

### **APPLA Subcommittee Recommendations to improve outcomes for Transition Age Youth (14-18):**

The Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) subcommittee of the Strengthening Families Act Committee would like to recommend the creation of “Transition Age Youth Advocates” in each service area in order to be knowledgeable champions and supports for case managers throughout the state, in order to better serve older youth in care. Below are some recommendations the committee would like to propose for consideration. The concept is similar to the ICWA Specialist, which is currently utilized by DHHS to help strengthen advocacy and expertise for ICWA cases.

1. Designate “Transition Age Youth Advocates” in each Service Area.
  - a. Youth Advocates should be supervisory level staff to help ensure continuity and multiply impact with CFSS on their teams
  - b. Youth Advocates should work to build relationships with community service providers and CIY in their area
  - c. Youth Advocates should receive pay differential to compensate for their additional duties and specialized skills
  - d. Youth Advocates should have a reduced caseload if they are not supervisory level
  - e. ESA shall designate Youth Advocates for their area as well and shall be part of meetings with Youth Advocates across the state
2. The Program Specialist responsibilities:
  - a) Conduct regular meetings with Youth Advocates to:
    - i. Share successes
    - ii. Discuss process improvement
    - iii. Address challenges in the field
    - iv. Review CQI data
  - b) Coordinate specialized training for Youth Advocates
3. Specialized training in youth engagement and/or positive youth development should be made available to all staff
4. Foster parents should receive specialized training on youth engagement and services for transition age youth