**THEMES**

* *Focus on the needs of teens and youth who are aging out of care, including providing lifelong connections and support*
* *Greater support for resource parents*
* *Improve communication about programming, services, and planning for children and families*

**CFSA QUESTIONS to AUDIENCE**

**Community Partnerships:**

What can you, as a community partner, do to assist CFSA in supporting families?

**Mobile Crisis Stabilization Services:**

What types of support would you recommend for Mobile Crisis Stabilization Services?

* *Audience Feedback*
  + Clarify the terms “crisis” and “stabilization” so that utilization can improve and create new categories as need for less immediate response time

**Safety:**

What recommendations would you suggest for CFSA to educate community members about how we address child abuse and neglect?

* *Audience Feedback*
  + How can the issue of community safety impact or support family level stability or how can efforts to improve community safety also address child abuse/neglect?

**Housing:**

How can CFSA work with partners to identify and secure appropriate, supportive, stable, and sustainable housing for families who are at-risk or are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity?

* *Audience Feedback*
  + Affordable housing is a huge challenge in DC. In the movement to more mixed income housing communities, how do we support families not only to identify a unit but feel a sense of belonging and what supports should be developed for families moving into new units, neighborhoods, developments to help them thrive?
  + Need to be more aggressive and effective in helping kin find housing

**Domestic Violence:**

Who can we partner with to support services specifically addressing perpetrators of domestic violence?

**AUDIENCE QUESTIONS to CFSA**

*Principal Deputy Director’s Office*

***Q*: *“******How does every person working with youth become and remain a team?”***

***A***: Knowledge of the individuals working or connected with the youth and family are important.  The assigned CFSA Social Worker often takes the lead in facilitating the connections for all team members working with a youth who is in foster care.  This includes involving members of the team in case or service planning meetings, family team meetings and/or reviews.  Ongoing communication is essential to promoting a positive partnership with all team members. If you have questions about the team or upcoming meetings, please reach out to the youth’s assigned social worker and/or his/her supervisor.

***Q*: *“Can we change the time of day and time of town halls? 4-6 pm is prime time for picking kids up and getting off of work – not a good time for resource parents.”***

***A***: We took into advisement your suggestion and will host two (2) Town Hall Forums at various dates and times to accommodate schedules.

***Q: “Can the agency develop a retreat for parents and social workers?”***

***A***: We are reviewing this suggestion and intend to provide a response at a future date.

**Q: “Is there any way to improve the effectiveness of our core agencies that assist children and families?”**

***A***: CFSA partners with the District’s Department of Behavioral Health in providing information related to the needs of children and families to increase their access to mental health services. As the District’s Department of Behavioral Health is the lead agency, CFSA will continue to advocate for better, quality mental health services.

*Program Operations*

***Q: “Every experience we’ve had with chAMPS has been more of a hindrance than a help. The intake call always takes twice as long as it should, and it takes the workers so long to get to the home. How is CFSA working to improve this issue?”***

***A***: CFSA will hold listening sessions to solicit feedback from Resource Parents on ways to improve this service. CFSA will also communicate this issue to Catholic Charities with the goal of improving services.

***Q: “******Is there a team of people at CFSA or elsewhere who are available to offer in-person help to Resource Parents to stabilize children in the home immediately?”***

***A***: CFSA is exploring a redesign of the current Resource Parent support model to enhance crisis supports. However, Resource Parents are encouraged to contact their Family Support Worker or request assistance by contacting the support units noted on the next page.

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| **Support Unit** | **Days | Hours of Operation** | **Phone Number** |
| *Foster Parent Support Line* | Monday through Friday | 5:00pm – 1:00am  Weekends and Holidays | 9:00am – 1:00am | (833) 443-3775 |
| *Mobile Crisis Stabilization Services* | Monday through Sunday | 9:00am – 10:00pm | (202) 481-1373 |
| *chAMPS* | Monday through Sunday | 24 hours a day | (202) 481-1450 |

***Q***: ***“How can Resource Parents get a copy of all organizations that are affiliated with youth and their families?”***

***A***: CFSA will explore providing a list of all organizations that are affiliated with youth and include it in the youth’s Placement Passport.

***Q***: ***“Should Resource Parents call in a missing person’s report when we know our kids are not actually missing?”***

***A***: Yes, Resource Parents must file a police report with the local law enforcement agency within one (1) hour of the child going missing, being abducted, or absent and at high risk. Resource Parents must also report any missing, abducted or absent and at high risk child immediately to the CFSA Hotline (202) 671-7233 and provide the number of the police report.

For more information, please see the Missing, Abducted, and Absent Children policy and business process by visiting <https://cfsa.dc.gov/page/cfsa-policy-unit-and-policy-development>.

***Q***: ***“******What is the Office of Youth Empowerment? What services do they offer teens in CFSA’s care?”***

***A***: CFSA’s Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) serves older youth and young adults who are between the ages of 12 through 21 and in the agency’s care.

OYE offers a variety of services to support older youth and young adults, including education support for college prep (such as hosting college tours and connecting youth to SAT/ACT prep courses), subsidized internship program, financial literacy, intensive wrap around support through YV Lifeset, case management, and aftercare services.

To learn more about OYE, please visit - <https://cfsa.dc.gov/page/office-youth-empowerment>

***Q***: ***“******What supports exist to help teens obtain employment, including summer jobs? How can resource parents register youth for summer jobs? When is the deadline? Can CFSA Social Workers help teens complete employment applications?”***

***A***: OYE assists older youth obtain employment through CFSA’s subsidized employment program. The Office also partners with public and private job-training programs and employers to offer youth job opportunities. Additionally, OYE provides employment guidance as part of our aftercare services for young adults.

For more information about summer job registration, please visit the website summerjobs.dc.gov. The 2020 deadline to apply was Saturday, February 29. The youth must be between the ages of 14 and 24, have a Social Security Social Number, an email address, and be a District resident.

CFSA Social Workers and OYE Education Specialists are available to assist youth complete employment applications.

***Q***: ***“******Is there a resource to help older youth who are aging out of CFSA’s care to develop life skills as they prepare to become independent adults?”***

***A***: Yes. As part of the youth’s transition planning process, which begins for youth who are 14 years old or older and in care, CFSA explores with the young person various areas to ensure success at independent living, including self-care and health, money management, education and career planning, social connections, housing options, and transportation methods. CFSA also operates the Youth Aftercare Program to provide support to youth who are emancipating.

***Q***: ***“******Can Social Workers share information about the conversations they have with teens with Resource Parents to keep us in the loop?”***

***A***: One of the responsibilities of the CFSA Social Worker is to help facilitate conversations between youth and their resource parents to help the young person express themselves. Any conversations involving the youth should ideally be held in their presence.

***Q: “******What funding is available for aftercare programs for teenagers?”***

***A***: Aftercare services are available for transition aged youth who are 21 years old or older. The primary focus of aftercare services is to provide linkage to community resources that offer individual and group support opportunities. Connections are made to a variety of supports, including housing assistance, medical/mental health support, education/vocational training, financial management, and employment assistance. There are some funds available for transportation.

*Child Welfare Training Academy*

***Q: “******Does CFSA offer trainings on racial equity for foster parents who are fostering/adopting transracially? If not, are there plans to do so?”***

***A***: During 2020, The CFSA Child Welfare Training Academy (CWTA) began offering a training on Cultural Humility that focuses on enhancing one's own understanding of other cultures and can lend towards more effective transracial parenting. CWTA is currently developing a course on transracial parenting that is set to be trained for the first time in June 2020.  CWTA is in conversations with other jurisdictions and organizations on their current training curriculum related to transracial parenting and how we can partner to bring their training series to DC as well.

CWTA’s *The Source* will be available the week of March 15th with the spring training schedule.  Resource parents receive *The Source* in the mail, through email, and it can be found on the CFSA website.

*Office of Planning, Policy, & Program Support*

***Q: “Will CFSA ever be able to follow-up and conduct research to understand what happens in the lives of youth once they’ve aged out and have exited CFSA’s care?”***

***A***: The Federal National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) collects information on youth in foster care, including sex, race, ethnicity, date of birth, and foster care status. It also collects information about the outcomes of those youth who have aged out of foster care. States sample cohorts of youth longitudinally at ages 17, 19 and 21 and then submits the data to the Children’s Bureau.  The Children’s Bureau projects that it will provide reports to the states.  CFSA has reached out the NYTD liaison to find out when CFSA will receive an updated outcomes report.