

LCPA Monthly Meeting Minutes
Date of Meeting: 11/3/21

Overdue Annual List (Nicci Chenowith):

- Nicci gave an update on the overdue annual list. There are 771 foster families with overdue resources, which means there is at least one missing checklist item. In terms of percentage, there are 35% of LCPA homes which are non-compliant. Nicci will continue to have the Foster Care team send letters to LCPAs to notify that they have home(s) on the list along with description of the non-compliances.

State Forms (Nicci Chenowith):

- Nicci reminded the LCPA agency staff that they are to be using the most recent and updated state forms which are posted DCS website.

Updates regarding SAFE (Nicci Chenowith):

1. Consortium for Children released two new tools: Preparing the Family for the SAFE Home Study Process, talking points and Preparing the Family, sample letter. These tools could be beneficial for practitioners and supervisors if individuals are having a hard time explaining the SAFE Home Study process/model to foster parents/applicants.
2. The SAFE Home Study Update Template has been edited to include a few more prompts within the 'Children Placed in Home' section of the home study. These question prompts were the result of an improvement workgroup. These are located on the SAFE website.

New Foster Care Consultants (Nicci Chenowith):

- As of 11/1/21 Foster Care unit has two new Foster Care Consultants, Brittany Mitchell and Emily Young.
 - Brittany.Mitchell@dcs.in.gov
 - Emily.young@dcs.in.gov

High Acuity Youth needs (Crystal Whitis):

- DCS is struggling greatly to find treatment, service, and placement options for high acuity/high needs youth.
- Identifying foster homes for high needs youth, outside of residential care, is proving to be increasingly difficult.
- There are many complex issues that seem to be adding to these struggles: the pandemic and the aftereffects, the staffing crisis, implementation of FFPSA and the focus on serving more youth in foster care if they do not meet the need for residential treatment. This is not an issue unique to Indiana, most states are experiencing similar struggles.
- Those on the call were asked for their thoughts regarding high acuity youth:
 1. DCS staff gives as much information on the history of the child/youth as possible. David Reed cautioned it is not always possible to always know and communicate the total background of youth. There will be surprises and the unexpected behaviors etc.

- when engaging with children/youth. Staff are encouraged to recognize the unexpected and do our best to provide services matched to the client's needs.
2. A possible idea was discussed to establish weekly or biweekly calls with LCPAs and DCS to partner, match kids properly to foster/adoptive home and discuss creative solutions. Chris Daley volunteered to formulate a survey for LCPA staff, then provide results to David Reed/Crystal Whitis.
 3. Continue to staff a specific child/youth in care during calls so that questions can be asked and brainstorming can occur.
- Debra Corn agency spoke to the need to learn to be open in accepting high need kids by providers. Foster parents would be receptive to accept higher need kids, but only if providers support the foster parents.
 - Chris Daley talked about whether home-based services and LCPAs work collaboratively and help to prevent placement disruptions and create placement stability. If additional referrals or services are needed to meet the individual needs of the youth it is possible to do so. Please take those recommendations/requests to the Child and Family Team and if there are additional questions reach out to Residential Licensing. It is important to create stable pathways for service delivery to youth/families.
 - When FCMs/LCPAs receive a generalized lack of response from DCS about these requests for referrals, please forward your concern to David Reed, Crystal Whitis, Whitney Vowels and/or the Service Coordinator in your area.
 - Discussion regarding how we can build technology to create a framework to better serve families/youth, while realizing LCPAs still need contractually to accumulate paperwork from FCMs etc.
 - Need to build a better framework so that when disruptions in resource homes occur, the stressful rush to secure new placement option is minimized or streamlined as much as possible.

Youth Staffing:

- Alexis Carrier (Marion County – FCM) joined the call to staff youth I.P.
- I.P. was removed at age 6 and is now 17 years in age. He has had a consistent FCM which is rare.
- I.P. placed into residential care while too young and then was adopted and it was not successful.
- I.P. is frequently in survival mode, aggressive while with peers and attending school. Has attended Emergency Shelter Care centers. Currently, has charts documenting the lack of aggressive behavior and fights.
- I.P. has most recently been sleeping at the DCS office or Family Support Center.
- I.P. receives mentoring services and day programming services. DCS staff are seeing positive changes in that he has shown a decrease in defiant behaviors and is compliant with rules and staff.
- I.Q is 78.
- I.P. Mom's parental rights are terminated. Mom has substance use history and is reportedly still using. Mom has been inappropriate to I.P. on social media and has blocked I.P. from contact with mom. Grandfather shows interest in connecting with I.P.,

but not to engage in Kinship care. Group homes are not a good fit for I.P. due to struggles with peers.

- If you have any questions, thoughts, or potential homes that might be a fit, please contact Alexis Carrier at Alexis.Carrier@dcs.in.gov

Next LCPA meeting is 12/1/21 at 2pm eastern time.