

Adolescent Services and Outcomes 2009-2010 Agenda

Adolescent Services and Outcomes: New York State will increase the number of foster care youth, former foster care youth and youth in OCFS custody placed in limited secure and non secure facilities who will be able to make a successful transition to self-sufficiency and who will be able to develop into healthy, functional citizens with permanent attachments to supportive adults, families and communities. Essential for all approaches to the provision of adolescent services will be screening for and inclusion of action to address disproportionate minority representation, and attaining cultural competence in service delivery.

Stable Housing: Identify model programs that will provide safe, affordable and stable housing for youth transitioning from care or attending college or vocational training programs and disseminate information to local districts, voluntary agencies, foster parents and other professionals working with foster youth.

Permanency and Connections: Identify model programs that will provide older adolescents in care with permanency resources or connections with caring adults and disseminate information to local districts and voluntary agencies.

Post-Discharge Services: Identify model programs that will provide former foster care youth with supportive services and disseminate information to local districts and voluntary agencies.

Evaluation of Foster Parents: Develop a survey(s) for youth transitioning from care to use in providing input and feedback on the assessment or evaluation of their placement setting.

Family Visitation and Casework Contacts with Youth: Clarify role of caseworker for youth placed in residential settings. Clarify for districts and agencies the requirements related to the caseworker's role in facilitating a youth's visitation with siblings, parents and other family members. In addition, clarify the requirements related to casework contacts between youth and his/her caseworker.

Immigration: Assist districts and agencies in understanding the importance and process of helping foster youth obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status when youth in care are not U.S. citizens and do not have their green card through training, TA and reissuance of 08-OCFS-ADM-05 on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status to staff working with adolescents in foster care.

***Note: Cross Systems**

All agenda items should address any cross system issues

Increase caseworker knowledge on the importance of collaborative efforts in identifying service needs and integrating services for youth in foster care with mental health and substance abuse problems through researching cross system approaches and best practice models and disseminating this information to the field.