



KIDS CENTRAL, INC.

A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

Building Better Lives

The Independent Living Specialist schedules and facilitates a transition planning meeting with the youth and all interested parties in the youth's place of residence. The following is an outline of the format for the transition planning meeting:

I. Transition Planning Meeting Outline

- a) The Specialist conducts introductions and explains the purpose of the meeting
- b) Review with the youth their current status with school, employment, living arrangements after the youth's 18th birthday, life skills, medical needs, etc.
- c) Review of youth's strengths, assets and goals.
- d) Prepare successful transition by providing:
 - i. For transfer or termination of custody for youth, if applicable;
 - ii. Information about rights and services to which the person may have access as a result of a disability;
 - iii. Individual and family medical history information;
 - iv. Information on availability of community resources, including affordable healthcare and counseling;
 - v. Court and welfare systems information;
 - vi. Child care services information; and
 - vii. Support through community volunteers or persons who have made a successful transition, as appropriate.
- e) Development of a plan that addresses the basic needs of youth transitioning from foster care to include:
 - i. Living arrangement (exploring a range of housing options with the youth and engaging them in an evaluation of the risks and benefits of various living situations);
 - ii. Source of income (review of present financial and budgeting capabilities and a plan for improving resources and ability);
 - iii. A description of the youth's current skill level and a plan for learning additional identified skills;
 - iv. A plan for future educational, vocational, and training skills;
 - v. Affordable health care;
 - vi. Access to at least one committed, caring adult (a plan for maintaining and developing positive relationships with the family, other adults, friends, and the community); and
 - vii. Access to positive peer support
- f) Development of plan and timeline for the case manager to obtain or compile documents, including:
 - i. An identification card;
 - ii. A social security card;
 - iii. A resume, when work experience can be described;
 - iv. A driver's license, when the ability to drive is a goal;
 - v. Medical records and documentation, including a Medicaid card
 - vi. An original copy of the youth's birth certificate;

- vii. Religious documents and information;
 - viii. Documentation of immigration, citizenship, or naturalization, if applicable;
 - ix. Death certificate if parents are deceased;
 - x. A life book or a compilation of personal history and photographs, as appropriate;
 - xi. A list of known relatives, with relationships, address, telephone numbers, and permissions for contacting involved parties;
 - xii. Previous placement information and health facilities used, if appropriate; and
 - xiii. Educational records, such as high school diploma or general equivalency diploma, and a list of schools attended, if age appropriate.
- g) The IL Specialist provides each youth with:
- i. A transition plan summary (see exhibit attached), including the individual's options;
 - ii. A list of emergency and contact persons, and
 - iii. Community resource guide (211 Guide).

In addition to the Independent Living requirements, the IL Specialist is responsible for making quarterly home visits, writing court documents and making court appearances as needed. This approach is successful in maintaining case continuity, providing youth with direct access to a stable support person during their transition from foster care which is one of their most vulnerable periods in their life.

Every 17 year old youth is assigned a transition team to provide support, case management, training, etc. in order to achieve the goals contained in their transition plan. The transition team consists of a Specialist, Navigator and Peer Mentor (a youth formerly in the foster care system). The Peer Mentor is an instrumental member of the youth's transition team. They listen, support, teach and help teens who are in foster care as they prepare for life on their own, making sure the youth know they are not alone.

The IL Specialist schedules and facilitates a second transition planning meeting with the youth at their residence within the 90 period of the youth's 18th birthday. The purpose of the meeting is to finalize a detailed account of the youth's 18th birthday. Specifically, the account addresses the needs of the youth/as outlined below:

- Living arrangement (post 18 living arrangement plan)
- Educational Plan/Needs (school attending now and after turning 18, tutoring needs, current goals)
- Financial (date of delivery of first stipend check, bank account status, social security, trust funds, budget sheets, shown how to check credit report)
- Medical (doctor's appointments, counseling, dental needs)
- Life Skill Needs (referrals for services based on life skills assessment)
- Employment (current working status, plans to obtain part-time employment)

All eligible youth are approved and prepared to receive their first stipend from the Road to Independence program the month they turn 18. In order to promote rapport and seamless case management, the Specialist maintains assignment to the youth's case until the youth reaches the age of 23. The Specialist sits down with the youth to develop a budget including a plan for saving. Each month the youth is required to submit a budget sheet and receipts providing a detailed account of their spending and proof of savings (See exhibit attached). The Specialist

addresses any areas of concerns with the youth including referrals to consumer credit counseling when necessary. In addition, the Specialist verifies with the youth's educational provider on a monthly basis that they are maintaining adequate attendance and progress in secondary school. The Specialist verifies attendance and progress for youth in post-secondary at mid-term and finals. All communication with and documentation received from school is verified for authenticity.