

Memorandum

CDP26-08

DATE: May 1, 2026

TO: Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management

FROM: Sara Smith, Children's Division Director

SUBJECT: **Regional Older Youth Advancement of Life Skills (ROYALS) Unit**

OVERVIEW:

The Regional Older Youth Advancement of Life Skills (ROYALS) unit will be expanding throughout the state. As a result, new policy was developed outlining the role and responsibilities of the unit.

Policy CWM 4.5.13 ROYALS Case Management Program, describes the purpose and responsibilities of the ROYALS unit. Policy also includes youth eligibility, mandatory referrals, enrollment process, and disenrollment process.

Purpose: The ROYALS Case Management Program is an Older Youth Program, providing specialized and intensive case management services to prepare youth to transition to adulthood.

For questions or concerns, please contact:

Rene' Brinkman, Older Youth Unit Manager, at Rene.Brinkman@dss.mo.gov

Kate Watson, Deputy Director, at Kate.Watson@dss.mo.gov

CHILD WELFARE MANUAL POLICY AND COLLATERAL DOCUMENTATION:

[CWM 4.5.13 ROYALS Case Management Program](#)

[ROYALS Unit Referral Form \(CD-351\)](#)

[ROYALS Transfer Checklist \(CD-352\)](#)

[ROYALS Flyer](#)

[ROYALS Frequently Asked Questions](#)

NECESSARY ACTION:

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division and Foster Care Case Management team members.
2. Review Child Welfare Manual chapters and forms as indicated above.