



**Foster Care Review Office
B2i Case Review Report
February 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015**

Nebraska's Bridge to Independence Program (**B2i**) was designed to maximize opportunities and supports for the young adult ages 19 and 20 as they transition from foster care to adulthood. DHHS started serving young adults in the B2i program in October of 2014.

The Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) was given the responsibility of oversight by the Legislature to ensure that the program is meeting the needs of young adults who are enrolled in the Bridge to Independence (B2i) program. The FCRO began work immediately on the case review tools and development of the process for reviews. Along the way the FCRO consulted with young adults, DHHS, the Children's Commission and B2i committees to ensure that the case review process, data collection tools and data to be collected were aligned with the program's goals.

DHHS Independence Coordinators (ICs) have been working individually with the young adults enrolled in the program since October, 2014. The Young Adult and their IC develop a plan and then work on the goals they have outlined. The IC assists the young adult through "authentic engagement". This ultimately means that the young adult is the decision maker and the IC provides adult counsel and guidance. This ensures that the young adult is taking ownership for their choices and decisions while they have the support of their IC.

Starting in February 2015 the Foster Care Review Office began case reviews with young adults that had been enrolled in the B2i program for at least 4 months, with the goal of reviewing the cases of young adults every 6 months thereafter. Starting in September 2015 the FCRO began second case reviews of those still enrolled in the program.

As part of the case review process, the FCRO Review Specialist notifies DHHS IC Supervisors of the young adult's cases that will be reviewed during the next month. The IC notifies the young adult and a time is scheduled that best accommodates the young adult. The Review Specialist then meets with the young adult enrolled in the program to gather information and insight as to how the program is working from their perspective.

Initially cases were being reviewed "face to face" in a place of the young adult's choosing. However conference calls became the standard vehicle for case reviews with the young adult due to scheduling conflicts with the young adult, distance and the need to be flexible in order to meet with the young adult at a time that best met their work and school schedules. It does not appear that the young adult finds the conference call method to be less "friendly", nor do they hold back from participating in a meaningful way in their case review. Young adults are given a choice of a face to face whenever possible and the majority choose to the conference call option as it better fits their busy lifestyle.

This report focuses on the findings and data collected from **91 first** case reviews that occurred from **February 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015**. Data from the second cases that began in September of 2015 are not a part of this report.

Of the initial 91 first case reviews:

- There were 59 (64.8%) females and 32 (35.2%) males.
- Race:
 - White 59 (64.8%)
 - Black 19 (20.9%)
 - Asian 3 (3.3%)
 - American Indian 3 (3.3%)
 - Other or Unknown 7 (7.7%)

- Ethnicity:
 - Hispanic 17 (18.7%)
 - Non-Hispanic 71 (78%)
 - Unknown 3 (3.3%)
- Service Areas:
 - 46 (50.5%) Eastern
 - 25 (27.5%) Southeast
 - 10 (11%) Central
 - 6 (6.6%) Northern
 - 4 (4.4%) Western
- The majority were living in shared (59.3%) or independent (16.5%) housing.
- Of the female population, 16.9% were expecting a child and 26.4% of the females were already parenting at least one child.
- Of the population reviewed, 4 were married, 87 were single.
- Of the young adult reviewed, eligibility at time of entry was listed as:
 - Completing High School 11
 - Post-Secondary Education 38
 - Special Programs 13
 - Employed 80 Hours Per Month 52
 - Medically or DD Incapable 2
- **Some had more than one category checked.*
- Employment:
 - 37.4% were employed full-time
 - 18.7% were employed part-time.
 - 33% were seeking employment at the time of the review.
- Education:
 - 10 (11.0%) were enrolled in high school (4 full-time /6 part-time)
 - 29 (31.9%) were pursuing post-secondary education (25 full-time /4 part-time).

The goal is that B2i data can be used as a longitudinal approach to measuring the progression of the young adult throughout their time in the B2i program. For example: stabilization of their housing; employment; high school completion, and entry into and possible completion of post-secondary education.

It is also envisioned that by looking at areas that the young adult is working on during the ages of 19-20 may lead to the re-examination of the programs and services for youth ages 14 through 18 that are in the foster care system to ensure that those services are developmentally appropriate and aligned with the needs and interests of the youth to better prepare them for their transition to adulthood.

During the first round of B2i many of the young adults had been out of foster care and on their own prior to enrolling in B2i. Those young adults who were age 20 and almost age 21 had a shorter experience with B2i prior to aging out of the program. Some of those enrolled near 21, aged out before they had a case review. Others were just turning 19 and starting their transition into adulthood and will have the full benefit of B2i until they age out at age 21. Over time it may be helpful to look at the various points of entry to see if the young adults have more or less need of specific services. It may also be beneficial to look at the types of services received from providers while living in certain types of placements.

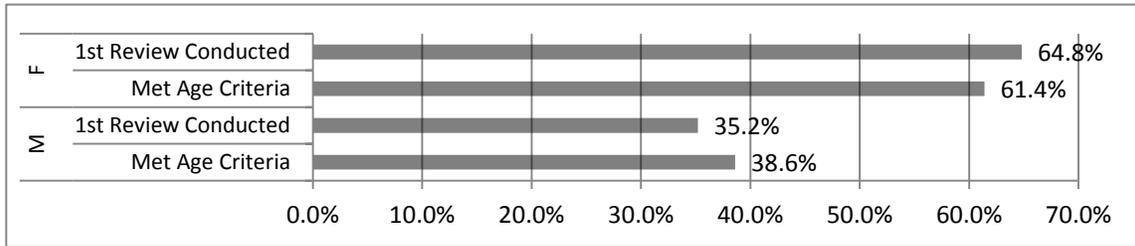
Based on our initial case reviews, case plans were written with the young adult's involvement 100% of the time, and NYTD was completed for 90 of the 91 young adults reviewed. Independence Coordinators were found to be meeting with the young adults on a monthly basis as required, 100% of the time.

As this program continues and additional data is gathered from second case reviews we will be better able to analyze the data collected to determine what additional goals are focused on, the appropriateness of the goals based on the needs of the young adult, and how the young adult is progressing in each goal category.

Met Age Criteria to 1st Review Conducted Demographic Comparison

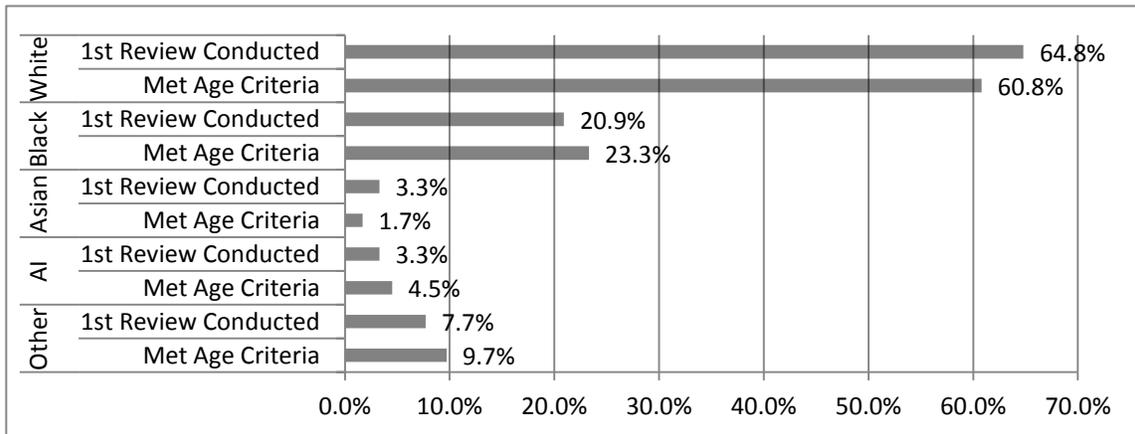
Gender

Met Age Criteria (19 & 20)			1st Review Conducted		
Male	68	38.6%	Male	32	35.2%
Female	108	61.4%	Female	59	64.8%
Total	176	100%	Total	91	100%



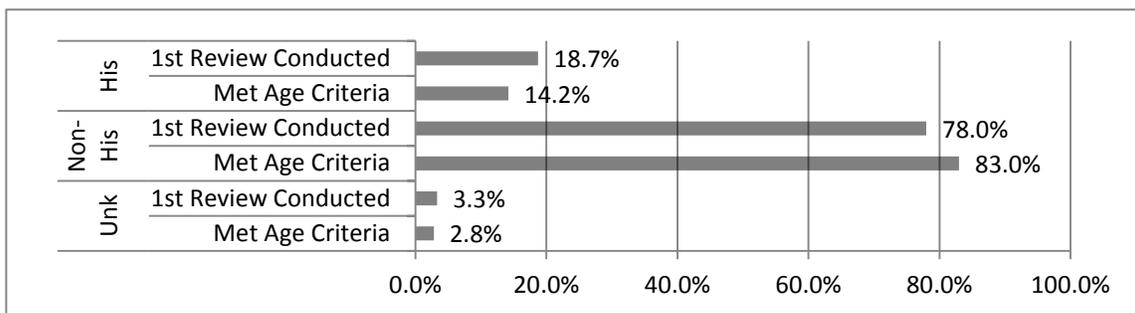
Race

Met Age Criteria (19 & 20)			1st Review Conducted		
White	107	60.8%	White	59	64.8%
Black	41	23.3%	Black	19	20.9%
Asian	3	1.7%	Asian	3	3.3%
American Indian	8	4.5%	American Indian	3	3.3%
Other or Unknown	17	9.7%	Other or Unknown	7	7.7%
Total	176	100%	Total	91	100%



Ethnicity

Met Age Criteria (19 & 20)			1st Review Conducted		
Hispanic	25	14.2%	Hispanic	17	18.7%
Non-Hispanic	146	83.0%	Non-Hispanic	71	78.0%
Unknown	5	2.8%	Unknown	3	3.3%
Total	176	100%	Total	91	100%



1st Case Review Details (91 Total)

Gender	Count	Percent
Female	59	64.8%
Male	32	35.2%
Total	91	100.0%

IVE	Count	Percent
No	60	65.9%
Yes	23	25.3%
Unknown	8	8.8%
Total	91	100.0%

Marital Status	Count	Percent
Single	87	95.6%
Married	4	4.4%
Total	91	100.0%

Pregnant	Count	Percent
No	49	83.1%
Yes	10	16.9%
Total	59	100.0%

With Children	Count	Percent
No	67	73.6%
Yes	24	26.4%
Total	91	100.0%

Eligibility at Entry	Count
Comp. High School	11
Post-Secondary	38
Special Programs	13
Emp. 80 Hours/Month	52
Med/DD Incapable	2
Total (*Multi. Resp.)	116

Some have more than one eligibility at entry

Service Area	Count	Percent
Eastern	46	50.5%
Southeast	25	27.5%
Central	10	11.0%
Northern	6	6.6%
Western	4	4.4%
Total	91	100.0%

Enrolled in School	Count	Percent
Yes	39	42.9%
- High School	10	11.0%
-- Full-Time	4	4.4%
-- Part-Time	6	6.6%
- Post Secondary	29	31.9%
-- Full-Time	25	27.5%
-- Part-Time	4	4.4%
No	52	57.1%
Total	91	100.0%

Housing Type	Count	Percent
Shared housing	54	59.3%
Independent Housing	15	16.5%
Relative	9	9.9%
Dorm or campus housing	5	5.5%
With parent/guardian	3	3.3%
Couch Surfing	2	2.2%
Foster Home	1	1.1%
Host Homes	1	1.1%
Trans. Housing	1	1.1%
Total	91	100.0%

Employment Status	Count	Percent
Full Time	34	37.4%
Seeking	30	33.0%
Part Time	17	18.7%
Not Seeking	10	11.0%
Total	91	100.0%

The following data has been filtered to only include 1st reviews between 02/01/2015-09/30/2015. Future analysis on subsequent reviews will be provided at a later date.