

**LR 514: Extended Supports & Services for Youth Leaving Juvenile Justice
Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee Report
October 4th, 2016**

History

2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge to Independence (LR216) passed • Youth in juvenile services were originally included; removed during legislative process with intent to explore inclusion at a later date.
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taskforce of the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee gathered • Explore needs of youth leaving the juvenile justice system without a safe & stable home to return. • Gathered information, via focus groups/surveys, from youth and professionals • Explored four options; selected two to recommend to Senator Bolz
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LB 866: Transition to Adult Living Success Program Act • Moved from committee; no legislative floor action • LR514: Extended Supports and Services interim study

LR514

Purpose: Examine the availability of transition services for youth who will leave or have left the juvenile justice system while in an out-of-home placement and to determine whether additional transition services are needed. This shall include:

- Examining potential sources of increased funding, including federal funding, and other options to increase access to supportive services for youth leaving Nebraska's juvenile justice system and transitioning into adulthood;
- Identifying methods for gauging and accessing the population to be served;
- Investigating options for program structuring; and
- Mapping opportunities to collaborate with or utilize existing community and state programming for older youth who lack supportive connections.

Partners: DHHS, Probation Administration, Voices for Children, Nebraska Appleseed, and Nebraska Children

Consultants: Mainsprings & Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative

Population

- Review data to narrow to young adults without adequate supports.
- Resulting Population:
 - Leaving Probation jurisdiction in out-of-home placement at age 19; and,
 - At risk of exiting Probation into homelessness, or other critical factors existed preventing reunification with the juvenile's family of origin.
- Attempted to avoid:
 - Youth with adequate family support, but in out of home placement for treatment,
 - Youth with a charge immediately prior to age 19 that resulted in removal from home while they were awaiting filing; and,
 - Youth in jail awaiting transfer to adult corrections.

Eligibility Criteria Recommendation

- Two Parts
 - In out of home placement at age 19
 - A “contrary to the best interest” dispositional order, as the prompt for out of home placement
- Rationale for this language:
 - Addresses ethical and legal concerns with other options.
 - Sets clear guidance in statute.
 - This a difficult population to capture without allowing too much discretion.
- Ensuring salability
 - Getting the best eligibility, to show prevention and provides long-term cost savings.
 - Provide case studies of youth who were doing well and didn’t have anywhere to go after their cases closed.
 - Utilize CYI numbers to get an estimate of the numbers of young people communities are seeing come into older youth services after leaving Probation.

Interagency Agreement Recommendation

- Establish agreement between Probation Administration & DHHS to:
 - Access Title IV-E funds for youth in out of home placement prior to age 19,
 - Ease the transition from Probation Administration into Bridge to Independence; and,
 - Ease the ability to access Title IV-E funds for youth accessing Bridge to Independence after Probation

Next Steps

October 4th: Share B2I Advisory Committee feedback with Mainsprings.

October 7th: Core Team meeting to review analysis draft

October 13th: Final analysis for hearing complete

October 19th: LR514 Hearing (Health and Human Services Committee, 1:00pm, Room 1510)

November: B2I Advisory Committee Report & Recommendations submitted to Children’s Commission for approval