

**YOUTH AGING OUT SURVEY  
ISSUE: AFTERCARE NETWORKS**

What services are provided as part of your state's aftercare networks?

**Alaska**

Youth having mental health issues are shifted to the adult mental health system when they leave state custody. Most of the same services are available to them as adults. Prior to leaving custody, mental health needs are part of the review process.

**Arizona**

The state funds a number of aftercare services through the state Chafee Program. These services are captured under the state's Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP), delivered through community based contract providers who are available statewide to assist former foster youth meet needs and move forward with personal goals related to education, vocational training, counseling (behavioral health), housing, transportation, employment/career and life skills training, etc. Services are delivered by contractors and may include financial assistance in addition to other supportive services. These services are available to former foster youth residing in Arizona who were in any state or tribal (federally recognized) foster care system.

Youth in Arizona who reach the age 18 while in out-of-home care may sign an agreement to voluntarily remain in care to age 21 while pursuing education/employment and other goals. Youth who leave care at age 18 or older may also apply to re-enter care, up to age 21.

The state maintains an Education and Training Voucher Program to support enrollment in post-secondary education and training programs for youth in care and former foster youth who were in any state or tribal foster care program at age 16 or older.

The state also provides health and dental care services through the state Medicaid Program to youth who reach the age of 18 while in foster care through the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) which is available to age 21 (with no restriction on income).

**Colorado**

Chafee services provide supports (housing, skills workshops, etc.) to youth transition to independent living after emancipating.

Chafee ETVs (Education and Training Vouchers) are also available to eligible youth

Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers (18 months free rent) are available to eligible youth

Medicaid is now available to youth age 18-21 years who emancipated from care  
DD Youth have follow-on services that may include SSI/SSDI and adult services

**Connecticut**

The DCF has two MOA's in place with two state agencies that work with the adult population. These MOA's allow DCF to refer youth prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to the Departments of Mental Health and Addictive Services and Mental Retardation for services when they "age out" of our programming.

We also have developed a new MOA with the Department of Mental Health and Addictive Services to provide supportive housing programming (housing and case management services) to former foster youth 18 to 24 who are no longer receiving our programming

DCF has a re-entry program which allows youth to request re-entry into services provided by the DCF for youth who are 18 to 21 years of age and who left care after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Delaware**

IL providers service former foster youth case in management and mentoring life skills support. Providers assist youth with education and training; accessing and maintaining affordable housing; and locating and maintaining employment.

### **Indiana**

Indiana has an establish Chafee Voluntary Services Program. This program provides assistance to use that age out of care. Services that are provided are included but not limited to: case management, room and board assistance, budgeting, mentoring and employment enhancements.

### **Iowa**

Services provided through DHS's Chafee Foster Care Independence Program to assist youth in foster care for transition to self-sufficiency include life skills assessments; life skills training for eligible youth on a one-to-one basis, in small groups, and through youth conferences; on-going consultation/training to case managers, foster parents, and group care facilities regarding effective transition planning and strategies; and linking youth with appropriate community resources.

Aftercare services in Iowa are available for those youth who have left foster care because they have attained the age of 18, or who were in foster care at the age of 17.6 and had been for at least the past six months. Iowa aftercare services include but are not limited to: case management; community resource referrals; mentoring; life skills training; transportation assistance; emergency rent assistance; employment training; and assistance with access to health care. Additionally, Iowa's Education and Training Voucher program provides additional opportunities for youth aging out of care, assisting youth in obtaining postsecondary education and job training.

Iowa DHS contracted a private agency to administer the Iowa Aftercare Services Network. IASN is a network of private agencies across the state to assist youth as they leave foster care and enter adulthood. Aftercare is a voluntary support system, which offers case management, guidance, and when certain criteria are met such as working full time or going to school, a monthly stipend. This stipend is referred to as PAL. Those in Aftercare and PAL work with a "self sufficiency advocate"(SSA) to develop a "self sufficiency plan". This plan addressed the young person's needs in areas of housing, health, relationships, education, and employment. Mental health is frequently addressed in the Self Sufficiency Plan and in bi-weekly, one-on-one sessions with the youth and the SSA. The youth remains eligible for Aftercare only if they are meeting with the SSA and working on their goals.

### **Maine**

Youth in voluntary care between the age of 18 and up to age 21 receive the state funded support of the Department for their room and board needs. Many of these youth are paying a portion of their apartment rent and other living costs. More than 70 youth in care who are under the voluntary extended care agreement are living in an apartment partially funded, or fully funded, by the Department. Many youth living in apartments share apartment living costs with a roommate.

Services provided are intended to:

- Increase and enhance educational achievement, vocational and employment skills, and the academic knowledge of older youth in foster care. Supplemental post-secondary education financial support is now funded out of federal Education and Training Voucher program funds.
- Improve and enhance the skills of older youth in care related to employment preparation, employment maintenance, and career planning.
- Increase the knowledge and practical functioning of older youth in care by helping them learn daily living skills and problem solving and decision making skills.
- Expand the resources available to youth in their community as they transition out of care to living on their own.
- Increase our older youth in care's knowledge of how to access and utilize resources in their community.
- Promote open communication between older youth in care and between older youth in care and adults in the foster care system.
- Expand the capacity of Departmental staff, foster parents, group care providers, and other adolescent service providers to assess the life skills strengths and needs of youth in care to enable them to acquire the skills necessary to function as young adults in the community.
- Help youth explore and find their permanency options and connections before they leave care. Life Skills workers participate in the youth's Family Team Meeting to explore permanency connections.

### **Minnesota**

Aftercare is provided through two programs. The first is the federal Chafee funding that goes to non-profit community agencies and tribes to serve youth who have aged out of care at age 18 or 19. There are eight agencies and three tribes that receive these funds in Minnesota with the focus of preparing young adults with the skills to live independently. Services may extend to age 21.

There is state funding that goes to twenty-two community non profit agencies to serve youth who have aged out of care up through age 21. These agencies have agreements with county social services to receive referrals for youth who are aging out of care. The grants are performance-based with payment to grantees contingent on the achievement of the following transition milestones.

- Development of an independent living skills plan
- Completion of independent living skills training
- Achievement of behind the wheel instruction, a drivers permit or a license to drive
- Completion of a Vital Documents portfolio
- Job attainment and job retention
- Receipt of High School diploma or GED
- Completion of a Medical and Mental Health Plan
- Acquire and sustain housing

### **Mississippi**

There is a Transitional Independent Living Plan component in MACWIS. This component captures various areas for continued assessment of the Independent Living Plan and the Transitional Living Plan. The Independent Living coordinator continues to get assistance by the NCWRCYD to recognize barriers of the plan. Now that we have provisions for After-Care Services, which were effective October 1, 2004, youth who leave the foster care system will no longer have access to Independent Living Skills Groups, Stipends, Retreats, Foster Teen Conferences, or Youth Track. These services were being extended for up to six months after being released from care in an effort to get the youth closer to being self-sufficient. An After-Care Independent Living Specialist who is hired through contract is responsible for developing a functioning After-Care program that provides an accurate account of the number of youth eligible for emancipation, the number of youth that have completed pre-exit interviews, exit interviews, and post-exit

interviews where possible, the number that have left custody, the number of surveys mailed, the number returned, and documentation of where they are residing, working, in school, incarcerated, and etc. At the Youth Conferences, a Career Fair was set up for the youth to visit with educational resources, employment resources, and various other services available to them.

The PREPARE Resource Library contains numerous books, curriculums, periodicals, and videos relevant to the needs and issues of older youths. This is available and will be utilized when contact is made by former foster youth. A toll free (1-800) number is available for youth to contact SCSCY staff when After-care services are needed or they can go to the county MDHS/DFCS Office in the county where they reside. The county social worker will research the MACWIS system to verify that the youth was once in care and if they are within the eligibility period for the services requested. The After-care Specialist and/or Independent Living Specialists will do a discharge interview with each youth when the youth is approximately 16.5 years of age but prior to their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. A follow-up discharge interview will be done at 18 years of age and every 6 months thereafter until emancipation. The After-care Independent Living Specialist employed by the contractor for the ILP will conduct tracking efforts of the youth leaving care.

Information gathered from the Transitional Living Plan by the County of responsibility worker will provide initial information of where the youth may be planning to go after custody is released. An After-care survey will be given to the youth, in the hopes it will be returned. A \$25 stipend for returning the survey has been established to provide added incentives. Currently there are three participants in the Independent Living Apartment program. The ETV Program will also provide additional support services to youth who are enrolled in the program prior to turning 21 to be eligible until age 23. A further description of this service program is explained in the ETV Program section.

During the FY 2006 year, there were nine recipients of the in the Independent Living Room and Board stipend, which is titled, After Care Stipend. Though efforts continue to be implemented to maximize the 30 percent of program funds to provide room and board for youth ages 18 to 21, the planned use of an amount of up to 30 percent was not fulfilled. Special financial assistance will be provided for youth ages 18 until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, who left custody on or after attaining age 18. These services are available to youth in crisis who need additional temporary assistance to continue in the process of transitioning towards self-sufficiency. The benefits can be distributed quarterly as long as youth remain in crisis.

Aftercare Services may include rent deposits, rent, utility deposits, utility payments, food and household supplies, and childcare. These services are available to the youth in the county where the youth currently resides as long as that county MDHS worker secures documentation or a statement from the youth/chancery court that youth has been released from agency's custody. The county of residence social worker must assess the youth's needs before creating a plan of action with the youth.

### **Missouri**

Aftercare services are flexible, short term and used as a safety net to meet the needs of the youth after they have exited Children's Division custody. The needs and array of services vary depending on the need of the former foster youth. Chafee funds may be expended for a variety of reasons and should be used as a support for the young adult, not an on-going supplemental funding source. Aftercare services may include emergency/crisis intervention services, housing/room and board, educational/job training/employment assistance, and other support services. Room and board services are only available to youth who exited custody at age 18 or after but have not yet reached age 21. Room and board may include security and utility deposits, rent, utilities, food, start-up kits, basic necessities, and basic furniture. Support services provided include life skills training, transportation, child care, clothing, and other expenses as needed.

## **Nebraska**

The age of majority in Nebraska is 19. Youth may participate in Preparation for Adult Living Services or Transitional Living Programs until age 21. The same services provided prior to reaching the age of majority are provided until age 21. These services include assessment, preparation, transition and support of a youth after they enter into an independent living situation. We also provide support to youth involved in the Education and Training Vouchers Program by mentoring and problem solving with youth.

## **New York**

Aftercare services are provided to former foster care youth between the ages of 18 and 21 years and include financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate support and services. In addition, NYS provides preventive housing services, including rent subsidies of up to \$300 per month, and up to three years, to youth in foster care who have a goal of independent living when the acquisition of housing is needed to complete the discharge. A few local departments of social services make available room and board payments under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

## **North Carolina**

Youth eligible for LINKS services remain eligible until they are 21. Counties are required to provide services to young adults who aged out of care, and are strongly urged to provide services to young adults who did not age out of care. Services include referrals to other agencies and providers, assistance with education and vocational training, financial assistance to respond to critical needs that present a barrier to achieving the 7 goals, and counseling and encouragement.

## **North Dakota**

North Dakota's foster care system is divided into 8 regions. Each of the 8 regions has a Regional IL Coordinator. The IL Coordinators become part of the youth's child and family team at the time the youth is identified as "likely to age out of foster care". The IL Coordinator remains involved with this youth until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, or 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday if the youth is participating in the ETV program. The Regional IL Coordinators collaborate with Workforce Investment Programs, Vocational Rehabilitation, Human Service Centers, Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Medical Assistance, Housing, Education, Legal and Job Corp. The Regional IL Coordinators provide services and support to the youth, based on the youth's individualized needs. Youth have the option of remaining in care, providing it is for educational purposes.

## **Ohio**

Ohio encourages youth to take advantage of all resources and supports available to them once they emancipate from foster care. Services provided to them may depend on individual need. Ohio youth aging out may request Independent living services from the agency from which they emancipated. Some of these services include but not limited to outreach, individual and group counseling, education and vocational training (i.e., preparation for a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), or for higher education, job readiness, job search assistance and placement programs), counseling and instruction in basic living skills, parenting, and health care (e.g., preventative health care, substance abuse prevention, family planning, etc.). Transportation, access to community resources; housing options and optional "room and board" assistance for emancipated youth up to age 21; counseling and training on such subjects as self-esteem and self confidence, interpersonal and social skills training and development; matching each youth with an adult/peer who can serve as an advocate, resource, and mentor in daily living skills.

These services/resources may be provided by other state agencies or departments or community resources and organizations. Workforce Investment ACT (WIA) also provides youth services to eligible young people. Youth that emancipated from foster care are most likely eligible for WIA services. WIA provides services that lead to employment, job readiness, etc. The "network" is made up of many organizations and resources that are available to the young person aging out.

## **Tennessee**

Youth are eligible for Voluntary Post Custody Services, which provides ongoing case management and educational/job training opportunities for those youth who choose to receive the services. The state also is involved in a public/private partnership with Youth Villages to provide Transitional Living Services to youth who have aged out of care and are not ready to live independently.

## **Virginia**

There are various resources available to youth after discharge from foster care including independent living services, transitional services and funding.

## **Washington**

- Foster Youth ages 15 up to 21 can participate in the independent and transitional living programs offered at various locations throughout Washington State. This contracted service assist youth in the development of skills necessary to become self-sufficient. It also provides supportive services and linkages to other community partners who serve foster youth.
- The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program provides financial assistance of up to \$5000 to current and former foster youth to attend post secondary programs. The amount of the voucher is based on the cost of attendance and the youth's need.
- Washington State offers youth who have graduated from high school the option to remain in Foster Care until age 21 while the youth attends a post secondary education program. This pilot program known as "Foster Care to 21" is limited to 50 new youth each year in 2006, 2007 and 2008.
- New legislation in 2007 offers medical coverage to age 21 for youth exiting foster care. This new program is currently being implemented.
- New legislation in 2007 offers housing assistance to youth exiting foster care. This program is currently being developed.
- The Foster Care to College (FCTC) program offers mentoring to youth who are interested in post secondary education.
- The Governors' scholarship (administered through the College Success Foundation) is offered to foster youth who are in their senior year of high school and are planning on attending a post secondary education program. Scholarship amounts range from \$1000 to \$5000 depending on the youth's need. Scholarship recipients will receive an on-campus mentor during their first two years in college.
- Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) administered by Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) and contracted to a collaboration of agencies is available for youth in Region 4.

At what point are youth connected to the network, and how long can they utilize it?

## **Alaska**

Youth are given information and if appropriate, a guardian is appointed to ensure that services are used. MEDICAID is available for most youth and can be utilized until they reach age 21. Alaska Native youth are able to access medical and mental health resources through the IHC.

## **Arizona**

Youth are provided information on aftercare services throughout the time they are in care as older youth and may participate in services until age 21. Youth age 18, 19 or 20 who are no longer in care may self-refer for both the Transitional Independent Living Program services and the Education and Training Voucher Program.

## **Colorado**

- Initially, youth in care are connected to Chafee services at age 16-18 years and if they emancipate from care are eligible for services age 18-21
- DD youth are connected at age 14 years and may go through to age 21 years
- FUP voucher youth may receive their voucher services from ages 18-22 years
- Medicaid services for emancipating youth may access when in care and now continue in Medicaid if emancipated from care from ages 18-21 years

## **Connecticut**

Youth are referred to state adult services after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. If accepted they can receive supportive services for their lifetime.

Re-Entry is available until a young adult's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

## **Delaware**

Supportive services are offered up to age 21 and in some cases to age 23.

## **Indiana**

Youth are generally connected to a network at age 16 and may maintain until age 21.

## **Iowa**

Aftercare services in Iowa are available for those youth who have left foster care because they have attained the age of 18, or who were in foster care at the age of 17.6 and had been for at least the past six months. Youth can voluntarily continue to utilize Aftercare services until the age of 21.

Iowa expanded aftercare services and supports to youth aging out of foster care this past fiscal year, with the creation of the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program and initiation of the Chafee Medicaid option for youth aging out of foster care, providing Medicaid to youth aging out of foster care, up to the age of 21. The PAL program (100% state funded) complements Iowa's aftercare program (Chafee funded), providing eligible youth with a monthly stipend to assist youth with costs of living, in addition to providing case management services to assist youth with goals leading to self-sufficiency and linking youth to community resources.

Youth who meet eligibility requirements can begin PAL at 18 years of age if they have completed a diploma or GED. With DHS approval, youth may remain voluntarily in state paid foster care to accomplish their diploma or GED. Iowa has created a "Pre-PAL" option to improve the transition from foster care to Aftercare/PAL. With Pre-PAL, the youth can receive up to ten visits with the Aftercare advocate before leaving foster care. This support offers the youth support such as finding an apartment, locating work, or making arrangements for higher education. Pre-PAL offers payment for Aftercare providers to get involved and collaborate with youth being served by agencies not in the Iowa Aftercare Services Network.

## **Maine**

Aftercare services are primarily available through the Department's Life Skills workers who are able to provide services for youth up to the age of 21 who were discharged from care after their 18th birthday, directly, through referral to community agencies, or both. The Department's Extended Care Agreement (V9) for youth who have aged out of care at age 18, revised over five years ago has enabled more older youth in care to take advantage of remaining in voluntary care up to the age of 21 and make progress on their transition goals. The revision of the Extended Care Agreement policy offers all older youth in care having a fair opportunity to take advantage of the continued support of the Department, both financial and

otherwise, up to the age of 21. An important feature of the revised policy is the opportunity for a youth to request to return to voluntary care at any point between the age of 18 and up to the age of 21 if they have chosen to leave care at any point during those ages. These youth are expected to have a plan with regard to their education and employment goals and be willing to work toward those goals. The revised policy has enabled between five and seven young adults a year to return to care and resume working on their independent living goals.

### **Minnesota**

Youth are referred to “aftercare” programs when they are going to no longer receive county social service case management. Services to youth at this point are voluntary but youth may remain in programming up to age 21.

### **Mississippi**

Youth are eligible for Independent Living Services based on the following criteria:

- Youth in care ages 14 until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday are eligible for all Independent Living Services except for criteria placed on the Educational and Training Voucher program;
- Youth who leave custody ages 18 to their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday are eligible for Aftercare services until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday;
- Youth who enroll in post-secondary educational and vocational programs may be eligible based on the criteria detailed in the Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) Program section, which will allow for support services up until their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

### **Missouri**

Missouri’s Aftercare program is for youth who have exited state custody at 17.5 and older, but have not yet reached age 21.

### **Nebraska**

Youth can be involved in programs at age 17 or occasionally at and can continue involvement until 21.

### **New York**

Aftercare services are required for any youth over the age of 16 who is discharged to Independent Living through a trial discharge period. Trial discharge is required for every youth discharged to independent living. Custody of the youth is retained for at least six months and certain requirements for casework contacts and service provision apply. If a youth loses housing during the period of trial discharge, the local department of social services must assist the youth to find other appropriate housing or replace the youth in a foster care setting, if necessary. In addition, when custody ceases, the local department of social services must maintain supervision of the youth until the youth is 21 years of age. Supervision includes casework contacts and referral to needed services with sufficient follow up so that the youth has begun to receive the necessary services.

### **North Carolina**

LINKS (Chafee funded services) may be used until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

### **North Dakota**

Youth are connected at the point they are determined “likely to age out of foster care”. Youth can remain involved until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, or 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday if they are involved in the Education and Training Voucher Program.

## **Ohio**

Prior to youth aging out he/she is made aware of services that are available to them. Ohio youth are eligible for IL services up to the age of 21. Other services provided by other organizations and departments may have different age limits.

## **Tennessee**

Youth in care are eligible for services through the Office of Interdependent Living beginning at age 14. Each youth in care is given the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment and is provided an individualized plan for accessing services. All youth are required, by policy to participate in a Child and Family Team Meeting at 17 ½ to address adult skills, transitional plans and any remaining mental health or developmental disability needs.

## **Virginia**

Although Virginia does not have a formalized network, local agencies are able to provide these services to youth upon evaluation.

## **Washington**

- Independent living services are provided to Foster Youth from age 15 through 18.
- Transitional living services are provided to current and former foster youth from age 18 through 21.
- Foster care to 21 is provided to youth at age 18 and is available until age 21 provided youth is attending a post secondary education program and making reasonable program toward completion.
- FCTC program is available to youth from age 15 through 21.
- Governors' scholarship can be renewed up to 4 additional years until completion of the student's program of study for full-time students with satisfactory academic progress.

Does your state agency partner with other agencies to provide enhanced services, and if so what are these partnering relationships?

## **Alaska**

At this time there are no enhanced services available to youth leaving state custody.

## **Arizona**

The state participates in a number of statewide and local initiatives to enhance services and opportunities both to youth in care and young adults who were formerly in foster care. A few examples are the state Shared Youth Vision Project, Teen Pregnancy and STD Prevention Initiative and the Maricopa County Transitions Coalition, facilitated by Casey Family Programs-Phoenix Office.

County Juvenile Courts have also been very active in working collaboratively with child welfare staff and others to ensure youth in care have an adequate voice in court and are educated as to the opportunities for permanency as well as service opportunities available to them. Pima and Maricopa Counties involve youth and alumni in the training of judicial hearing officers and other activities.

## **Colorado**

- Medicaid for health care
- Division of Mental Health for mental health services
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for disability services
- Workforce Centers for employment services

**Delaware**

The Department partners with other state agencies, i.e Department of Health and Social Services; Department of Labor and community agencies to provide services. Some services offered are, mental health, counseling, job training and placement.

**Indiana**

We partner with agencies for mental health, housing, IUPUI ESP program. We work together to make sure that the youth is aware of all available resources.

**Iowa**

Iowa's Aftercare Services Network is a collaboration of private agencies and the Department of Human Services. A "lead agency" subcontracts with 12 "partner agencies" who have extensive knowledge working with older youth in care or who have aged out of foster care.

**Maine**

The Chafee Independent Living Program continues to provide services primarily through the six specialized Life Skills Educators and a contract with the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School. The contract with the USM Muskie School operates and oversees the Community Mentoring program for older youth in care in southern Maine, coordinates and oversees the nationally and locally recognized activities of our Youth Leadership Advisory Team, and provides staffing to assist with planning and conducting the annual Teen Conference.

Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) is a statewide organization serving more than 2,500 students per year in more than 50 school-based sites. At an annual cost of about \$1,300 per student, the programs offered by JMG have helped more than 20,000 young people overcome barriers to succeed in education, the emerging workforce, and in adult roles. We recently initiated a transition readiness assessment review process for all seventeen year olds in care using an assessment tool that was developed by a non-profit education program, Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) The JMG tool assesses outcome areas such as permanency planning and connections, educational goals and attainment, employment skills and employment experience, status of the referral process for youth who will likely need adult mental health or mental retardation services, medical and mental health needs, money management and budgeting skills, and other outcome areas.

A number of treatment foster care agencies and group and residential care agencies continue to provide "congregate" and "scattered site" apartment program services for youth in care between the age of 17 and up to the age of 21. Over the past year to two years, three more programs have expanded their group care programs to include a transitional apartment living component. Congregate living and scattered site apartment programs now exist in the major cities of the state and in some of the more rural areas of the state as well.

Our Chafee Independent Living Program Life Skills Educators continued to provide consultation and some technical assistance to foster care and group care providers during the past year and a half. The Life Skills Educator's role in this type of situation is limited to consulting with the care provider with respect to the agency's development of the youth's initial life skills assessment and independent living case plan and discussion and planning of post-secondary educational and career options with the youth.

The DHHS Office of Child and Family Services will be going to performance based outcomes contracting with all group and residential care programs and treatment foster care programs. This will be done as part of our efforts to become nationally accredited. Contracts will be developed with specific transition and permanency outcome areas clearly defined and will measure performance in the identified outcome areas.

District management staff and central office management staff will be identifying the specific life skills preparation outcome areas for programs serving teens and young adults in care. Our current contracts with agencies state an expectation that a life skills assessment and case plan be completed with each youth. However, there is nothing more specific in the contracts with respect to achieving specific outcomes with youth in these agency programs. It is our goal to use performance contracts and the specific outcome measurements that will be developed to assure higher accountability for better practice and outcome achievement for our teens and young adults.

The Houlton Band of Maliseets submitted a renewal agreement proposal for provision of life skills services for their youth in January 2007. We were expecting a renewal agreement proposal from the Aroostook Band of Mic Macs.

A memorandum of agreement between the DHHS Office of Child and Family Services, the Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Services, and the Program Manager for the Maine Youth Opportunities Initiative was signed in February 2005. The intent of the agreement was to work more collaboratively and closely to ensure that teens and young adults in care were receiving the full benefit of the services offered. A recent development for the Department of Labor is to increase the opportunities for older youth in care to participate in apprenticeship programs.

In early 2004 Maine was selected to be a site for the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. A planning grant was developed by the USM Muskie School and accepted by Jim Casey. The grant is a three year grant. We are now in the third year of the grant. Maine was selected as a site due to having a strong youth leadership program, program and funding support for youth continuing in voluntary care after age 18, and for being the only rural and statewide site participating in the initiative. This initiative allows older youth in care to create a matched savings account. Youth can earn up to \$1,000 a year and have that amount matched. As of March 2007, nearly 200 youth are enrolled in the matched saving program (Opportunity Passport).

### **Minnesota**

Minnesota is partnering with several agencies as part of the federal Shared Youth Vision initiative. Minnesota has received notice that we will be receiving funding to go forward with an initiative to help youth identify career opportunities and employment assistance specific to their region. See link to the Shared Youth Vision site in Minnesota. <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/youth/SYV/SYV.htm>

In addition, Minnesota just recently completed a year long association with the National Governors Association to develop and implement a plan to provide greater coordination and services to youth aging out of care. The NGA implementation plan as well as other NGA related products may also be found at the same web site above this paragraph.

### **Missouri**

The Children's Division partners with the Department of Mental Health to access mental health services for foster care youth. The Children's Division also partners with Workforce Development to increase employment opportunities for foster care youth.

### **Nebraska**

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services collaborates with the Nebraska Children and Family Foundation for the facilitation of Foster Youth Councils that enable youth to connect youth in care with former foster youth who often informally serve to mentor youth on aftercare issues and establishing independence.

### **New York**

OCFS contracts with the Adolescent Services Resource Network, four regionally based members housed at universities that provide training and technical assistance to local social services district and voluntary agency staff on a wide variety of adolescent issues.

The OCFS Adolescent Services and Outcomes Strategy Workgroup was initially established in June 2002 as part of the NYS Program Improvement Plan developed in response to the CFSR. Workgroup partners include local departments of social services, authorized voluntary agencies, the Adolescent Services Resource Network, Youth in Progress and other State agencies.

### **North Carolina**

The Division of Social Services is a partner in the North Carolina Collaboration for Transitioning Youth, a network of public and private agencies that provide services to these populations. Most of the work of the Collaboration has centered on informing each other of services and events relevant to our overlapping service populations.

### **North Dakota**

The Regional IL Coordinators collaborate with Workforce Investment Programs, Vocational Rehabilitation, Human Service Centers, Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Medical Assistance, Housing, Education, Legal and Job Corps.

### **Ohio**

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is in collaboration with other state offices such as the Workforce Investment. Both agencies provide services to youth who have aged out of foster care.

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) supports a range of housing assistance services in Ohio, including homeless prevention, emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent affordable housing with linkages to supportive services, as needed. Helping hundreds of housing organizations and homeless service providers pursue their missions, COHHIO provides public policy advocacy, training and technical assistance, research and public education.

### **Tennessee**

Tennessee DCS partners with Department of Mental Retardation Services, TennCare, Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Workforce Development and local agencies as well as private providers.

### **Virginia**

VDSS is currently working with the Workforce Investment Act Youth Programs/One Stop/Career Centers to provide services for youth.

### **Washington**

- Washington State Children's Administration partners with several contracted agencies to provide the Independent Living and Transitional Living program.
- Washington State partners with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to provide training to CA Social Workers and Education staff in the state.

Name and contact information of state individual regarding aftercare networks

**Alaska**

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**Delaware**

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**Maine**

Virginia Marriner  
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Department of Health & Human Services  
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**Mississippi**

For the Department of Human Services/ Division of Family and Children's Services, Independent Living Program please contact:

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**Missouri**

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**Tennessee**

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**Washington**

For information regarding Independent Living, Transitional Living, Foster Care to 21 services:

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For information regarding Foster Care to College and ETV services:

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For information regarding training collaboration between CA and OSPI contact:

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