



State of South Carolina

Department of Social Services

Policies and Guidelines: Child Welfare Services

Subject	600 Young Adult Transitional Teaming and Permanency Planning
Authority	Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351); Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123); John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood 42 USC 677; S.C. Code Section 63-7-1700; S.C. Code Section 63-7-2330; S.C. Code Section 63-7-2750; S.C. Code Section 63-7-2760; S.C. Code Section 63-7-2770
Standards	Guiding Principles and Standards (GPS) Practice Model
Application	Transition Services and Support staff, Child Welfare Services Foster Care and Adoptions staff, and Placement Services Division staff
Purpose	
To outline the policy guidelines for periodic review and permanency planning to review the Transition Plan and the status of each young adult in Transition Services and Support (TSS), using an individualized, young adult-guided, and strengths-based approach; encouraging young adults to have a voice in the decision-making process throughout the life of their case. The periodic review is implemented through a Young Adult Transitional Teaming meeting which provides a forum to create and sustain life-long relationships and supportive adult teams with young adults, their support system, and professionals who share a common purpose of relational permanency, a unified effort, and a demonstrated effectiveness in problem-solving towards successful transition into adulthood. Permanency Planning hearings are held in Family Court.	
Policy Statement	
Periodic Case Review: Within six (6) months of a young adult entering a Voluntary Services and Support Agreement to remain in or enter the extended foster care program or within 6 months of a Family Court order to extend foster care for a young adult who due to a physical, intellectual, emotional, or psychiatric impairment cannot execute a Voluntary Services and Support Agreement DSS or a contracted provider must conduct a Young Adult Transitional Teaming (YATT) to review whether the young adult is safe in his or her placement, whether continued foster care is appropriate, whether appropriate and meaningful independent living skill services are provided, and progress towards achieving successful transition to adulthood. YATT participants must include persons necessary to support the young adult's successful achievement of independence, at least one of whom is not responsible for case management. The YATT shall include the development or update of a Transition Plan, to assess progress toward goals and shall result in recommendations to all YATT participants and the Family Court in a written report on DSS Form 30209. After the initial YATT, DSS or a contracted provider shall conduct a YATT at six-month intervals for as long as the young adult remains in the extended foster care program.	

Subject: Young Adult Transitional Teaming and Permanency Planning

Permanency Planning Hearing:

Within twelve months of a young adult entering a Voluntary Services and Support Agreement or within twelve months of a Family Court Order retaining a young adult in foster care beyond the young adult's 18th birthday due to a physical, intellectual, emotional, or psychiatric impairment, the Family Court conducts a permanency planning hearing to review the young adult's Transition Plan and the Department's efforts to prepare the young adult for a successful transition to adulthood. The Family Court conducts a permanency planning hearing at 12-month intervals for as long as the young adult remains in extended foster care.

Policy Administration

The Division of Child Welfare Services' Office of Operations is the owner of this policy. The Operations Director, or designee, shall review this policy annually from the date published in the Child Welfare Services Policy Manual, or as needed due to changes in law or practice.

Policy Guidelines

A. Young Adult Transitional Teaming (YATT)	1. A YATT shall be convened every six months following the date the Voluntary Services and Support Agreement (VSSA) was signed or the entry of a Family Court Order retaining a young adult in foster care beyond his or her 18th birthday. The YATT shall: a. Review the well-being and goals detailed in the Transition Plan and progress being made; b. Include the young adult and any other supportive adults identified by the young adult; c. Include a Placement Services Coordinator and/or Well-Being Team member, if applicable, when there is a potential need for placement; d. Include at least one YATT participant not associated with case management; e. Make reasonable efforts to include more non-professionals than professionals; and f. Be customized to facilitate the maximum level of participation of the young adult with an agenda co-developed with the Transitional Youth Advocate. Note: Please refer to Policy 546: Extension of Foster Care for Young Adults Age 18-21 for VSSA requirements. 2. The team conducting the YATT shall present its next steps and recommendations in a written report to all YATT participants via DSS Form 30209. This report shall also be filed with the Family Court prior to any Permanency Planning Hearing concerning the young adult. 3. Please refer to Work Aid 600.1 for specific practice guidance on YATT meetings.
B. Permanency Planning Hearings for Young Adults in Transition	1. Permanency Planning Hearings must be held annually for young adults in Extended Foster Care. The court shall review: a. The updated Transition Plan to include information about the young adult's well-being and goals and agency efforts

Subject: Young Adult Transitional Teaming and Permanency Planning

Services and Support	to provide supportive services as well as the YATT report and recommendations (DSS Form 30209); b. Progress being made to cultivate relationships with supportive adults who can provide relational permanency for the young adult; and c. Whether the young adult wants to remain in extended foster care and whether remaining in extended foster care is in the young adult's best interest. 2. The department initiates the Permanency Planning Hearing by filing a motion, supplemental report which includes the Transition Plan and most recent DSS Form 30209. The motion, supplemental report, and notice of the Permanency Planning hearing must be served on the young adult at least ten (10) days before the hearing. The notice of the Permanency Hearing shall include information on how the young adult can request an attorney if the young adult desires legal representation. The young adult is not required to file a responsive pleading. 3. The supplemental report shall include: a. Information necessary to support a determination that remaining in extended foster care is in the young adult's best interest and that the young adult remains eligible; and b. A Transition Plan which states specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound (S.M.A.R.T.) goals and objectives, reinforced by services and supports. 4. DSS works to support a young adult toward being: a. Prepared for the Permanency Planning Hearing; b. Present for the hearing; c. An active participant in the hearing; d. Encouraged to include any other supportive adult to attend; and e. Informed and supported through the process of requesting legal representation, if necessary. 5. If a young adult is unable to enter a Voluntary Services and Support Agreement due to a physical, intellectual, emotional, or psychiatric impairment but is remaining in foster care until the department coordinates services appropriate for a safe exit from foster care, annual Permanency Planning Hearings continue to be held in accordance with S.C. Code Section 63-7-1700.
-----------------------------	--

Forms and Related Documents	DSS Form 30135: Voluntary Services and Support Agreement DSS Form 30206: Transition Plan DSS Form 30209: Young Adult Transitional Teaming Summary DSS Form 37166: Education and Training Voucher Application
Related Management	Foster Care Teen Report CAPSS Batch Report Transition Plan Meeting

Reports	CAPSS Batch Report EFC Case Review
---------	------------------------------------

Glossary

Bridge Navigator: The TSS staff trained and assigned to facilitate YATTs when a young adult reaches the age of 18. Bridge Navigators implement referrals, engagement, planning, and support to promote a young adult's continuum of care in life skills development, stability, safety, permanency, and well-being. Bridge Navigators must participate in the CFTMs for young adults 17 and 17.5. The Bridge Navigator may participate, as needed, in transition meetings and/or CFTM planning at ages 14-16 where they provide guidance and support.

Young Adult Transitional Teaming (YATT): a periodic administrative case review for young adults ages 18-21 in extended foster care. The YATT must occur every 6 months provided the young adult is in extended foster care. Once the young adult has signed the VSSA they are assigned to the TSS Division with a Transitional Youth Advocate and no longer assigned to a Foster Care case manager or adoption case manager. However, they will still require placement services and supports. The YATT is intended to integrate permanency and transition planning.

The meeting is young adult-centered, culturally responsive, goal-orientated, and problem-solving processes that bring together the Team to support decisions about safety, permanency, and well-being through the development of an individualized permanency and Transition Plan. YATTs are planned in advance so that meaningful participation and preparation for all members is possible.

Extension of Foster Care (EFC) Services: Assistance provided to an eligible young adult who ages out of foster care at age 18, and who is between 18-21 years of age during service delivery, to obtain education, housing, employment, well-being, health services, and permanent supportive relationships. SCDSS has placement and care responsibility for the young adult and also provides a foster care board payment, paid through a foster parent, group home, or supervised independent living setting, unless the young adult is living independently. If the young adult is living independently all or a part of the foster care board payment is paid directly to the young adult.

Placement and care responsibility: The authority conveyed through the court, through written authorization prior to the child's eighteenth birthday, or through a Voluntary Services and Support Agreement to provide supervision of the young adult and the young adult's placement.

Placement Services Coordinator: the person responsible for identifying safe, stable, and appropriate licensed and/or contracted placement for young adults

Supervised Independent Living setting: Any housing arrangement that is licensed or approved by the DSS and which makes support services for a successful transition to adulthood available to the young adult. Case management for the young adult must be provided by the department or a contracted provider. The young adult must reside in the setting voluntarily and the setting does not include wilderness camps or training schools, nor does it include any facility that exists primarily for the detention or correction of youth or young adults.

Supportive Adult: an individual who is at least 18 years old, contributes to the well-being and personal development of a young adult and may provide emotional,

Subject: Young Adult Transitional Teaming and Permanency Planning

educational, moral, and physical support to a young adult. Supportive adults can be in various roles including friend, mentor, sibling, family, caregiver, parent, and foster parent.

Transition Plan: A written case plan that is personalized, as detailed as the young adult may elect, and that includes specific options on housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for mentors and for continuing support services, work force supports, and employment services. A transition plan also must include information about the importance of designating another individual to make health care treatment decisions on behalf of the young adult if the young adult becomes unable to participate in such decisions and the young adult does not have, or does not want, a relative who would otherwise be authorized to make such decisions, and provides the young adult with the option to execute a health care power of attorney or health care proxy.

Transitional Youth Advocate: The TSS staff assigned primary responsibility for case management support, including engaging and preparing the young adult for permanency and a successful transition to adulthood by developing and implementing a plan, in collaboration with the young adult, private providers, supportive adults, and extended team members.

Transitional Supports and Services (TSS) Team Lead: the TSS staff assigned to support and manage Transitional Youth Advocates and Bridge Navigators and ensure high alignment with Regional Case Manager Team Supervisors and Managers regarding transition age youth. They are also trained team meeting facilitators.

Voluntary Services and Support Agreement: a written agreement, binding on the young adult and DSS, which describes at a minimum, the legal status of the young adult, as well as the rights and obligations of the young adult and the department while the young adult is under the placement and care responsibility of the department.

Young Adult: for the purpose of extended foster care, a person who is at least 18 and no older than 21 years of age