

**Nebraska Children's Commission
Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Committee
Minutes November 5, 2013
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Lincoln Community Foundation building, 5th Floor Conference Room
215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE**

Call to Order: Mary Jo Pankoke called the meeting to order at 1:37pm due to technical set up.

Introductions

Mary Jo Pankoke welcomed everyone including Shannon Brower (Jim Casey of Opportunity), and Margaret Flynn-Khan (Mainstream Consulting) to the third meeting of the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support committee (YA Committee). Mary Jo thanked the group for their attendance and continuous work then informed the group that they were operating under the Open Meetings Act (which was posted on the wall), stating that public comments were welcomed and allowed at the end of the meeting. The meeting was then turned over to Margaret as she facilitated the review of recommendations.

Members Present: Mary Jo Pankoke, Sarah Helvey, Doug Lenz, Mary Fraser Meints, Amy Peters, Jennifer Skala, Nathan Busch, Vicky Weisz, Amy Williams, Elisabeth Hurst, James Bowers, Leesa Sorensen, Mary Kate Gulick, Amy West, and Jennifer Potterf.

Members Adobe Connect: Corrie Edwards, Brandy Gustoff, Jill Schubauer, Jan Fitts.

Members Absent: Jodie Austin, Janteice Holston, Sararose Luichinger, Richard Mazikani, Lana Verbrigghe, Judge Douglas Johnson, Augusta Kamara, Senator Kate Bolz, and Ronda Newman.

Meeting Purpose: To review the 2nd round of recommendations from the six work groups so they would be ready to present at the November 19th Commission Meeting.

Meeting Approvals:

- 1) November 5, 2013 Agenda: Mary moved, Sarah seconded, all in favor, 0 oppose.
- 2) July 31, 2013 Minutes: Mary moved, Sarah seconded, roll call vote, motion carried.
- 3) September 3, 2013 Minutes: Jan moved, Doug seconded, roll call vote, motion carried.

Review Timeline/Next Steps

- 1) November 19, 2013 - present 2nd recommendations to the Children's Commission.
- 2) December 15, 2013 - submit 2nd recommendations to Healthy Human Services Committee of the legislature, the governor, and DHHS.
- 3) December 2014 – Advisory Committee required to submit next report.
 - a) From planning to implementation, Statue requires Advisory Committee to continue and meet bi-annually.
 - b) Mary Jo suggests the Advisory Committee meet more frequently during 1st year of implementation.
 - c) Meeting will be held with Co-Leads to determine the role of the workgroups during implementation.

Meeting Handouts

- 1) 2nd Round 1st Draft Recommendations

- a) Additions to the 1st draft of the 2nd recommendations are highlighted.
- b) Deletions to the 1st draft of the 2nd recommendations are red strike lines.
- 2) Bridge to Independence Cross-Cutting Issue
- 3) ? (from Amy West)

POLICY, ELIGIBILITY, AND TRANSITION WORKGROUP

Presenters: Nathan Busch, Amy Williams

Section I Former Ward and Juvenile Probation

- No changes have been made to the first round of recommendations.
- Section I, items A – D are all new recommendations.
- The Department has made decisions that are in conflict with some of the recommendations. Presenters asked the group to review, then offer feedback on whether to modify the recommendations to better reflect Health and Human Services decisions on the Former Ward Program or to keep the recommendations as they are.
- Under the Statue, funding for Former Ward shifts to Bridges to Independence on January 1, 2014.
- Implementation of Bridges 60 days after notice is received of the approval of the 4E Amendment could happen anytime within the next 2 months.
 - 1) Example: Notice received January 1st, implementation begins March 1st for Bridge to Independence.
 - 2) If the young adult is a 3A and Former Ward as of December 31st, the young adult will continue to receive Former Ward benefits until implementation of Bridges, March 1st. When implementation begins, the young adult will be grandfathered into the Bridges program.
 - 3) If the young adult is a 3B or OJS, and not eligible for the Bridge program yet receiving benefits from the Former Ward program, on December 31st the young adult will continue receiving Former Ward benefits until no longer eligible, i.e. age out.
- Issue: If the Former Ward program ends in December, and Bridge to Independence begins in March. That leaves a potential “Gap” of no program to support approximately 17 young adults who may age out during the “Gap” time period. Options for funding to help support these young adults are to work with private partners and alternative programs to help ensure that the young adults who age out will continue to receive support until they are able to enter into the Bridge program.
- It was mentioned that the Case Oversight Workgroup was also concerned about “the gap” thus added Section VI-A to their recommendations.
- After further discussion, Jenny moved, Sarah seconded, roll call vote, motion carried to approve section I:A-D under Policy, Eligibility, and Transition 2nd round 1st draft recommendations and remove recommendation VI-A from the Case Oversight 2nd round 1st draft recommendations to section I –E under Policy, Eligibility, and Transition into the Program and add the following language so that recommendation E read as follows: *If the department does not maintain the Former Ward program to address the gap for young adults who age out after January 1st 2014 but prior to when the Bridge Program begins, funding (either former ward, LB 216 or other general child welfare funding) should be used to give young adults who age out in this period access to Former Ward benefits.*

Section II Initial Communication and Transition for Former Ward YA

Presenter: Mary Gulick

- No drastic changes made. Paragraph D was deleted.

Section III Communication and Transition for Foster Care (16-19)

- During the yearly family team meetings for young adults 16-19 years of age, foster care caseworkers have been requested to discuss the Bridge to Independence Program.
- A planning team meeting with the foster care worker, young adult with an invited adult, and the Independence Coordinator will act as the official transition from foster care to Bridge to Independence.
- For the young adults that are ineligible to enter the program upon aging out of foster care will receive notifications required by the bill. Also, Bridge to Independence will be discussed in the meeting they have scheduled with their caseworker 90 days prior to their court hearing.

Section VI Communication to YA Who Become Ineligible for the program after participating

- Previously the young adults who become ineligible for the program after participating were asked to take part in a re-enrollment workshop. Instead of having a separate workshop, the young adult will meet with their caseworker/independence coordinator to determine next steps to make re-eligible.
- After further discussion, the group decided to modify VI-B: *In addition to a court hearing, see Case Oversight section. There should be an in person exit meeting.*, and add VI-D: *Young adults should have the opportunity to request an extension of the 30 day grace period between becoming ineligible and end of services.*
- Margaret asked for a move to vote on policy recommendations II through VI. Sarah moved, Jennifer seconded, roll call vote, motion carried.

CASE MANAGEMENT, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, AND HOUSING

Presenters: Mary Meints, Jennifer Potterf

Section II Recruitment, Selection, Training and Support of Staff and Supervisors

- IC will be identified 3-6 months prior to the transition to allow a time for relationships between the young adult and supporters get established.
- Would like to allow the young adult to have the option to ask that the foster care worker stay involved.
- The independence coordinator should not have to change if the young adult moves to a different territory. Current technology can be used to stay connected.
- The private provider roles have not been discussed at this time, but do require further discussion.

Section V Addressing Safety Issues in Developmentally Appropriate Manner

- In regards to overall safety for the young adults, the IC will use a skills assessment to determine areas of needs or successes.
- Quality training should be provided for the IC so they can better understand the thought process and choices of young adults and be better equipped to work through the pros and cons of the young adult's decisions.
- IC will be mandatory reporters to the hotline if there are safety issues with the children of the young adults in the program. The IC should not have to implement the structured decision making safety assessment with the young adults as this may damage the IC and young adult relationship.
- 24 hour on call support from and IC should be available to the young adult in time of crisis.
- The IC will discuss job related safety concerns with the young adult, but will not report those concerns to law enforcement.

- Correction to VB2. Change the first sentence to read: *If an IC is alerted to an unsafe or unethical working condition, the role of the IC is to educate, support and plan, and leave the decision making to the young adult.*
- VB1 bullet 3 should be changed to a stand- alone recommendation VB4 to read: *IC should only involve law enforcement if there is imminent risk.*

Section VI DHHS Case Management Practice for the YAVSS Program

- There should be a team instead of a family team that's directed by the young adult and titled Independence Plan Team that would gather together with the young adult to decide who would be on that Independence Plan team to guide the young adult with specific issues.
- After further discussion, the group decided to modify the 4th sentence in VI-A to read: *The purpose of these meetings is to get everyone of the same page, bring together all existing plans and access where the young adult is on the goals.* The rest of the paragraph stand as is.
- The group was asked to give more detail on an evidence base model that is developmentally appropriate. The group submitted the Transition to Independence (TIP) model that is specifically geared towards young adults. Trauma-Informed Care and well as Harm Reduction could be incorporated.
- Model identification, curriculum development, and implementation steps should be conducted 2014. Full model implementation should occur Jan. 2015.
- An interim training curriculum for IC should be available until an evidence based model is selected and implemented.
- DHHS should explore using System of Care grant funds for the cost of training.
- VI-D add... *the service list is attached at the end of these recommendations* ...so no one has to search for the previously submitted ones.

Section VII Housing Options

- VII –B sentence 3, change beginning of sentence to read: *If unsafe housing*, instead of if inappropriate. The rest of the paragraph stands as is.
- Doug motioned, Jenny seconded, roll call vote, motion carried.

CASE OVERSIGHT

Presenter: Sarah Helvey

Please refer to recommendations as Sarah read through the recommendations. There was no group discussion or comments to add.

Section I Case Reviews

- If a young adult opts not to attend a 6 month review, they can share their information by using the modified version of the youth questionnaire.

Section II Permanency Hearings

- Added section D and E to the recommendations.

Section III Notifying Young Adults of Right to Request Attorney and Hearing

- A & B of this section are new recommendations and should be highlighted yellow.

Section IV Meaningful Participation of Young Adults

- Added sections C, D, E and deleted Section F.
- Mary motioned, Doug seconded, roll call vote, motion carried.

FISCAL MONITORING ISSUES AND STATE FUNDED GUARDIANSHIP

Presenter: Jennifer Skala, Shannon Jo Hamilton

- Jennifer stated to the group that she will review the highlighted additions only as they are recommendations that are built upon the previously approved recommendations.
- Jennifer read recommendations A, E, I, J, K, L, and M1.
- To fully fund all the state extended guardianships over 1 million dollars are needed. To date, \$4,000.00 is appropriated. Hence the reason for seeking more public/private partnerships.
- The average subsidy for guardianship is \$530.
- Mary motioned, Doug seconded, roll call vote, motion carried.

EVALUATION AND DATA COLLECTION

Presenter: Amy West

Section I Evaluation Tool

- Prior to finalization of the survey, the group recommends it be piloted with Project Everlast.
- The group recommends that public/private partnerships be explored to allow a contract with an independent external evaluator to be responsible for the following:
 - 1) outreach and collection of surveys
 - 2) initial analysis of collected data
 - 3) assist the Advisory Committee in meeting reporting requirements
 - 4) provide the Advisory Committee with a more comprehensive evaluation report by Dec. 2015.
 - 5) collect exit surveys
- I-D add as the last sentence in this section to read: *If necessary comply with any regulations to protect information for research participation.*

Section II Fiscal Accountability

- DHHS track all expenditures and provide quarterly reports detailing itemized program costs including training, travel, materials.

Section III Tracking Supportive Services

- III-C should read: *We recommend that the Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) review files for young adults in the extended program to track service provision as they are mandated to do for children and youth in foster care. The rationale for this is that the FCRO already has that capacity and the necessary information systems in place, re-training would not be necessary, and this would be consistent with their current practice.*

Section IV Young Adult Satisfaction

- The independent external agency should collect exit surveys from the young adults. Offer \$10 gift card incentive. If survey not returned in 3 weeks, follow up with the young adult via phone, mail, or internet.

Section V Public/Private Partnership

- Estimated cost for the independent external evaluator is approximately \$42,000.00 for two years of implementation: \$32,000.00 for survey collection and \$10,000.00 for evaluator and analysis costs.

OUTREACH, MARKETING, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Presenter: Mary Gulick

- Mary summarized all the recommendations of this section.
- The group decided to make a change in Section V-O #3 to read:
60-minute program launch trainings in all service areas providing detailed, program specific information and materials to service providers, including human services, organizations, and community partners. Content for these trainings...etc...for a total of 8 trainings.
- Mary motioned to approve, Sarah Helvey seconded, roll call vote, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mary motioned, Doug seconded – meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.



LB 853: Bridge to Independence Implementation Bill

This bill does four primary things:

1. LB 853 updates statutory language to reflect the new title of the program

- Replaces “extended services program” with “Bridge to Independence program” and updates the new caseworker title to “Independence Coordinator” (both of these name changes were recommended by the Advisory Committee with input from young people)

2. LB 853 provides guidance on how to implement the requirements of the program so DHHS is better able to serve young people

- Provides additional guidance on what Independence Coordinators should work on with young people
- Ensures young adults are regularly informed about their right to an attorney and to request additional court hearings as needed
- Ensures all young adults leaving the program receive information about community resources that may be of assistance to them
- Requires that Independence Coordinators help young adults prepare for their annual permanency review hearings and 6-month case reviews
- Specifies that supervisors of Independence Coordinators should also have specialized training in providing transition services and support to young adults
- Encourages the active participation of young adults in the 6-month case reviews

3. LB 853 also clarifies juvenile court jurisdiction and process

- Provides reference to the juvenile court’s jurisdiction in existing statute
- Specifies that the document DHHS is required to file with the juvenile court be a petition (instead of a report) and that a record be made of the permanency review hearings
- Expedites permanency review hearings
- Offers clarification on the juvenile court’s authority to review the legal rights and entitlements of young adults under this Act

4. LB 853 makes some technical changes

- Removes an incorrect federal reference
- Eliminates an inadvertent statutory inconsistency to permit extended guardianship subsidies beyond age 19 as intended by LB 216
- Changes existing statute to reflect that the new Bridge to Independence program incorporates the Former Ward program

Created January 2014



CHILD WELFARE

LB 853: Bridge to Independence Implementation Bill

Action Taken Since LB 216

June 2013: Legislature passed LB 216

July 2013: Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee formed

Sept. 2013: Advisory Committee's first round of recommendations presented to Nebraska Children's Commission

Oct. 2013: The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) submitted a state plan amendment to seek federal funding for the program

Nov. 2013: Advisory Committee's second round of recommendations presented to Nebraska Children's Commission

Dec. 2013: DHHS hearing on rules and regulations to carry out the Act



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Ensuring a smooth implementation of the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Act

The Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Act (LB 216) was passed in the 2013 Legislative session to create an age-appropriate, youth-focused, and voluntary program of services and support to 21 for young people who age out of foster care. This program has since been titled "Bridge to Independence."

LB 853, introduced by Senator Amanda McGill, will strengthen the original bill, allow for a smoother implementation, and provide clarity on specific aspects of the Bridge to Independence program. These minor - but necessary - changes will make the program work best for young people.

Current Status

We are currently waiting for the federal government to approve DHHS's state plan amendment authorizing federal matching funds for the program. This approval could come any day now, and the program would then begin within 60 days. **LB 853 needs to move forward so the program will be ready for a smooth implementation.**


LB 853 is the next step toward implementation

The Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Act created an Advisory Committee to make initial recommendations regarding implementation of the program and to provide ongoing oversight.

The Advisory Committee, involving a wide variety of professionals and stakeholders, including representatives from DHHS, began meeting in July 2013 and has accomplished a great deal of work since.

Two rounds of recommendations created by the Advisory Committee have been accepted by the Children's Commission and submitted to DHHS, the HHS Committee of the Legislature, and the Governor. The majority of these recommendations do not require legislation, but some were recommended as statutory changes. A few other necessary corrections were also identified through this collaborative process.

The Bridge to Independence program is a proven program that will help remove barriers for young people with experience in Nebraska's foster care system. **LB 853 is necessary so that the Bridge to Independence program is implemented in the best way possible for these young adults.**



Bridge to Independence


Department of Health and Human Services

Where We Are Today...

- The Regulations were approved by the Attorney General's Office and submitted to the Governor's Office.
- Department Policy and Procedure has been developed.
- We have submitted to the Federal Government the Amended Title IV-E State Plan, the Regulations, the Policy and Procedure along with LB 853.

GAP Services

- Since January of this year young adults who have aged out and would be eligible for the Bridge Program have been receiving support from Private sources coordinated by NCFE.
 - 13 young adults receiving support as of March 31st, 2014
 - Receiving \$354.00



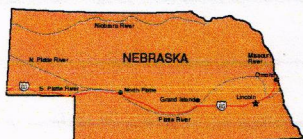
Bridging The Gap

Communication & Transition

- Based on the YAVSS recommendations, the Department will be reaching out to former ward young adults and young adults ages 19-21 that are eligible for the program.
 - Directing them to community resources.
 - Informing them of the Bridge to Independence Program.
 - Assessing each young adult's interest in the Bridge to Independence program.
 - Obtaining updated contact information for young adult.
 - Reviewing My Life Binders.

Staffing for Bridge to Independence

- We have hired two Independence Coordinator Supervisors.
- We have filled six Independence Coordinator positions.
- Independence Coordinator will work with young adults statewide.
- Specialized case loads (working solely with young adults in the Bridge Program) will be best practice.



Training

Training

- The training addresses the Bridge to Independence process and service coordination steps when working with young adults between 19 and 21 years of age.
- 5 day classroom training - including young adults and stakeholders
- Field Training exercises
 - Learning about community resources
- Case management will focus on the following areas:
 - Compassion
 - Strengths
 - Needs
 - Culture Competency
 - Community Based
 - Connections
 - Promoting Self-Sufficiency
 - Flexibility

Ongoing Training

- Continued In-Service subjects:
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Sex Trafficking
 - Domestic Violence
 - Developmental Disabilities
 - Mental Health Services



Ongoing Support for Independence Coordinators

- Weekly Statewide conference calls.
- Weekly staffing with Supervisors.
- Weekly group supervisions with team members.
- Monthly statewide meetings.
- Mandatory Consultation Points.



Ongoing Training

- The Department will be providing ongoing training to the following:
 - Child and Family Service Specialists
 - Family Permanency Specialists with NFC
 - Foster Care Agencies
 - Group Homes
 - Shelters
 - Community Stakeholders

Lunch n Learns will also be available in the future to spread the word about the Bridge to Independence Program.

Program Development

Transition Planning

- The Department will provide annual program brochures to state wards which provide an overview of the program, services, and benefits.
- Independence Coordinators will be introduced to young adults up to 6 months prior to their 19th birthday in order to start building a positive relationship.
- The Independence Coordinator will then provide an official written notice about the Bridge to Independence program to the young adult 90 days before the youth's final court hearing.

Application Process

- Calling the Nebraska Adult and Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-652-1999.
- Contacting a previous Child and Family Service Specialist or Family Permanency Specialist .
- Apply through an electronic application on <http://bridgetoindependence.ne.gov>

Initial Screening through Central Office

- Juvenile court adjudication in an abuse/neglect case under Nebraska Statute 43-247 3(a)
- Citizenship/lawful presence in the United States
- Aged 19 up to 21 years old
- In an out of home placement upon turning 19 years old OR discharged to independent Living

• If the young adults meets the above criteria, he or she will be assigned to an Independence Coordinator.

Initial Contact with Young Adult

- Will occur within 5 days of assignment.
- Independence Coordinator will review the information packet with young adult.
 - Rights and Responsibilities;
 - List of required documents needed to determine eligibility;
 - Case Review Questionnaire;
 - Information on how to request an attorney, CASA, and court hearing;
 - Informational packet about the program;
 - Explanation of program eligibility requirements;
 - Explanation of housing arrangements and requirements;
 - Explanation of the Voluntary Services and Support Agreement;
 - Independence Coordinator will ask the young adult to complete the NYTD survey;
 - Resources available in the community.

Participation Eligibility

- **Education**
 - **Secondary Education** – Must be verified as enrolled at least part-time (6 credit hours) in a program to obtain a high school diploma or the equivalent.
 - **Higher Education or Post-Secondary Vocational/Technical School** – Must be enrolled and attending at least part-time (a minimum of six credit hours) each semester.
- **Employment** – Verified employment at least 80 hours each month
- **Program to promote or remove barriers to employment**
 - Activities that move young adult toward obtaining employment, based on their strengths and needs. Must participate in these activities at least 40 hours per month. They can be done independently by the young adult, with the Independence Coordinator, or as part of an organized program. However, these activities must be able to be verified by the Independence Coordinator.
- **Incapable of Participation**
 - If the young adult is unable to participate in any of the activities described in 1-3 above due to a physical or mental health condition, they may remain in the Bridge to Independence Program. A licensed health or mental health care practitioner must verify in writing that they are unable to participate due to the physical or mental health condition.

*Verification needs to be obtained prior to signing the Voluntary Services and Support Agreement.

Verification of Program Eligibility



Housing Options

- Licensed Foster Family;
- Single or shared residence such as an apartment or a house;
- College dormitory or other post-secondary education housing;
- Emergency shelter;
- Parental home;
- Transitional Living Program;
- Institutions – *Must be on a voluntary basis and not due to a court-ordered commitment;*
- Licensed Foster Care Facility;
- Host Home – *a setting in which a young adult resides in a home of an adult or family (who may or may not be related to the young adult).*

Voluntary Services and Support Agreement

- The VSSA does not become final until both the young adult and Independence Coordinator sign the agreement.
- The Department is responsible for the following:
 - Placement and Care responsibilities.
 - Case management responsibilities.
 - Ensuring the foster care payment is implemented.
 - Ensure court case is started.

Case Oversight

- Petition must be filed to the Juvenile court with 45 days of signing the Voluntary Services and Support Agreement.
 - Independence Coordinator with supply DHHS legal with the following:
 - Copy of Voluntary Services and Support Agreement
 - Initial Date of Service
 - Affidavit to support Best Interest
 - Transitional Living Plan
 - Copy of most recent juvenile court order

Court Process

- Independence Coordinator will notify the young adult 60 days prior to the case review and permanency hearing.
- Young adult has the right to request an attorney.
- Young adult has the right to request a case review or a hearing at anytime.
- Young adult has the right to attend the permanency hearing or case review.
- Young adult has the opportunity to fill out the youth questionnaire and send to court.

Court Process

- The court has the jurisdiction to review the agreement signed by the Department of Health and Human Services and the young adult and to conduct permanency reviews.
 - The court shall determine whether the Bridge To Independence Program is providing the appropriate services and support.
 - If the court believes that the young adult requires additional services and support to achieve their goals the court may make appropriate findings or order the Department to take action to ensure that the young adult receives the identified services and support.

Court Process

- Permanency Hearing is required annually.
 - Independence Coordinator will submit a court report and the Transitional Living Plan.
 - Young adult has the right to agree or disagree with the contents of the court report.
 - The Court report will contain the following:
 - Explanation of "Best Interest";
 - Summary of program eligibility;
 - Reasonable efforts to achieve permanency;
 - Services and Support provided;
 - Description of the young adult's safety, permanency, and well-being;
 - Young adult's living arrangement.

Case Review

- Conducted by the Foster Care Review Office.
 - Will occur every 180 days.
 - Process is still being developed in collaboration with the Foster Care Review Office.

Extended Adoption & Federal Guardianship Assistance

- Eligibility
 - Young people who, at age 16+
 - Were adopted (and whose parents were receiving adoption assistance), or
 - Entered into a guardianship with a licensed relative (and had a guardianship agreement), and
 - Meet same requirements/work eligibility requirements.

Services:

- Medicaid Coverage
- Extended guardianship/adoption subsidies

State Extended Guardianship Assistance Program

- Eligibility
 - Young people who, at age 16+:
 - Entered into a guardianship at age 16 that was NOT a state guardianship agreement with a licensed relative, and
 - Meet same education/work eligibility requirements.

Services:

- Extended guardianship subsidies (no Medicaid), to the extent possible with existing funds.

Services Provided to Young Adult

- Medical Coverage based on Medicaid eligibility
- Case Management
- Monthly Maintenance Payment to provide housing support for the following options:
 - Foster family home
 - Supervised Independent Living setting (e.g. single/shared apartments, houses, host homes, college dorms, etc.)
 - An institution or foster care facility, if necessary due to developmental level or medical condition

Termination of Services

- 30 day grace period
 - Independence Coordinator will be meeting with the young adult as much as the young adult wants during this period.
 - Reasons for grace period:
 - Failure to meet program eligibility
 - Inappropriate Housing
 - Failure to meet verification requirements
- Termination Letter
 - Sent to the young adult following the grace period.
 - Young adult has the right to the appeal process.

Grace Period Visual

April 2014						
4	5	6	7	8	9	
11	12	13	14	15	16	
18	19	20	21	22	23	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
September 2014						
1	2	3	4	5	6	
8	9	10	11	12	13	
15	16	17	18	19	20	
22	23	24	25	26	27	
29	30					
October 2014						
1	2	3	4			
6	7	8	9	10	11	
13	14	15	16	17	18	
20	21	22	23	24	25	
27	28	29	30	31		

Youth Terminates Program

JULY 2014						
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Re-engagement of Young Adult

- The Independence Coordinator will mail re-engagement letters to the young adults who have left the program, voluntarily or involuntarily, on a quarterly basis.
- The Independence Coordinator will also be engaging with community providers to encourage participation in the Bridge to Independence Program.

Data Collection

Data Collection

- National Youth Transitional Data (NYTD) Survey
- Exit Survey
- Foster Care Review Office

Bridge To Independence Website

- YOU CAN CONTACT US VIA OUR WEBSITE:
[HTTP://BRIDGETOINDEPENDENCE.NE.GOV](http://BRIDGETOINDEPENDENCE.NE.GOV)

The following items will be located on the website:

- Application
- Community Resources
- Youth Questionnaire
- Links to other useful websites

- The website is still in development.

Contact Information

- DEANNA.BRAKHAGE@NEBRASKA.GOV: 402-471-9331
 - PROGRAM SPECIALIST
- MEAGANN.SCHWEITZER@NEBRASKA.GOV: 402-570-7598 AND DOUG.PETERS@NEBRASKA.GOV: 402-660-8591
 - BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE SUPERVISORS
- *We look forward to speaking with you about this great opportunity!*
