.

*Please note that coverage cannot begin prior to July 2, 2007.*

### NECESSARY ACTIONS:

1. Please review this memorandum with all Children's Division Staff.
2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACT:  
Belinda Kay Luke, PDS  
573-751-8615  
[Belinda.K.Luke@dss.mo.gov](mailto:Belinda.K.Luke@dss.mo.gov)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR:  
James C. Harrison  
573-751-2502  
[James.C.Harrison@dss.mo.gov](mailto:James.C.Harrison@dss.mo.gov)

CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS:  
Section 4, Chapter 21.5 [Aftercare Program](#)  
Section 4, Chapter 21.9 [Resource Development](#)

RELATED STATUTE:  
[RSMo 208.151](#)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- [Older Youth Transition Specialists' Map w/Names/Regions/Phone & Fax Numbers](#)
- [FACES Healthcare Directions](#)