

MRS Conference Call Notes
May 2011

Counties Participating 5/12: Brunswick, Catawba, Cherokee, Davidson, Gaston, Moore, Transylvania, Washington, Wayne.

Counties Participating 5/16: Chatham, Craven, Gaston Halifax, Harnett, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Robeson, Scotland, Stokes, Union.

Counties Participating 5/20: Alamance, Buncombe, Caldwell, Cleveland, Cumberland, Davie, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gaston, Hoke, Lenoir, New Hanover, Wilson.

Agenda

- Letters from the Division
- Update on NYTD (National Youth in Transition Database), Danielle McConaga, NCDSS
- CFT meetings for older youth (How are they different, How are you engaging the youth, Who are they inviting, Ideas for activities on the Independent Living plan)
- Finding and engaging connections for transitioning youth
- A discussion of the use of CARS (Does your agency offer CARS?, Which criteria does your agency use to offer a CARS, Does your county offer CARS to youth placed in licensed relative/kinship homes? If a CARS is terminated on a youth does your agency allow the youth to re-enter placement on a CARS?)
- Your burning questions on any subject

News from Raleigh

Letters:

- CFSR schedule through the end of the year
- Overview of REAP (Reaching for Excellence and Accountability In Practice) project
- Fingerprints – Foster Care Licensing Issues – we were audited and there were some compliance issues
- Money Matters Training – now offered on-line
- Changes in Instructions for completing the 5104a
- Implications of tax issues for the 5120
- Revisit a letter from 2010 (in file share pod) regarding NYTD
- Change notice = SIS codes to use for NYTD
- Results of a survey re: training needs for foster parents and recommendations based on those results
- IVE Review – talks about upcoming review, guides to how records should be organized
- Working with LGBT youth
- Changes to some of the Foster Care Forms

NYTD – National Youth In Transition Database

Discussion led by Danielle McConaga, acting LINKS State Coordinator

- The purpose of NYTD is to evaluate the outcomes for youth that receive Chaffee funding.
- Feds want a data collection system to track services provided to these youth.

First Component: Survey

- We have developed a survey component where youth aged 17 between 10/1/2010 and 9/30/2011 take the survey and provide our baseline.
- Danielle asked about engaging youth to take the survey – how is this going?
- \$25 incentive has helped a lot! But they get discouraged that they have to wait 3 or 4 weeks for one once they take it.
- SW who are not LINKS coordinators are not putting a high priority on this.
- Some social workers have sat with the youth while they complete it.

- Some counties have group meetings and those who are eligible take it at the end of the meeting.
- Some workers have had some youth who completely refused to take it because they did not want to be tracked in any way. The incentive was not appealing.
 - Try to present it to them as not tracking them but rather getting their feedback to improve services to future youth.
- Can they have youth take the survey before they get a reminder from the Division. - Yes
- This is not dramatically different information we are gathering, the LINKS coordinators should have been aware of this, it is just a new way to capture it in a form that may be submitted to the feds for analysis.
- We have submitted our first file to the Feds

Second Component: New SIS Codes

- Who is responsible in the county for opening services on the 5027 – the LINKS coordinator or social worker?
 - Some have the social workers do it.
 - Some have the LINKS coordinator do it even if the social worker does the activity with the child.
 - Some LINKS coordinators have all the children on their caseloads (smaller counties).
 - Catawba had a programmer go in and work with their system (IZZY) to make this easier.
- Challenges?
 - This is very challenging if the LINKS worker is supposed to record the codes but other social workers are doing activities,
 - New codes are not used on daysheets so it is challenging for non LINKS social workers to remember them.
 - Concern with getting others besides LINKS coordinators to use the codes.
 - Difficult for them to remember to go in and take the code out when the child is no longer receiving the services and it seems complicated so if there is not a way to simplify not sure it is going to be done.
 - Suggestion of a cheat sheet/desk reference for social workers to use.
- Please ensure the documentation supports the services being offered.
- You can capture services being offered at a group or foster home as well.

CARS – Contractual Agreement for Residential Services

- How are different counties offering this?
- Polling survey on Connect Pro to see who offered what types of CARS (see Holly for results).
 - Offer it to aging out youth and also youth who left and want to come back.
 - The longest they have had anyone stay on it was until shortly before she turned 21.
 - Couple if years ago started allowing youth who exited to come back in on a structured agreement and have seen some successes.
 - More success with youth who have just reentered by themselves. Once they realize it is not all fun and games to be an adult they are more engaged in coming back.
 - Also have some kids who have had a baby and they come back with the baby - have had less success with that.
- Barriers to using CARS?
 - When the youth is incarcerated.
 - Trying to find a licensed placement for kids who wanted to come back into care. Some of the older youth have burned some bridges when they were in care initially and they were not able to find him a placement and could not take him back.
- Does anyone use it for kids who are living in dorms? Who does the payment go to?
 - Payment does go to foster parent, some use it for extra money, or to get home on the weekends.

Providing CFTs for Older Youth

- One county makes it mandatory for them to come to the meetings and ask them for input, sometimes they don't participate, but other times they get involved. Try to go where the child is, and make sure there is not anyone there that they don't want there.
- One county has "youth in transition CFT" starting when youth are 17 and use documents from keeping it real training and at the 1st CFT they have the youth has the forms and kind of facilitate their own meeting by talking about their goals, etc. This is a struggle for ones placed out of county.
- Keeping it Real training – center for family and community engagement at NCSU – all around providing CFT's for older youth.
- One county has asked the GALs to facilitate the meeting – that way they get to come and get the information they need and is not really a participant. So far this has gone pretty well.