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Date: 06/16/2022 12:21 PM
Subject: Fwd: Safe and Sound Task Force High Acuity Youth Process

FYI-

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From: "Mucha, Marsha" <marsha.mucha@csa.virginia.gov>
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Date: Thu, 16 Jun 2022 11:55:49 -0400
Subject: Fwd: Safe and Sound Task Force High Acuity Youth Process

Please be aware of the following Broadcast issues today through the DSS Fusion site.

Scott

Scott Reiner
Executive Director
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From: Fusion Server <donotreply@dss.virginia.gov>

Date: Thu, Jun 16, 2022 at 10:13 AM

Subject: Safe and Sound Task Force High Acuity Youth Process

To: <scott.reiner@csa.virginia.gov>

Safe and Sound Task Force High Acuity Youth Process

Categories: [Family Services](#)

This broadcast is being sent to inform local departments of social services (LDSS) of the Safe and Sound Task Force process related to high acuity youth in foster care for whom the LDSS has not been able to secure a placement.

Members of the Safe and Sound Task Force Core Team have developed this process to provide support and technical assistance to agencies after the agency has exhausted all resources known to them.

Please note:

One of the successes of the Task Force is the ability to mobilize quickly and adapt the response process as more effective strategies are identified. This process is expected to continue to evolve as additional resources and strategies are brought online.

The following process is in effect as of June 20 until further notice:

Step One. LDSS notify their Permanency Practice Consultant and Regional Director via email as soon as possible when they have a high acuity youth in foster care for whom they cannot identify a placement or who is at risk of being displaced. This includes youth in one or more of the following scenarios:

Youth Currently Displaced

- Youth who are residing at the local agency or in a hotel because no placement is available
- Youth who are spending more than 1 night in an emergency department because of a psychiatric crisis
- Youth who enter foster care and for whom a placement cannot be immediately identified

Youth at risk of being displaced

- Youth who are residing in acute care (private inpatient psychiatric facilities or CCCA) and are ready for discharge but no step down placement has been identified.
- Youth who are in any setting, including psychiatric residential facilities or other congregate care settings, who are being discharged, and there is no identified placement.

Step Two. The Permanency Practice Consultants will provide technical assistance to the LDSS to suggest additional steps or strategies the LDSS may take to identify a placement for their youth. If placement is identified, no further action will be taken by VDSS or the Task Force. If a placement is not identified, the process will continue to step three.

Step Three.

- If the youth is displaced, the Permanency Practice Consultants will submit the High Acuity Youth Form to Home Office Staff (Project Manager and Foster Care Program Manager) within one business day.
- If a youth is at risk of displacement but not yet displaced, the Permanency consultant will work with the LDSS to complete and submit the High Acuity Youth Form as needed based upon the urgency and complexity of the youth's circumstances.

Step Four. VDSS will convene and facilitate a Go Team Meeting based on the urgency and complexity of the youth's circumstances.

Go Team Meetings The Go Team is comprised of representatives from the Governor's Office, Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), Local Department of Social Services (LDSS), Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), Department of Medical Assistance Services

(DMAS), and the Office of Children's Services (OCS). VDSS representatives include Home Office and Regional Staff. LDSS representatives include Director or designee and the assigned supervisor and/or caseworker who is familiar with the case details. The purpose of these meetings is to brainstorm placement ideas, identify interventions, and identify which private and/or public providers should be engaged in the process. Go Team meetings will typically take place between 12:00 and 2:00 on Tuesdays. Cases will be assigned 30 minute time slots. Emergency meetings will be scheduled as needed at 12:30 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Step Five. If a placement has not been identified after the Go Team meeting, and it is determined that private and/or public providers should be engaged in the problem-solving process, VDSS will facilitate a Rapid Response Meeting.

Rapid Response Meetings will include participants from the GoTeam meetings with the addition of private and/or public providers, and the appropriate Managed Care Organization (MCO), and/or the Behavioral Health Services Administrator (BHSA). A variety of private providers will participate to represent the continuum of placements—residential placements, group homes, and TFC agencies. Providers will receive a summary (High Acuity Youth Form) of the youth needing placement prior to the meeting. The purpose of the Rapid Response Meetings is to collaborate and brainstorm solutions with community partners who can discuss how their organization may support a placement and/or what their organization may need to accept placement. LDSS are encouraged to include their local Children's Services Act (CSA) staff, local CSB staff, and any other members of the youth's team to participate in the Rapid Response Meetings. Meetings will typically take place between 12:00 and 2:00 on Thursday. Cases will be assigned 30 minute time slots.

This process is intended to be flexible to meet the unique needs of each youth and LDSS while a more sustainable process at the local level is developed. Within the flexibility of this process, some LDSS may not experience each level of this process and some LDSS may experience each level several times.

In instances where the LDSS is concerned that a High Acuity Youth may come into foster care and they may be unable to identify a placement, the LDSS should contact the In-Home Practice Consultant as well as the Permanency Practice Consultant to explore all options to prevent entry into foster care.

For more information, please contact your Regional Permanency Practice Consultant.