

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

November 4, 2009

M E M O R A N D U M

What's Inside:

H.R. 6893:

Fostering

Connections and

Increasing

Adoptions Act of

2008 and OYP

changes

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

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: FOSTERING CONNECTIONS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS
ACT OF 2008

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memo is to introduce changes in the eligibility population for Chafee services and to reinforce recent changes regarding transition planning for older youth, which became law with the passage of H.R. 6893: Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351). This was signed into law on October 7, 2008.

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Services

The law amends the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) to add the purpose of providing services to youth who after age 16 leave foster care for adoption or guardianship. Effective immediately, all youth who were adopted or entered guardianship after the age of sixteen are eligible for Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Services.

The referral process will be the same as for youth in care. The Adoptive or Guardianship Case Manager will assist youth, adoptive parents, and guardians with completion of the necessary tools and assessments needed for referral. The Adoptive or Guardianship Case Manager will be responsible for ensuring that services are being provided to assist the youth in independence skills and will review the CD-95, Individual Life Skills Progress Form. This is an additional service that is offered to adopted or guardianship youth and participation is not mandatory, however, once a referral is made to the Older Youth Transition Specialist, if the desire for services changes, the Older Youth Transition Specialist and Chafee Provider must be notified immediately.

With the implementation of this law, adopted or guardianship youth become part of the service population in which outcome information must be reported to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The Older Youth Transition Specialist (OYTS) will continue to accept referrals and monitor contract services as well as provide support for the new served population. The law is not retroactive therefore it only applies to youth who were adopted or entered guardianship after the age of 16 on or after October 7, 2008. This additional served population is eligible for all services currently available to youth in foster care; however the Act is very clear that funding cannot be expended for room and board for any child who has not reached 18 years of age or for young adults upon reaching their 21st birthday. There are no exceptions to this law.

Transition Plan for Emancipating Youth

The law also requires that, during the 90-day period prior to the youth's emancipation, the caseworker must develop a personalized transition plan as directed by the youth. The goal of transitioning from care planning is to identify and arrange for anticipated service needs for older youth who will soon be exiting from foster care. Exit planning should be viewed as a collaborative effort between the youth, staff and Family Support Team (FST) members to ensure needed services are in place or the youth is aware of how to access services in their community prior to release. Although this is new legislation regarding a documented **plan**, Council on Accreditation (COA) standard PA-FC 13.01 requires agencies to provide youth transitioning to independence with at least six months advance notice of the cessation of any health, financial, or other benefits that will occur at transition/case closing. Therefore, exit **planning** should be considered a continuum once the youth is eligible for the Older Youth Program.

In order to prepare youth for their exit from the foster care system, the Case Manager should plan to meet with the youth to complete exit planning **ninety** days prior to release from custody. The Case Manager is responsible for meeting with their youth to complete the exit plan interview. If the youth resides outside their county of jurisdiction, the Case Manager must coordinate with the service county to ensure the exit planning is addressed.

Transition planning information is captured on the [CD-94](#), Adolescent Family Support Team Guide and Individualized Action Plan. Transition plan requirements were introduced in Memo [CD09-05](#) Older Youth Program and can be found at Section 4, Chapter 21.7 [Exit Plan](#). A PowerPoint presentation entitled "[Exit Planning for Older Youth](#)" that further explains this process is now available on the Intranet in the Older Youth Program Section.

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and

directed to:	
PDS CONTACT Sally A. Gaines 573-522-6279 Sally.A.Gaines@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER Dena D. Driver 573-751-3171 Dena.Driver@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS Section 4 Chapter 9.4.2 Guardianship Section 4 Chapter 21.1 Mandates and Rationale Section 4 Chapter 21.3.1 Program Goals Section 4 Chapter 21.3.2 Eligibility Section 4 Chapter 21.3.3 Referral Process Section 4 Chapter 21.3.4 Youth Assessment Section 4 Chapter 21.3.7 State Youth Advisory Board Section 4 Chapter 21.4.5 Timeframes and Exceptions Section 4 Chapter 30.5 Case Manager, Private Child-Placing Agency and Foster Care Case Management Contractor Responsibilities Section 4 Chapter 30 Attachment A Subsidy Coverage Limitations Section 7 Glossary	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A.	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES "Exit Planning for Older Youth" PowerPoint Presentation	
RELATED STATUTE Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act (2009) Foster Care Independence Act (1999)	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A.	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS http://www.coastandards.org/standards.php?navView=public&core_id=264	
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) CFSR instrument, P1, Item 8, Reunification, Guardianship or Permanent Placement CFSR instrument, P1, Item 9, Adoption CFSR instrument, WB1, Item 17A, Needs and Services to Child	
PROTECTIVE FACTORS Parental Resilience: N/A. Social Connections: http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/philbase.pdf Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development: http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/philbase.pdf Concrete Support in Times of Need: http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/philbase.pdf Social and Emotional Competence of Children: http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/info/cwmanual/philbase.pdf	

FACES REQUIREMENTS

N/A.