Transition to the Community: Policy Issues Related to Planning and Implementation of a Re-Entry Strategy

Texans Care for Children

January 28, 2010

Joyce L. Burrell, Deputy Commissioner

New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Nothing About Us Without Us and Think Exit at Entry

- Planning from entry to OCFS discharge has to include parent/guardian involvement.
- Family engagements begins at arrest or at least by Detention/Court/Intake.
- Empowering families happens throughout.
- Pre-release Transition & Permanency Plans involves youth and family.
- Discharge Plans for Community Opportunities post OCFS placement.

Office of Community Partnerships

- Families and youth
- Law Enforcement
- Juvenile Detention
- Court Liaisons
- Intake Services
- Evidence-based Community Services EbCI
- Workforce Development
- Community Services
- Special Initiatives

OCFS Entry Process

- Police Arrest & Custody
- Probation Intake
- Court Hearings & JD Adjudication
- Exploration of Placement
- OCFS Placement
- Reception Centers
  - Pyramid Boys
  - Tryon Girls

Court Liaison Unit & Services

- Offices in Court – NYC and LI
- Responsibilities to Court
  - Represent OCFS/DJJOY before Court
  - Schedule Hearings
- Family Engagement
- Documentation

Intake – Reception Centers

- Initial Home Visit
- Family Day
- Community Partners
- Facility Determination
- Assessments
  - Mental Health
  - Sex Offender
  - Substance Abuse
  - Medical
  - Dental
  - Education
  - Recreational
  - Leisure Time
  - Spiritual

Required Transition Plan

- **OCFS-4922** (5/2009)
  Page 1 of 11NEW YORK STATEOFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**TRANSITION PLAN FORMPART ONE: TRANSITION PLAN DISCUSSIONPART ONEIdentifying Information:**NAME OF YOUTH: CIN: DATE OF BIRTH: / / DATE ENTERED FOSTER CARE: / / COUNTY OF ORIGIN: DATE OF CURRENT PLACEMENT: / / PLACEMENT TYPE:PERMANENCY PLANNING GOAL: SCHEDULED DISCHARGE DATE: / / Foster Home Group Home – Name of Agency: Institution – Name of Agency: DATE OF LAST LIFE SKILL ASSESSMENT: / / IMMIGRATION STATUS: PREGNANT/PARENTING YOUTH: Yes No Date of 90 day notice: / / **Date Transition Plan Discussion Initiated (180 days prior to discharge)** / / Name ALL representatives involved in development of this transition plan: Youth Community Service Provider Case Manager/Case Planner/Child's Case worker Child Care Staff/Other Agency Staff Parent(s)/Adoptive Parent(s) Attorney for the Child Adult Permanency Resource Supportive Peer Resource Foster Parent Relative Non relative resourceOther **Section I Trial Discharge:** OCFS Regulations section 430.12 (f)(4)(i)(a) requires every child discharged to *another planned living arrangement with a permanency resource (APLA*) and every child deemed to have this goal be placed on a trial discharge status for at least six months after discharge and must remain in the custody of the local department of social services during the entire trial discharge status. Trial discharge may continue at the discretion of the district, up to the age of 21, if the reassessment and service plan review indicates either the need for continued custody or a likelihood that the child may need to return to foster care. The purpose and implications of trial discharge are to enable a youth over the age of 18 to re-enter foster care, for example, should the youth become homeless. The youth must consent to a trial discharge.Was the youth offered a trial discharge (if applicable) and explained the purpose of leaving foster care on trial discharge? Yes No Status? Youth response to Trial Discharge : **Youth Comments/Feedback:**

Initial Family Outreach & Engagement

- Detention
- Reception Centers
- Initial Home Visit
- Admission to the Facility
- Family Day – Reception Center
- 60, 90 and 150-day Treatment Team meetings

Release Planning Schedule

- Standard Release Process
- Facility P Release Assessment Request Day 75 – 90
- CST PRA Return Day 120
- Treatment Team w. CST
  - Finalize Plan Day 150
- Community Return w. Services

Community Partnerships

Community Partnerships = Connecting Families and Youth to SERVICES that will support them post OCFS.

- EBCI
- Healthy Families Program
- Workforce Services
- Employment
- Mentoring Programs
- Parent Advocacy Programs
- Bridges to Health
- Education/Vocational Services
- Health Services
- Youth Development Programs
- Recreation Programs
- After School Programs

…… and many others

Youth & Family Partnerships

- Letter of Introduction sent to FAMILY
- Letter of Introduction sent to YOUTH
- CST contacts with YOUTH in Facility
- CST contacts with FAMILY while youth is in Facility
- Family Visits to Facilities
- Family Nights
- Video Conferencing

Mental Health

- Approximately 260 NYC young people of the 600 in placement with DJJOY, in non and limited secure settings, meet criteria for at least one mental health disorder.
- Out of 260, 50 youngsters reside in Queens.

Mental Health has Become a Huge Policy Issue in Juvenile Justice (and there is a new backlash

- The most common Axis I diagnoses for DJJOY youth are:
- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Conduct Disorder
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Bipolar Disorder
- Major Depressive Disorder
- Depressive Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (NOS)
- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- Psychotic Disorder NOS

Mental Health: Queens Community Resources

- Make known the resources most most frequently referred to and the outcomes:
- Develop a report card that includes youth development issues
- Establish a high-level cross agency working group to join in the processing the policy issues that relate to the segments of the population within the juvenile justice clients:
  - Foster youth
  - Children of incarcerated parents
  - Children and youth in the JJ system

Mental Health Services Provided Through Our JJ agency:

- Evidence Based Community Initiatives (EBCI)
- Sanctuary Model
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- Bridges to Health (B2H) Waiver Program

Implementation of EBCIs

- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Adolescent Portable Therapy (APT)
- Multidimensional Therapeutic Foster Care (MTFC)

B2H

- A home and community-based waiver program, providing opportunities for improving the health and well-being of youth in foster care or community services supervision.
- Purpose: To delay, avoid, or prevent medical institutional care and provide enhanced services to DJJOY youth with serious emotional disturbance or developmental disabilities.
- B2H Services include:

1. Health Care Integration
2. Family/Caregiver Supports and Services
3. Skill Building
4. Day Habilitation
5. Special Needs Community Advocacy and Support
6. Prevocational Services
7. Supported Employment
8. Planned Respite
9. Crisis Avoidance, Management, and Training
10. Immediate Crisis Response Services
11. Intensive In-home Supports
12. Crisis Respite
13. Adaptive and Assistive Equipment
14. Accessibility Modifications

The Sanctuary Model: Using S.E.L.F. Trauma Focused Approach to JJ Practice

- **Safety:** Physical, psychological, social, and moral.
- **Emotions:** A mental state including physiological changes.
- **Loss:** Dealing with losses of person or things
- **Future:** The power to make choices and to manage freedom and responsibility.

Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

- An integration of cognitive-behavioral techniques for emotion regulation and reality-testing with concepts of mindful awareness, distress tolerance, and acceptance.

Mental Health: What Is Needed?

- Dedicated slots for OCFS returning youth with community day treatment program for mental health clinics
- Community resources that offer DBT, including groups and individual treatment for young people.
- Support to youth and families before, during and after care to increase compliance with mental health treatment

Education

- Within 5 days of returning home from facility placement, the goal is to have young people enrolled in school
- Youth attend a number of different educational programs including college, high school, and GED/vocational

Education: Measure Admissions to School

Report Where Youth Went:

HOME and:

Middle School

High School

GED Program

Vocational Program

Community College

School and Work Program

Work

Youth Development And Family Engagement Needs:

- Mentoring- Dialogue is occurring with Community Mediation Services
- After School Recreational Programs- Communication has occurred with the local YMCA.
- Programs that help foster family engagement and skill building.

Workforce Development

- **Mission: Helping youth transition from economic dependency to self-sufficiency**

  The Office of Workforce Development (OWD) was created in 2001 and pursues its mission in the belief that all youth can and must acquire the skills needed to enter and succeed in the world of work. Although the mission encompasses all young people, it focuses especially on those who will not to go college, or even complete high school. Some of these youth have come in contact with the juvenile justice system and are placed in OCFS facilities or other residential centers.
- OWD strengthens workforce development strategies and programs for all NYS youth, with special attention to our State's at-risk young people, specifically:
  - **Youth in the juvenile justice court system;**
  - **PINS diversion youth;**
  - **Runaway/Homeless youth;**
  - **Native American youth;**
  - **Blind/Visually handicapped youth; and**
  - **Foster care youth**

Workforce Development

Eyes on the Future!

- Service and retail trades will produce 75% of all new jobs
- Manufacturing jobs are <u>not</u> growing
- Generation "Y" (1976-94) – by 2010, nearly 40% of workforce
- Outsourcing sends jobs to India and China
- Computer and data processing services industry will expand by 2 million jobs
- Substantial growth in health industry
- By 2010, labor demand expected to outstrip supply

Workforce Development

Youth Outcomes

Transition to Community

- For youth age 16 and younger, school placement and one or more of the following:
  - Part-time work;
  - Preparation for work placement;
  - Internship;
  - Career exploration;
  - Summer Youth Employment; and/or
  - Mentoring.

Big Policy Issues

- How to treat youth in the community without incarceration
- “Real” Family Engagement
- Improving educational opportunities and outcomes for youth in juvenile justice residential and community program
- Creating Safe Environments everywhere
- Identify and Plan for cross systems youth

Contact Information

Joyce L. Burrell, Deputy Commissioner

NYS OCFS/DJJOY

(New York State Office of Children and Family Services/Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth)

(518) 473-1786

Joyce.Burrell@ocfs.state.ny.us