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

Monday, May 8, 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. **EFC Allowance Discussion**

*Regina Watson – Co Chair*

* 1. What is Extended Foster Care (EFC)?
     + [Statutes & Constitution :View Statutes : Online Sunshine (state.fl.us)](http://leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0000-0099/0039/Sections/0039.6251.html)
     + Started in 2015 – every CBC in Florida did it differently. In 2019, funding changed and EFC became more consistent in terms of Supervised Living Arrangements.
       - Currently in FL, we are drawing about 50% of funds from IV-E and the other 50% comes from the CBC budgets – need to increase IV-E eligibility and draw down more federal dollars to bring more flexibility to CBCs to be able to meet more needs for our young adults (CBCs have finite budgets).
     + Available for young adults 18-21 (22 with a documented disability)
     + Must be living in an approved supervised living arrangement (transitional home, dorms, apartment settings, supportive adult connection, etc.)
       - Must be seen in their home setting at least every 25 days.
     + Young adults must be working at least 80 hours/month OR are enrolled in school full-time (often they are trying to get their high school diploma) OR are addressing barriers to participate in either of those activities.
     + Young adults receive a ***$200*** monthly stipend/allowance and have their rent paid for through the program.
       - The monthly stipend varies by young adult.
       - There is nothing in statute that states $200 is a minimum/maximum – the allowance should be based on whatever that specific individual needs to be successful in the program.
       - Some CBCs give higher allowances if the young adult has a child.
       - The Shared Living Plan includes a place to review the budget – a standardized needs assessment could be added to this doc.
       - Need to be cautious if/when standardizing an allowance about ensuring we don’t jeopardize other funding sources like SNAP.
       - Definition of allowance is in the FSFN Payment Guide – designed to help youth transition to self-sufficiency.
         * “The allowance payment is to enable the young adult to experience managing money as he/she transitions from licensed care to independent living. The amount of the allowance is based on a needs assessment. The allowance payment includes, but is not limited to, expenses such as:

Childcare expenses;

Clothing;

Extracurricular activities;

Internet service;

Personal items’

Recreational activities;

Nonessential transportation;

Savings;

Telephone; and

Vehicle related expenses.”

* + - * + Do we want to consider tying the allowance amount to program compliance? Use it as an incentive?

If we do that, how can we recognize the struggles our kids may be facing that hinder their success in school and work (like identity exploration)?

* + - Termination due to lack of compliance must be approved by the court.
      * Youth can opt back in countless times as long as they meet the qualifications and age requirements.
  1. Guidance Needs to be Improved.
     + Recommending a range be established: minimum & maximum amounts per item.
     + What is needed vs included with Room & Board vs Discretionary?
       - Regina shared Circuit 13’s Needs Assessment per month:
         * Transportation: Bus passes or $100 gas card; may pay for car insurance if Keys is exhausted
         * Hygiene and grooming
         * Phone
         * Will provide one-time funding for moves ($250 for food, $100 for general needs) or event-specific needs like prom or new job uniforms/interview outfits.
         * Pay housing providers directly when possible (but this is not required).
       - What do we do when a young adult refuses the funding option we offer (for example, we offer a bus pass but they will only use Uber or Lyft)?
     + Reducing check requests
     + Establishing guidelines for Housing Partner expectations of what is included in the room and board rate to improve outcomes.
  2. Expectations need to be established early on before entry to IL Programs that these programs are of a transition nature on a “sliding scale” basis (ie: increase independency and decrease reliability on funding)
  3. What are we expecting the Department to do?
  4. Are we recommending FSFN edits?
  5. Is there a basic needs assessment used statewide? Consideration of best practices based on needs assessment.
  6. Are there allowance allocations differences in EFC for each qualifying activity?
     + In school (allowance may be higher)
     + Employed (allowance may be lower)
     + Qualifying Disability
     + With Dependents
     + Undocumented
     + Incarcerated?
  7. Is there a capped budget per young adult that the overall budget must stay within?
  8. Is Cost of Living considered?
     + How is it accounted for?
  9. Need to establish consistent & regular review schedule of EFC budgets and allowances to allow increased independence and decrease in reliability on EFC funding.
  10. Consideration for rural areas – accessibility of resources, services, and providers

1. **Open Discussion**

*Ginger Rockey-Johnson – Chair*

* 1. Housing
     + Need community collaborations to build resources.
     + HUD demonstration grants.
     + Continuum of care partnerships (Circuit 12 has a strong partnership).
     + What are we doing to ensure housing options are safe?
       - For example, some young adults have been placed in apartments that exposed them to drive-by shootings.
     + CBCs have the discretion to approve an EFC Supervised Living arrangement – but it’s important to note CBCs are limited by funding so “better placements” can be difficult to find.
     + Landlord retention is another major barrier – when young adults destroy an apartment or don’t follow the landlord’s expectations, that relationship with the landlord is strained and potentially ruined and we can lose that placement option.
     + Look at permanent connections and push for more housing options with those people.

1. **Adjourn**

*Ginger Rockey-Johnson – Chair*