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

Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:00– 4:00 pm EST

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

***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.***

AGENDA

1. **Welcome & Member Attendance**

*Regina Watson & Morgan Donovan – Secretary*

1. **DCF Presentation & Discussion**

*Eric Wetzel – DCF*

* 1. Hope Florida – A Pathway to Prosperity
     + Launched by the DeSantis family – focused on two pillars of prevention services (1. Allow the client to define success, and 2. Ensuring there is a warm handoff between care navigators and the referred service), open to any Floridian; utilize a “no wrong door” approach.
     + Utilizes care navigators to guide Floridians to a path to prosperity.
     + Within Hope Florida is the Office of Continuing Care, which works directly with youth 18-26 years old who have experienced the foster care system – youth are welcome to call the HOPE line Monday-Friday to be directly linked to a care navigator (who has lived experience) to assist with reconnecting the youth with their CBC to reengage in services, employment, education (tuition waiver requests are common), building a support system, and assist with getting youth Access benefits (SNAP).
     + The phone number is 850-300-HOPE (4673) – share with your CBCs!
     + Also assists with family finding (including former foster families and teachers) – very quick turnaround within a few days.
     + The care navigators will follow up with the youth to ensure their needs were met and questions were answered.
     + Website: [Hope Florida | Florida DCF (myflfamilies.com)](https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/hope-florida)

1. **Review of CBC Data Collection Forms & Discussion**

*Ginger Rockey-Johnson – Chair*

* 1. FSFN payment guidelines are broad and confusing, specifically in terms of required allowance.
     + How can we determine an appropriate discretionary allowance for youth?
       - Should we consider differences for youth in school (not working) vs. those working? Do they have dependents (and is $100 enough)?
         * Should we recommend a range for specific items?
       - How do we determine needs vs. discretionary wants? Should the CBCs be paying for items needed to stay qualified for EFC? How would we track that?
         * Should cell phones be considered a necessity, not a discretionary need?
         * Is there room to have providers pay for some items like phone and internet?
       - Should consider accessibility – a example would be grocery stores (Publix is more expensive than Family Dollar).
     + How can we account for inflation in the allowance rate? Cost of living? How can we figure out a rate that works across all counties statewide?
       - Individual rates should remain an option, but we may want to recommend a minimal standard.
       - Should look at prices used when determining the original rate (to account for inflation today).
     + If we made this a recommendation, we need to be specific about what we’re asking the Department.
     + Need to ensure there is accountability on the youth and the CBC’s side – be specific in what we want to see.
       - Since the purpose of this is to help youth transition, we need to see what they are spending their money on and complete a true needs assessment that is part of the case plan.
       - Consider a consistent review of budgets, allowances, and expenses – should be assessed regularly and tied to recommendations around better employment and self-sufficiency.
     + Considerations in payments are broken into incidentals, room and board, discretionary.
     + Round of consent regarding recommendations (get specific verbiage from Ginger about the three-tiered recommendation).
       - All consented but recommend adding life skills to the recommendation.
       - Ginger shared “Advocacy by the Ages” doc (should attach in notes).
  2. Staffing
     + Most CBC’s don’t have housing or employment specialists.
     + Caseloads varied from 1:5 to 1:38; 1:15 seems to be the average.
     + What’s new:
       - New engagement opportunities, expanding workforce, more collaboration with community partners.

1. **Review of Continual Improvement Action Improvement Deck**

*Ginger Rockey-Johnson – Chair*

* 1. All committee members agree to table permanent connection recommendations until 2024.
  2. Changed “My Pathways to Success” plan recommendations to green (meaning they’ve been completed).

1. **Review of Proposed ILSAC Operating Guide (carried over from February)**

*Ginger Rockey-Johnson – Chair*

* 1. Welcome & Vision Setting Presentation
  2. ILSAC Roles & Responsibilities Revision
  3. ILSAC Procedures

1. **Adjourn**

*Ginger Rockey-Johnson – Chair*