Welcome - After 18! (AB12)

Thank you!
Central California Training Academy for sponsoring today's event!



Today's agenda

- □ Context for AB 12/212
- "From Place to Place" www.fromplacetoplacemovie.com
- AB 12 Eligibility California Department of Social Services
- Legal Process Administrative Office of the Courts
- Implementation Shared Vision Consultants

AB 12 Guiding Principles

- Value permanency
- $\ensuremath{\blacksquare}$ Help youth transition with lifelong connections to caring adults.
- $\hfill \blacksquare$ Create a collaborative youth-centered process
- □ Work proactively with youth in developing and reaching their independent living goals
- a Allow youth to gain real life experience with independence and allow them to learn from their mistakes
- Provide a safety net for the most vulnerable youth so they can be successful as independent adults

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AB12: Eligibility

Version 1.0, January 25, 2012

Goals for the Training

In this training we will cover:

- Eligibility requirements for AB12
- ☐ The primary benefits associated with AB12



Values

- Voice of Young Adults
- **□** Assistance and Partnering
- **■** Love and Belonging
- **□** Unique Needs
- □ Eligibility is Maintained
- □ Development is Supported

Eligibility Basics

- Open court case with out-of-home placement at age 18
- Satisfy at least 1 of 5 participation requirements
- Meet with Social Worker and update TILCP
- Attend court or administrative review every 6 months
- □ Live in a licensed/approved setting

Kin-GAP, AAP and Guardianship

- Extended benefits also available to:
 - Youth who entered Kin-GAP or AAP <u>at</u> age 16 or older
 - ■Youth with disabilities who entered Kin-GAP or AAP at any age



Who is eligible in 2012?

- Youth under age 19 as of January 1, 2012 who have an open case and are in placement. This includes:
 - Youth who turn 18 on or after January 1, 2012
 - Youth who turned 18 during 2011 can be eligible in some cases

Age Limits Beginning January 1, 2012 - up to age 19 Beginning January 1, 2013 - up to age 20 Final extension to age 21 subject to legislative approval and cannot happen before January 1, 2014 Participation Conditions

- Be enrolled in high school
- Be enrolled in college/vocational school
- Work at least 80 hours/month
- Participate in a program/activity that removes barriers to employment
- Be unable to do one of the above

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Licensed/Approved Placement

- Traditional placement options still available
- □ Limitations on group home placement
- 2 NEW Placement Options:
 - THP-Plus Foster Care
 - Supervised Independent Living (SILP)

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High School Completion Rule

- No more high school completion rule for youth in extended foster care
- No more high school completion rule for youth in group homes
- ☐ High school completion rule still exists for certain groups that do not have access to extended benefits

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Extended Foster Care Benefits

- The same benefit rates apply
- New rates established for THP-Plus FC
- SILP is limited to basic AFDC-FC rate
- Wraparound services available



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Pregnant & Parenting Youth

- Pregnant and parenting youth <u>are</u> eligible
- Benefit Payment
 - In a SILP
 - In other settings



Youth who want to opt-out

- ☐ Hearing (WIC 391) must be held prior to terminating jurisdiction (and assistance)
- □ Eligibility for assistance does not end until the youth turns 20 (or 21), but aid is suspended at youth's request

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Re-entry

- Youth can re-enter unlimited times prior to turning 20/ 21 yrs old.
- Youth must be informed of right to reentry at termination hearing
- Re-entry process is intended to be as accessible and easy as possible
- Beginning date of aid is date NMD signs re-entry agreement

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Resolving Disputes

- Fair hearing process regarding
 - Amount of the benefit
 - Termination of benefits
 - Denial of federal eligibility (ie: for youth placed with relatives)
- ☐ The court will resolve disputes about the youth's sufficient participation

Documenting Eligibility

- Document efforts to assist youth to maintain eligibility
- □ Include services in TILP to ensure participation in eligibility requirements, including a back-up plan
- Engage youth in collaborative case planning

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Mutual Agreement



- ■Must be signed within 6 months of youth turning 18
- Documents youth's willingness participate
- Documents
 agency's
 responsibility to the
 youth

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Documenting Eligibility

- A copy of the Certification Form kept in the EW's file
- A copy of the participation documentation kept in the EW's file



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Eligibility for Foster Care Benefits

Must Meet

- □ Categorical requirements
- Statutory requirements
- □ Income requirements



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AFDC-FC: What Do They Get?

- Monthly cash benefit paid on a per-child basis
- Full scope Medi-Cal, no share of cost
- Other funded services/allowances



Specialized Care Increment

- □ County supplement to the basic rate
- County creates its own policy on eligibility and amount
- Most counties provide specialized care increment
- Specialized Care Increments are not available to youth in a SILP or group home

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Dual Agency Rate

■ Non-minor dependent youth who receive AFDC-FC benefits and who are also regional center clients are eligible for Dual Agency rate



Eligibility for CalWORKs Benefits

Must meet requirements:

- □ Income guidelines
- Living in the home of a "caretaker relative"
- Age requirements
- □ Immigration status
- Deprivation

CalWORKs: Who Gets It?

 Relatives caring for a non-minor dependent youth who is in foster care who does not qualify for Title IV-E foster care benefits

NOTE: The non-minor dependent could live with the relative in a SILP and receive state-only AFDC-FC

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CalWORKs: What Do they Get?

- Cash benefit
- Medi-Cal



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Eligibility for Extended Kin-GAP

- Youth who entered Kin-GAP at 16 or older and meet participation conditions are eligible
- Youth with disabilities are eligible until age 21 no matter what age they entered guardianship

Kin-GAP Changes

- Guardianship Study Requirements
- Youth only has to be residing with the relative for 6 months prior to entering guardianship
- Kin-GAP benefits are determined and adjusted based on changed needs pursuant to a <u>negotiated agreement</u>
- Kin-GAP can be paid out of state

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Kin-GAP – What do they get?

- Rate is negotiated between the relative guardian and the county or Indian tribe
- The infant supplement or "whole family home" rates apply if the youth is parenting
- If the youth is a regional center consumer, the dual agency rates apply

Other Benefits Related to Kin-GAP

- □ Clothing Allowance
- Medi-Cal
- □ ILP services
- Education and training vouchers
- Reimbursement of non-recurring costs associated with guardianship up to \$2,000

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Eligibility for AAP Benefits

- Youth who were adopted at 16 or older and meet participation conditions are eligible
- Continues if the family moves to another state
- □ Can continue if child is adopted after death of adoptive parents
- Youth with disabilities are eligible until age 21 no matter what age they were adopted

AAP – What Do They Get?



- Rate is negotiated in a written adoption assistance agreement
- □ Can include specialized care increment
- Can include residential care or Wrap Around services

Eligibility for SSI/SSP Benefits

- □ Little or no income (parental income is not counted for youth in out-of-home care)
- Few or no resources
- Citizen or qualified non-citizen
- □ Disabled (must be reviewed 1 month prior to 18th birthday)

SSI/SSP - What Do They Get? ■ Monthly cash benefit ■ Medi-Cal □ Offset rules for concurrent receipt of SSI and other assistance (AFDC-FC, AAP, Kin-GAP) County Management of SSI Benefits ■ Maintain accounts □ Help youth in become payee or find a new payee before emancipation □ Inform youth of eligibility and how to maintain eligibility as an adult ■ Maintain SSI eligibility for youth in extended care who are eligible for a higher foster care rate that offsets the SSI SSI and Transition Age Youth □ Higher monthly cash assistance rate ■ May qualify youth for permanent affordable housing and education assistance □ Can work part-time and still get SSI □ Programs to help work without losing

□ Can get scholarships and SSI

eligibility

SSI and Non-Minor Dependent Youth

- Goal is to have SSI eligibility established at around the time the youth turns 18
- Ensuring SSI is in place provides youth maximum flexibility and choice among benefits and supports
- Maintain SSI eligibility if youth receives federal foster care in excess of SSI

Non-Minor Dependent Youth and SSI

- Assist with applications for permanent affordable housing
- Explore SSI programs designed to help individuals work or pursue their education
 - Ticket to Work
 - Plan to Achieve Self Sufficiency
 - Student Earned Income Exclusion

Additional Benefits

- **□** FCIA Chafee
 - Independent Living Plans and Services
 - Resource limit: \$10,000
 - ■Transitional Medi-
 - Education and **Training Vouchers**



Weighing the Benefit

- Level of need
- Youth willingness
- Need for flexibility
- Permanency plan
- Special needs
- □ Family situation
- □ Services available in addition to benefit
- Portability



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Questions and Answer time!

