

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF

FROM: REGINALD MCELHANNON, INTERIM DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Housing Services and Coordinated Entry System

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce the Coordinated Entry System (CES) as a service to connect families and older youth with housing resources. This memo also introduces Children's Division's commitment to the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) discharge policy. Research indicates that housing instability and homelessness significantly contribute to parental stress and increase the risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect. Research also indicates that older youth who transition out of foster care are at heightened risk of housing instability and homelessness due to a limited number of personal permanent connections, trauma experience, and limited access to resources after experiencing foster care.

The CES is Missouri's primary resource to connect people to housing services by providing Access Points across the state with the primary goal of providing services, no matter where or how people present. This resource allows staff to connect youth and families to Missouri's array of housing services with one referral to an Access Point. A listing of Coordinated Entry Access Points by region and county can be found [here](#). All Access Point agencies will complete a pre-screening tool with clients and connect them with the appropriate level of housing services. More detail about Missouri's Coordinated Entry System can be found [here](#).

Although the CES can be utilized on behalf of any family or youth served by CD at any point of involvement, a referral should be made when housing stability is the primary barrier to successful AC case closure. The Child Welfare Manual has been updated to include instructions about when to apply this policy and how to document efforts to secure permanent housing.

As part of membership on the GCEH, CD partners with community, state and federal organizations to follow the guiding principles and procedures of the GCEH discharge policy when serving families and older youth who are experiencing homelessness or at risk for homelessness. This means that CD will continue to engage families and older youth in their discharge planning, integrate community resources to reduce duplication of

services, and collaborate with community partners to achieve effective discharge planning during the course of case management.

<p>NECESSARY ACTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: 	
<p>PDS CONTACT Natalie Allen 314-416-2748 Natalie.N.Allen@dss.mo.gov</p>	<p>MANAGER CONTACT Ivy Doxley 573-526-1422 Ivy.C.Doxley@dss.mo.gov</p>
<p>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS Section 4, Chapter 10 (Case Management Activities), Subsection 1 – Permanency and Case Planning Section 4, Chapter 5 (Older Youth Program), Subsection 9 – Exit Plan</p>	
<p>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness Discharge Policy</p>	
<p>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES Coordinated Entry Access Points Coordinated Entry Full Description</p>	
<p>RELATED STATUTE (List or put N/A if not applicable.)</p>	