**INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (ILSAC)**

Monday, April 22, 2024, 2:00– 4:00 pm EST

Microsoft Teams: Meeting ID: 276 667 536 844   
Passcode: F7AZAT

***Please note the following agenda is for reference purposes only. To eliminate unnecessary delays for the public and the council, the Chairs at their discretion may deviate from the published agenda.***

Meeting Minutes

Meeting commenced and attendance taken.

1. Regina started the meeting by inquiring if there is a way that any documents we create/discuss can be accessed by all council members, on a shared drive. Cal mentioned that the ILSAC Secretary should send out any documents provided during meetings to the council. They should also be included in the meeting minutes, which are posted on the DCF website, which all council members can access. There is no way to create a shared drive or drop box, because everyone is not a DCF employee.
2. Regina encouraged all council members to provide feedback during the meetings, so that we can really deconstruct the EFC program in a way that will allow for actionable recommendations around the program.

Prior to the meeting today, Regina e-mailed all council members the Data Collection Forms, CFOP, FAC, and FL Statute to review.

1. Needs Assessment/Allowance subgroup presented to the council. The subgroup was led by Dietra Barfield and included the following council members: Demarco Mott, Margie Dotson, and Sarah Pham. The subgroup presented the following information:
2. Based on the Data Collection Forms, the majority of the CBCs/CMOS are using a needs assessment form to advocate for allowance and the financial needs for young adults in EFC.
3. Some CBCS/CMOS are using the MPSP to determine financial need
4. There is an archived Needs Assessment form created by DCF. Cal has reopened the form and sent to the council for review/edits. Cal would like to have this form back by the next meeting scheduled for 5/13, so he can make corrections and present it at the upcoming IL Conference scheduled for 5/23 and 5/24. This will allow agencies the opportunity to provide feedback about the form. From there the ILSAC could recommend that the form be added back to FAC.
   1. There was a consent round where all council members agreed that Dietra would make updates to the form, present at 5/13 meeting for feedback, and Cal would present final product at the IL Conference.
5. There is no rule or statue that requires that young adult’s in EFC be provided an allowance.
   1. Every CBC has their own practice for determining allowance for clients in EFC.
6. Sarah Pham presented on the extended benefits offered by Sunshine Health to youth 18-21. She presented using a Power Point that will be shared with the Council.
   1. The overview included a review of the transition grant, care grant, OTC funding, transportation, etc.
   2. All young adults in foster care are able to remain on the Child Welfare Speciality Plan and access the above referenced benefits until age 21, s long as their case remains open.
   3. Sarah discussed some barriers that were shared by the agencies when it comes to accessing some of the expanded benefits, specifically the Care and Transition Assistance Grants. Her team is working on some resolutions to the barriers to make the funding easier to access.
   4. Sarah reported that there are currently 2,200 members eligible for the Transition Assistance Grant, but they have only received 184 requests since 2020. This data suggests the funding is being under utilized.
   5. Sunshine has three IL Case Managers who attend the transition planning meetings and review Medicaid Benefits. They are also available to help youth and young adults navigate their benefits, find providers, etc.
   6. Sunshine will enter a new contract on 1/1/2025, and they working to expand the items that can be purchased with the transition assistance grant.
   7. Sarah and her team also worked with the Office of Child Welfare to develop Amazon Bundles, that the youth can access when making their request. The bundles include items that are eligible for purchase with the transition assistance grant and total $500. Sarah will send the links to the team.
7. The committee went on to discuss community resources available to young adults to help supplement the allowance such ahs internet deals, food stamps, et.
   1. It was suggested that we develop a statewide resource list, but Cal advised that he has tried to create one in the past, and it has not worked out, as CBCs don’t provide information, or the information is outdated and no updates have been provided.
   2. There was additional discussion surrounding food stamp applications and the difficulty some youth have applying.
      1. Margie advised that she developed a form that she provides to her youth to help them with the application process.
      2. OCC will assist youth with troubleshooting application issues, but they do not complete the application.
      3. Heather shared the below link, which offers several tutorial videos to help individuals apply for food stamps. <https://www.youtube.com/@MyFLFamilies>
8. The final subcommittee is for Qualifying Activities. The committee includes Stephanie Lucas, Eileen Geisler, Raul Catuy, and Adam Briggs. This subcommittee will present information at the next meeting scheduled for 5/13/2024.
9. June dates for in person meeting have to be changed due to a conflict. ILSAC Committee agreed on June 10th and 11th , 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for the in-person meeting. Location: 7823 North Dale Mabry Highway, Suite 202, Tampa 33614. The meeting for May 28th was canceled by agreement of the council.

VI Meeting was adjourned.