

**Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee  
Final Recommendations**

**September 3, 2013**

The Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee (YAVSSAC) proposes the following initial recommendations to the Nebraska Children's Commission for a statewide implementation plan meeting the extended services program requirements of the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Act (LB216). These recommendations were generated with significant input from a wide variety of stakeholders from throughout Nebraska and in close partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services. They provide important and thoughtful initial guidance for effective implementation of the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Act. The YAVSSAC anticipates continuing to consider and gather information and input on issues that require further time and will submit additional recommendations prior to implementation. Recommendations address the following key areas of implementation:

- Policy, Eligibility, and Transition into the Program
- Outreach, Marketing and Communications
- Case Management, Supportive Services and Housing
- Case Oversight
- Evaluation and Data Collection
- Fiscal Monitoring Issues and State-Funded Guardianship

**Policy, Eligibility, and Transition into the Program**

*Note: Additional details on outreach materials and ongoing communication with young adults about the program are included in Section II, Outreach, Marketing and Communications. Section II also recommends that DHHS pursue a public-private partnership to support development of new communication materials and outreach activities to ensure young adults have a smooth transition into the program).*

**I. Initial Communication and Transition into the Program for Young Adults in the Former Ward Program.**

- A. All current and past recipients of Former Ward who have not yet turned 21 (and will not turn 21 before January/February 2014) should be sent a clear, written notice about the extended program prior to December 1, 2013, informing them of:
1. The rights of eligible young adults to receive extended services and support;
  2. Information about eligibility and program requirements;
  3. The types of services and support young adults may receive in the program;
  4. How young adults can access the program;
  5. Other requirements of written notice per Sec. 17 (6);
  6. An outline of differences between the Voluntary Services and Support Program and the Former Ward Program; and

7. What will happen with the Former Ward Program (e.g. when services through the Former Ward program will cease to exit).
- B. By December 1, 2013, a representative of the Department (or current Former Ward staff members) will make contact - or attempt to make contact - with all current and past recipients of Former Ward who have not yet turned 21 to provide information verbally and via all available and appropriate channels (e.g. text, facebook, social media, etc.) about the program, review differences compared to the Former Ward Program and how young adults can sign up, and to ask the young adult if he/she would like to participate in the extended program.
- C. Communication with these young adults about the program will include referral to YAVSS orientation class.
- D. If the young adult indicates that he/she would like to participate, the department will assess eligibility and, if the young adult is eligible and consents, arrange for the voluntary services and support agreement to be signed and filed with the court in the timeframe necessary to prevent a lapse in services between the transition from Former Ward to the extended program, if applicable.

We need to be sure that specific changes are clearly communicated to young adults and efforts are made to avoid service interruption as young adults transition from one program to another and/or as NDHHS implements the YAVSS program. For instance, room and board fees are currently covered under the former ward program and these funds are distributed directly to the college once per semester. Under the YAVSS program, the funds may be distributed on a monthly basis.

## **II. Communication and Transition Into the Program for Young Adults in Foster Care (age 16 – 19).**

- A. The foster care caseworker will provide an annual overview of YAVSS including brochure overviewing service benefits and responsibilities\*
- B. 90 days prior to the final court hearing, young adults should be sent a clear, written notice about the extended program, informing them of:
  1. The rights of eligible young adults to receive extended services and support;
  2. Information about eligibility and program requirements;
  3. The types of services and support young adults may receive in the program;
  4. How young adults can access the program;
  5. Other requirements of written notice per Sec. 17 (6);
- C. 90 days prior to the final court hearing the foster care caseworker will meet with Young Adults, determine if they would like to participate in the program, and refer to a YAVSS orientation class.

## **III. Communication to Young Adults Ineligible for the Program.**

- A. Young adult determined ineligible for the program will be provided with a clear, written notice informing them of:
  1. The explanation for why they were determined to be ineligible (in a clear and developmentally appropriate way);
  2. Information about eligibility and program requirements;
  3. The process for appealing the decision;
  4. Information about the option to sign up for the program once the young adult establishes eligibility; and

- 5. Information about and contact information for community resources that may benefit the young adult, specifically including information regarding state programs established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 677.
- B. A representative of the department (or current Former Ward staff member) will make contact - or attempt to make contact - with each of these young adults to provide information verbally and through all available and appropriate channels (e.g. text, facebook, social media, etc.) about the determination that the young adult is not eligible. The verbal communication should include an explanation of those items bulleted above.
- C. Young adults will be referred to a workshop on becoming eligible for the program.

#### **IV. Communication to Young Adults Who Opt Out of the Program.**

- A. Young Adults are provided an information packet that includes process for re-enrolling if they change their mind, eligibility checklist, resource directory (as per Sec. 7(1)) and a survey.
- B. Young Adults receive quarterly check-in messages via Facebook, text or email from YAVSS worker.

#### **V. Communication to Young Adults Who Become Ineligible for the Program After Participating.**

- A. YAVSS Caseworker provides Young Adults with the required ineligibility notification (per Sec. 7(2) ) 30 days before services cease. Recommend delivering this communication through every available communication channel (email/call/text/Facebook/letter).
- B. In-person exit meeting with YAVSS caseworker 30 days before services cease with exit packet that includes appeal information sheet, eligibility checklist, and resource directory.
- C. Referral to workshop on becoming eligible for the program.
- D. YAVSS worker makes 90-day eligibility check ins (by all available communication channels).

### **Outreach, Marketing and Communications**

*Note: see attachment A, which presents the more detailed communications plan developed by the work plan; details on these recommendations.*

#### **I. Program Name Recognition.**

- A. Bridge to Independence (preferred choice of Young Adults surveyed)
- B. LEAP (Launching Emerging Adults to Permanence)

- II. DHHS in partnership with private agencies should implement a communications plan targeting young adults, case workers, services providers, and media/public/policy makers. Any underlined tactics are materials or experiences that must be newly created. DHHS should explore a public-private partnership to develop these items to help off-set administrative costs to DHHS without compromising the communications experience for critical audience segments. Items with asterisks represent priority recommendations.

#### **III. Audience Segments Who Should Be Targeted with Communication and Outreach.**

- A. Young adults

1. Minors, 16-18, in foster care (YAVSS prep)
  2. Young adults 18-19, eligible for and opting into YAVSS (YAVSS orientation)
  3. Young adults 18-19 who are NOT eligible to enter YAVSS (YAVSS ineligible)
  4. Young adults, 19-21, eligible and participating in YAVSS (YAVSS retention)
  5. Young adults, 19-20, who become ineligible after participation and are dropped from the program (YAVSS drops)
  6. Young adults, 19-21, who opt out of the program, either at the time of initial eligibility or after a period of participation (YAVSS opt-outs)
  7. 21-year-old graduates of YAVSS (YAVSS Grads)
  8. Young adults who are currently in Former Ward who need to transition to YAVSS (Former Wards)
  9. Young adults, 19-20, who have been dropped from the Former Ward program, but may be eligible for YAVSS (Former Ward drops)
- B. Case Workers and Supervisors
1. Foster care caseworkers and supervisors
  2. YAVSS caseworkers
- C. Service Providers
- D. Media/Public/Policy Makers
1. Communications will be designed to reach the public and policy makers via the media. Policy-maker specific communications will be in the form of periodic program performance reporting.

#### IV. **Communication Strategies that Should Be Implemented by Segment.**

*Note: Strategies specific to informing young adults of eligibility, determining eligibility, and informing of ineligibility are included in Section I.*

- A. All young adults: YAVSS information will be provided on its own web presence. While likely housed on the DHHS site, we recommend a friendly URL and information architecture that's independent from the rest of the DHHS site so that it aligns with web usability best practices.\*
- B. YAVSS Orientation (See Section I for eligibility outreach):
1. Program Orientation, including overview of eligibility, available services and how to navigate the program.\* This is ideally facilitated by a private agency to save DHHS dollars and is put on once a month.
  2. "My Life" binder (given at orientation) including:\*
    - Orientation materials
    - Resource directory
    - YAVSS required materials (signed agreement, etc.)
    - Tabs for all the other areas of life (health care, housing, finances, education, etc.) so even transient young adults will have one place to keep their materials.
- C. YAVSS Ineligibles (See section I for ineligibility outreach)
1. Get Eligible Now Workshop - individual or small group sessions facilitated by a private agency focusing intensively on getting young adults enrolled in school, job training or employed immediately
- D. YAVSS Retention

1. Quarterly eNews sharing resources and events that might be interesting and valuable to them (career nights, college fairs, budgeting classes, etc.) and that provide success stories from other young adults.
  2. Closed Facebook group where updates are shared and young adults can network with each other and ask questions.
  3. Text reminders from YAVSS caseworker of meetings, events, etc.
- E. YAVSS Drops (See Section I)
- F. YAVSS Opt – outs (See Section I)
- G. YAVSS Grads
1. Exit packet including resource directory and exit survey
- H. Former Wards (See Section I)
- I. Former Wards Drops (See Section I)
- J. Foster Care Caseworkers and Supervisors
1. YAVSS training session\* that includes visits from young adults who have benefited (or would have benefited) from YAVSS. These young adults will share the struggles of aging out.
  2. YAVSS reference guide\* outlining in plain language:
  3. YAVSS checklist that will enable foster care caseworkers to make sure they're hitting every mandatory point with every young adult they work with.
  4. YAVSS overview brochures to be distributed to YAVSS Prep young adults
  5. YAVSS exit packets for ineligible and opt-out young adults
  6. A minimum of once-yearly visits by young adults who have benefited (or would have benefited) from YAVSS at a caseworker staff meeting
  7. Stories on YAVSS successes in any regular department communications (eNews, newsletter, etc.)
  8. Monthly conference calls for caseworkers and supervisors to share experiences and learn from one another and inclusion in existing operations meetings
- K. YAVSS Caseworkers and Supervisors
1. YAVSS caseworker website, housing all forms and brochures to be printed or ordered on demand, a peer-to-peer caseworker forum, success stories, training event schedule. This will be housed on the DHHS website, but likely created by a private agency and given a friendly URL to adhere to usability best practices.
  2. Monthly or quarterly eNews
  3. YAVSS caseworker conference calls
- L. Service Providers
1. Fact sheets to communicate the needs and potential negative outcomes of young adults who have aged out of care, as well as the counteracting benefits provided by YAVSS
  2. Brochures overviewing the benefits of YAVSS including YAVSS caseworker for referral
  3. Program launch trainings in all service areas providing detailed, program specific information and materials to service providers

4. Quarterly lunch & learns (rotate service area) to train service providers on YAVSS, provide materials and let them meet their YAVSS contact
- M. Media/Public/Policy makers (non-regulatory communications that will filter through the media to public and policy makers)
  1. Program launch press conference\*
  2. Press kit including\*
    - New program vs. Former Ward comparison sheet
    - Costs expected to be avoided by making a better transition to adulthood
    - Goals of the program/purpose
  3. Three months post-launch of intensive pitching around:
    - New training geared toward young adults
    - Increases in enrollment/employment among young adults
    - New program workers and how they differ from traditional caseworkers
    - Interviews with promising young adults
  4. Monthly or bimonthly media pitches by private agencies or other partners thereafter featuring young adult stories
  5. Annual outcomes stories/program review pitches

### **Case Management, Supportive Services, and Housing**

#### **I. Culture Change. DHHS must recognize providing services through the Young Adult Voluntary Services (this program) will be a big culture change, not only for DHHS' Children and Family Services but also the Legal System.**

- A. DHHS is coming from a position of an adversary in the minds of these young adults. Young adults are apprehensive about DHHS being in this role. If DHHS doesn't do well at the beginning, trust will be lost.
- B. DHHS will switch from a compliance role to being a partner with the young adults. Young adults driven. Give up the power. Strength-based. Guide the young adult to help them make decisions.
- C. The role of the people who work with the young adult is hands-on with connections to community services. Relationships are key.
- D. The system must be able to tolerate risk. When scrutinized, the system has to continue to remain true to its principle of Youth-driven.
  1. Media and political scrutiny sometimes result in more rules and DHHS must be able to resist that to benefit the young adult.

#### **II. Recruitment, Selection, Training and Support of Staff and Supervisors.**

- A. Staff who work with the young adults should be titled "Independence Coordinators". The title was created and voted upon by members of Project Everlast.
- B. Independence Coordinators (IC) should be specially trained. They should have specialized caseloads, when feasible. Supervisors should be specialized and trained and may need to work across service areas. Peer support should be provided to the Independence Coordinators.

- C. Care needs to be taken to select the ICs because a different skill set is required than for those who manage child and family caseloads.
- D. Caseload size should range from 15 in the rural areas up to 20 in urban areas. If young adults need more intensive services, such as for mental health services, they may be referred to others, such as the Regional Behavioral Health system.

### III. Coordination and Collaboration.

- A. Children and Family Services must ensure other divisions within DHHS, are involved and collaborating regarding this population to ensure their needs are met. Divisions which must be involved are: Medicaid, Adult Protective Services, Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, Access Nebraska. These divisions will have valuable knowledge of resources and programs these young adults may be eligible for. They may be able to streamline processes for the young adults. Coordination and collaboration with community services and partners is critical because many serve this population and a collaborative approach ensures the most effective use of resources.

### IV. Training that Addresses and Helps Professionals to Understand the Developmental Needs of Young Adults.

- A. Intense, comprehensive and focused towards needs, strengths and goals of the young adult. (see list of training topics in attachment B)
- B. Bring in experts from the community.
- C. Use curriculums that are already developed.
- D. Train judges, system partners.

### V. DHHS Case Management Practice for the YAVSS Program.

- A. Case management should follow an evidence-based model that is developmentally appropriate and respectful of young adults' autonomy.
- B. The terms used by DHHS and others are important. DHHS should refer to housing as housing options rather than placements and should not refer to young adults as being placed.

The workgroup learned at the beginning of our assignment that Thomas Pristow had decided that DHHS will do case management for this population. As the group answered the Guiding Questions, several key points surfaced. That information is in the longer document from the work group. The work group recognizes and appreciates the open and collaborative process of the Rules and Regulation Work Group. DHHS should continue to be collaborative and invite feedback throughout the development and implementation process. We will all be working outside of our comfort zone as we figure this out, but debate is productive and must continue. Everyone wants this to succeed for the young adults and the outcomes for the young adults are most important.

### VI. Housing Options.

- A. Housing decisions should be directed by the young adult, with case managers being as flexible as possible. Case managers or other case professionals should not immediately decline the young adult's housing plan. Rather, if case professionals have concerns regarding safety, the

case manager should first explore the option of developing a contingency plan with the young adult in an effort to allow the decision to be young adult-directed and respectful of the young adult's autonomy while still maintaining safety. It is important that young adults have the opportunity to make mistakes within the safety net offered by this program.

- B. Supervised Independent Living Setting options should include as many options as possible, such as single or shared apartment, house, college dormitory, other post-secondary educational or vocational housing (e.g. sorority/fraternity housing), parental home, scattered site housing, supportive housing, host homes, transitional living programs, halfway housing, three quarter way housing, sober living housing, etc. Mental health facilities and treatment facilities should also be included as housing options. A wide variety of housing options is necessary to provide for the variety of needs of young adults.
- C. Whenever possible, housing subsidies should be provided directly to young adults. If that is unable to happen, an informal contract should be developed between the young adult and the third party recipient to clarify how the subsidy will be used. IV-E requirements must be met in specific settings. The case manager should help facilitate this process in a way that is empowering to the young adult.

## **Case Oversight**

### **I. Case Reviews.**

- A. Recommend that a report or other documentation be completed at the 6-month case review. If an agreement is reached on the status and progress of the case, the report would be signed by the young adult and the Department and submitted to the court. This would give the court background on the 6-month case review for the 12-month permanency hearing or other hearing. If there is a lack of agreement, it would be documented in the report and the young adult can choose not to sign the report if they wish. Regardless of whether they agree or disagree, the young adult should be provided information about how to request a hearing and/or an attorney. There should be further discussion of what this report should look like and how it can be young adult-friendly.
- B. Recommend that the Mediation Centers conduct 6-month reviews in a structure similar to pre-hearing conferences based on recommendations and needs of the young adult. The justification is that the Mediation Centers have an existing process that feeds into court reviews, have statewide infrastructure and trained facilitators that are uniquely qualified to give people voice and could be very young adults-directed. The young adult would be invited and encouraged but not required to attend the six month review. Young adults that do not attend the review will have the opportunity to provide input in writing.
- C. The workgroup also considered the Foster Care Review Office as an alternative. Benefits of the FCRO include that there is an existing process in place that could be modified to fit this need, the ability to track and disseminate data and that the FCRO is an independent state agency that does not receive DHHS funding.

### **II. Permanency Hearings.**

- A. Recommend that legislation be introduced to require that permanency hearings and other requested hearings in these cases be expedited.



- B. Recommend that a hearing officer be appointed if the young adult makes a request, time necessitates it (i.e., a hearing before a judge would cause significant delay), the young adult *does not want the judge to hear their case or the judge believes a hearing officer should be appointed*.
- C. Recommend that the Nebraska Supreme Court promulgate a rule on hearing officers in juvenile courts pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 24-230 (5). The case oversight subcommittee of Young Adult Support and Services will draft the rule.

The workgroup agreed that there should be a young adult-friendly form created and approved to enable the young adult to request a hearing (i.e., a hearing request form).

### III. Meaningful Participation of Young Adults.

- A. Recommend that reviews follow best practice recommendations from *the Jim Casey Young Adults Opportunities Initiative Issue Brief<sup>1</sup>* for ensuring young adults are full-partners in the process, the venue of reviews are young person-friendly, and that young adults are prepared for meaningful participation, including:
  1. **Ensuring the venue is Young Adults-friendly** should include that reviews take place in an informal setting/outside the courtroom whenever possible, that those responsible for reviews have training on how to ask questions to young adults, and that reviews are scheduled at times that allow for the participation of young adults (i.e., physical presence whenever possible and when young adults cannot be physically present or decline to attend, have an option to participate in reviews using technology or have their voice heard through an appropriate advocate).
  2. **Preparing the young person for meaningful participation** should start with notice of time, place and purpose of the review and the right to and role of an attorney, letting the young adult know how they can initiate a hearing to address problems or concerns that arise between reviews, identification of other people the young person may want to be present at reviews and help in making arrangements for their attendance, and helping the young person prepare for how they will respond to issues of concern that may arise in the hearing.
- B. There should be outreach to young adults and developmentally appropriate ways for young adults to be informed about this program and to access information about their rights and the hearing process, including a video and/or brochure, website, Facebook page, a phone number to call for assistance if there is a problem (perhaps associated with the helpline or Project Everlast) and notice and reminders sent via text message.
- C. Nebraska should further examine how to incorporate a model of peer advocates into this program.

**The workgroup agreed that these are only initial recommendations in this area.** There should be more discussion to flesh these out, including who are responsible to assist the young adult in the various aspects.

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<sup>1</sup> *Success Beyond 18: Re-Examining the Foster Care Review Process: Extended Foster Care as a Catalyst for Improved Practices and Better Outcomes*, Issue Brief, Jim Casey Young Adults Opportunities Initiative (August 2013).

#### IV. Training.

- A. Recommend training for professionals involved in these cases, including attorneys, judges, CASAs and others. The training for attorneys should supplement the current guardian ad litem training, and should be offered as a webinar for ease of participation. Other training opportunities, such as a more advanced training or training required or incorporated into the GAL Guidelines, should be considered in the future.

The workgroup discussed that training should cover how a GAL should advise a potentially-eligible young adult about the program and the role of the attorney if appointed to represent a young adult in the extended program, and should offer CLE, GAL and ethics credits whenever possible. The workgroup agreed that the Court Improvement Project should provide and/or partner to provide this training. The workgroup also agreed that there should be templates, protocols and forms developed to assist young adults, judges, reviewers, attorneys and other professionals.

### **Evaluation and Data Collection Recommendations**

#### I. Evaluation Tool.

- A. Currently, federal requirements mandate that all states implement a 22-question National Young Adults in Transition Database (NYTD) survey with all Young Adults in foster care at 17, and then again at 19 and 21. Nebraska implemented this survey with 17-year-olds in Oct. 2010 and will do so again in Oct. of this year (selection occurs every 3 years). States have the option of implementing two more comprehensive versions of NYTD instead of the basic 22-question survey, which are known as NYTD Plus Abbreviated (57 questions) and NYTD Plus Full (88 questions). *In order to compare outcomes of young adults in the extended services and support program to those who are not in the program, we recommend that DHHS switch from the 22-question NYTD survey to a slightly altered version of NYTD Plus Abbreviated. We also recommend that all young adults in the extended program be surveyed at the time of entry and every 6 months after so progress can be tracked.* Gathering data every 6 months will also allow for outcomes to be measured for young adults who participate in the program for a shorter period of time, such as 1 year. Surveys from young adults in the extended program can be collected either at two set times per year (similar to how Project Everlast/Opportunity Passport collect surveys) or at regular 6 month intervals, which the caseworker will be responsible for tracking. Surveys may be collected from young adults *not* in the extended program at 19 and 21, per federal guidelines. DHHS case workers can enlist providers to help in reaching and gathering data from young adults. If possible, we recommend that random ID numbers be assigned to maintain confidentiality.
- B. DHHS explore the possibility of other providers and stakeholders adding to the control group data (young adults who are not in the extended program) by collecting the same altered version of NYTD Plus Abbreviated from their populations served, or by otherwise supporting the collection of this data. For example, the Regions could add a question to their Transition Age Young Adults (TAY) Referral Form asking if the young person has taken the NYTD survey. If it is not possible for data collected by providers and stakeholders to be stored with DHHS's data, we recommend that there be a way to easily and quickly consolidate data when needed for purposes of analysis.

- C. DHHS look into private funding streams to explore the possibility of offering incentives to both groups of young adults to encourage participation in the survey.

## II. Fiscal Accountability.

- A. DHHS track all expenditures and provide quarterly reports detailing itemized program service costs and program administrative costs, including specifics about administrative costs, salaries, etc., to the Advisory Committee. This should also include itemized adoption/guardianship costs and the state-extended guardianship assistance program costs.
- B. The Advisory Committee reviews these reports, provides recommendations to DHHS and the Children's Commission if necessary, and includes the financial reports and any recommendations made as a part of their annual report to the Children's Commission, HHS Committee of the Legislature, DHHS, and the Governor of the state of Nebraska.

## III. Tracking Supportive Services.

- A. To ensure young adults are receiving the supportive services they need to guide them to success, case managers should clearly document and track specific services provided in the young adult's transition plan and in reports for case reviews and permanency hearings.
- B. Judges or hearing officers or both should utilize a series of age-appropriate questions modeled after those in Through the Eyes' Transition Planning Guide (currently in progress) or in NRCYD's resource during hearings to asking young adults about their transition plan, services they're receiving, etc.
- C. An independent agency should review a sampling of case files for young adults in the extended program to track service provision.

## IV. Young Adult Satisfaction.

- A. To assess young adults' experiences with case management, case reviews, attorneys, etc., one-page satisfaction surveys should be provided to young adults just before case reviews and permanency hearings. This would be distinct from, but could be combined with or otherwise accompany, the Young Adults Court Questionnaire.
- B. Judges or hearing officers should review these surveys before the hearing, speak one-on-one to the young adult if needed, and use this feedback in making orders regarding service provision. Likewise, the entity in charge of case reviews should review these surveys before the review, speak one-on-one to the young adult if needed, and use this feedback during the case review.
- C. A comprehensive exit survey is collected from young adults leaving the program to assess the reason for leaving and overall satisfaction with the experience. We recommend that DHHS explore public/private partnerships to make this happen.

## V. Public/Private Partnership.

- A. DHHS should seek private funding and explore public/private partnerships to support the implementation of these recommendations.

## **Fiscal Monitoring Issues and State Funded Guardianship**

*Note: Recommendations (all committee members strongly agreed or agreed with the following (listed in prioritized order) :*

- I. **DHHS will need to remove barriers to licensure (including educating potential guardians of the benefits of licensure and providing a list of long term care options, educating case workers, non-safety waivers) to ensure that more young adults can be served by the Federal Guardianship Assistance Program.**
- II. **Information regarding extended services should be continuously provided to all relevant court stakeholders (judges, hearing officers, attorneys) to ensure that orders and petitions are IV-E compliant.**
- III. **DHHS should provide an easy-to-understand document (script?) to all case workers, judges, appointed attorneys, applicable young adults, providers, potential guardians and foster parents detailing the eligibility requirements for the Voluntary Young Adult Supportive Services program.**
- IV. **DHHS will provide financial support for extended guardianships to the extent possible with the \$400,000 appropriation, after which the young adult should be transferred to NCFE (or other entity) for money distribution and education/work eligibility. DHHS should continue to maintain NFOCUS records and provide Medicaid.**
- V. **If the state general funds appropriation (\$400,000) can be matched with private funds, an Income Maintenance Foster Care (IMFC) worker should review the financial needs and behavioral risks of the young adult prior to the age of 19 to determine the amount of subsidy to be provided by the state subsidized guardianship.**
- VI. **If the state general fund allocation of \$400,000 is the only funding source permitted to support the State Subsidized Extended Guardianship program, the following recommendations have been made (listed in priority order) to determine eligibility:**
  - A. Financial support to the young adult at the assessed rate until the age of 20 (one year).
- VII. **No formal case management services will be provided under the state subsidized guardianship. Instead, an IMFC worker should conduct the initial eligibility assessment, with the young adult meeting with the IMFC once every 6 months to verify continued eligibility.**

State funded extended guardianship assistance should be paid directly to the young adult, or as developmentally appropriate, direct payment to the young adult could be phased in over time. A partnership agreement between the guardian and young adult should be considered and other staggering support system should be in place to learn how to budget appropriately.
- VIII. **For any young adult whose guardian fails or is unable to distribute the supportive payment to the young adult, DHHS should set forth a grievance procedure.**