**Licensed Child Placing Agency**

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date of meeting: 6/1/22

**Happy National Family Reunification Month (June)!**

Several providers and DCS shared recent positive experiences related to reunification efforts (i.e. foster parents’ church helped purchase van for mother to assist with transportation (a major need), a foster mother claimed foster youth on taxes and provided that money back to mother after reunification to provide some additional support, etc.)

**Co-Care Event: Breaking through Myths and Barriers Follow up and Feedback (David Reed):**

David shared about the recent event for Co-Care hosted by DCS. The event focused on myths from foster care – such as “Foster parents shouldn’t talk to or have relationship with birth parents”. Talked about co-care being a culture of belief and practice, not a service on its own.

**Overdue Annuals – Amelia Champers:**

Amelia introduced two new team members: Cassandra Ramsey-Cannon new consultant and Julie Klingenberger, administrative support.

Current overdue annuals are at 494 for all LCPAs statewide. Goal is to have all overdue annuals complete by the first week in July.

**Access to appropriate ethnic hair and skincare products for children of color in DCS care:**

Crystal Whitis hopes to have a master list of pertinent details regarding Hair Care for youth of color with the capacity to add information to this evolving master list. We hope to have this as an ongoing agenda item as well.

Considering a workgroup to be created concerning Hair Care and Personal Care for youth of color in the care of our agencies. Discussion will revolve around location of hair stylists, cost, hair care products and the like.

Karen Griffin (provider staff member) encouraged other providers to use the CFTMs to discuss hair care. Here staff and families can iterate that hair care is part of parenting responsibilities and encourage collaboration between foster and biological families.

Recommendations that came up during the discussion:

Hair Care Stores:

* Sally’s Beauty
* Kings Beauty
* Walmart

Hair Care products:

* Luster Pink moisturizing oil
* Jojoba Oil
* Coconut Oil

Some additional resources attached below:

 

**Youth in Foster Care who have high needs:**

DCS recently conducted a needs assessment for youth in congregate care. Each residential agency completed an assessment with their assigned licensing specialist to determine the following:

1. Which youth in congregate care are waiting to go elsewhere? (i.e. they have received an urgent discharge notice or they have
2. Where are the youth recommended to go?
3. What is the barrier to the youth getting to the new agency and why are they waiting?

Two groups of youth are identified with barriers:

1. Youth with acute or undesirable behavior
2. Youth are waiting to be moved to a higher level of treatment. Many of these youth are already in Private Secure Facilities, so a higher level of treatment or a higher level of security does not currently exist within the placement array available. DCS is assessing options here.
3. Youth for whom DCS needs to identify an appropriate foster care placement. This is a large group of youth. Providers echoed how very challenging it is to recruit foster parents in the current environment.

**OYS Placement Provider Symposium (Harry Day):**

Harry is a Regional Independent Living Specialist for southern most regions. Provides older youth services to youth aged 16 to 23 years.

First annual OYS Placement Provider Symposium Residential and LCPA providers for Q&A will occur 10/5/22 at Indiana Government Center. A detailed flyer will be sent as soon as possible. Registration will be August 2022. Purpose is to ensure youth in care are receiving appropriate services and to share information with placement providers.

Email with questions to William.Day@dcs.in.gov

**“When It Counted”**

Started this effort May. We have been collecting these moments over the past few weeks. We are trying to capture specific moments where providers/staff have gone above and beyond when it counted to assist a youth or family. Any DCS staff can submit one of these.

Crystal shared a collection of the moments that have been collected in the past few weeks on the call via screen share

Next LCPA meeting: 7/6/22 1:00 EST.