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Anna has worked as a Guardian ad Litem and family law attorney in the 11th Judicial District of Colorado for over 25 years. Anna is a strong advocate for children and was herself an emancipated youth before passage of the Chafee Act. She graduated from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas in 1989 before attending St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas. She graduated from law school in 1992 and moved to Colorado to begin her law practice which is still located in Canon City.

Discussion:

Is Emancipation really not permanency for some youth?

Anna will discuss the OPPLA permanency goal, including state guidelines and regulations. The discussion will also include benefits for emancipating youth, Chafee benefits, Medicaid, college tuition and FAFSA, and the pros and cons to consider for emancipating youth.

OPPLA Goal: 42 U.S.C. § 675(5)(C) and Children's Code § 19-3-702(4)

This goal is disfavored because not really a permanent placement. Court needs a compelling reason to order.

- Emancipation (18-21)
- Relative long-term foster care
- Non-relative long-term foster care

Benefits from OPPLA for emancipating youth:**1) MEDICAID:**

- Chafee FCIA 1999 42 U.S.C. 677 extended medicaid (for states opting in) for emancipating foster youth up to age 26.
- The ACA 2010, effective Jan. 1, 2014 REQUIRED foster youth who had Medicaid while in foster care and attained age 18 or emancipated from care to have Medicaid coverage through age 26. (42 U.S.C. § 1396(a)(10)(IX)).

2) Education Training Vouchers (ETV): 42 U.S.C. § 677(i) (part of Chafee Act):

- Eligible Youth can get up to \$5,000 a year for qualified school expenses from the state.
- Youth eligible IF:
 - Currently in foster care, adopted from foster care after attaining age 16, OR emancipated from care at age 18;
 - Citizen or qualified noncitizen;
 - Age 17-21 (reapplication up to age 23); AND
 - Has obtained a GED or HS diploma AND entering/enrolled in vocational or college-level training.

Apply by going to www.statevoucher.org

3) Chafee Services for youth ages 18-21: *Authorizes financial, housing, counseling, employment, educational, and other services for emancipating youth ages 18-21.**Other Benefits to youth emancipating that do NOT require OPPLA Goal:**

1) Youth in out-of-home care are at any time age 13 and up can apply to FAFSA as an "Independent Student," which do not need to report a parent or guardian's income on their application.

- The College Cost Reduction Act provides that for purposes of federal financial aid "independent student" includes youth who is "an orphan, in foster care, or a ward of the court at any time when the individual was 13 years of age or older." 20 U.S.C. 1087vv(B) (2015)

- 2) Independent Living Arrangement (ILA)/Stipend: § 19-1-103(65)
- Independent Living is not a permanency goal. 7.305.1; §19-3-702
 - Youth are ILA eligible IF:
 - 1) ages 16-21, AND
 - 2) Child was previously in out-of-home care OR in CORE services program 7.203.51.
 - Stipend determined on basis of goals in case plan and contract between youth and DHS 7.305.2(d)(3)(b).
 - Youth in ILA are still eligible for CORE services IF plan is for child to remain in placement permanently. 7.303.11
 - Independent Living Grants: Through Chafee, which is federally funded for youth ages 18 and older.
- 3) Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of (FCIA) 1999 Act (ages 18-21) 42 U.S.C. 677
- Chafee Services program does NOT require an OPPLA goal!
 - Youth are eligible for Chafee services IF:
 - Youth is 14-18 who have been in out-of-home care for minimum of 6 months (doesn't have to be consecutively.)
 - Youth turning 18 while in out-of-home placement (18-21)
 - Youth 16-21 that meet requirements for Relative Guardianship (RGAP) Assistance and entered RGAP at or after age 16.
 - Youth meeting requirements for adoption assistance age 16-21 and entered adoption at or after age 16; OR
 - Youth ages 18-21, who were in out-of-home care on their 18th birthday. 7.305.4
 - SERVICES:
 - Obtain a high school diploma
 - Vocational training
 - Job placement services
 - Substance abuse prevention
 - Preventative health activities
 - Preparation to enter post-secondary training
 - Personal and emotional support (i.e. mentoring)
 - Extended Medicaid
 - *Authorizes financial, housing (ILA Grants), counseling, employment, educational, and other services from ages 18-21. States may use up to 30 percent of FCIA funding for housing.

West's Colorado Administrative Code

Title 2500. Department of Human Services

2509. Social Services Rules (Volume 7; Child Welfare, Child Care Facilities)

12 CCR 2509-4. Rule Manual Volume 7 Child Welfare Services

12 CCR 2509-4:7.305

Alternatively cited as 12 CO ADC 2509-4

2509-4:7.305. EMANCIPATION SERVICES

[Currentness](#)

7.305.1 INDEPENDENT LIVING

Independent Living includes programs and services to prepare youth in out-of-home care for the transition from a structured living environment to living on their own. Services for all children and youth in out-of-home care should include efforts to build life skills and self-sufficiency competencies; however, such services are mandatory for youth fourteen (14) years of age and older.

7.305.2 SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

A. The county department shall assess all youth in foster care who have reached the age of fourteen (14) for independent living services and complete the independent living section of the Family Services Plan (FSP). This assessment and planning for independent living is required regardless of the specified permanency goal of the case plan.

B. The county department's assessment shall include documentation of:

1. The youth's capacity for self-sufficiency and self-support by reviewing daily living skills.
2. An evaluation of individual, family, community, and financial support resources available to promote emancipation or semi-independent living.

C. Following assessment, the Independent Living Plan (ILP) shall be developed in consultation with the youth, caseworker, care provider(s), and, at the option of the youth, up to two (2) other significant persons chosen by the youth who are not the foster parent or caseworker for the youth and documented in the FSP in the state automated system. If the county department of human or social services has good cause to believe an individual selected by the youth will not act in his or her best interest, the planning team may designate another advocate for the youth.

1. The case plan and court report following a staffing or meeting shall describe the services to help the youth transition to successful adulthood including, but not limited to, participation in on-going opportunities to engage in age and developmentally appropriate activities, and, if the youth is pregnant and/or a parent, the supports provided to the youth.

2. The case plan shall document the rights of the youth to education, health, visitation, court participation, the right to stay safe and avoid exploitation, and the right to receive a credit report annually. A signed acknowledgement that the youth was provided a copy of these rights and that they were explained in an age or developmentally appropriate way shall be included in the case plan.

D. Criteria and Use of Independent Living Arrangements for youth ages 16 to 21

The county department may make an independent living arrangement for youth ages 16 to 21 when the following criteria have been met:

1. The county department has legal authority for placement.
2. Placement in the independent living arrangement follows a period in out-of-home care or a period in an approved core services program provided or purchased by the county.
3. The county department shall establish a written policy for the use of the independent living arrangement stipend. The policy shall address the following:
 - a. Independent living arrangement funds shall be determined according to goals documented in the case plan and a current self-sufficiency budget developed in consultation with the youth.
 - b. Decisions to withhold independent living arrangement funds must be consistent with the previously mentioned treatment goals and withheld according to defined guidelines found in the county policy.
 - c. Timely and adequate written appeal and notification procedures for youth whose independent living arrangement funds are withheld.
4. A signed copy of the independent living arrangement contract and a signed acknowledgement that the youth was provided a copy of the county guidelines, and that both documents were explained in an age or developmentally appropriate way, shall be included in the case file.

E. Free Annual Credit Record Report for Youth Fourteen (14) Years of Age and Older in Foster Care

The following steps shall be taken:

1. The county department shall obtain free annual credit report information from the three credit reporting agencies designated by the Department for youth who are in foster care and are at least fourteen (14) years of age, and provide the information to the youth and Guardian ad Litem (GAL);

2. If the youth objects to obtaining the credit report, the county department shall inform the court and request that the court issue an order authorizing the county to obtain the credit report.

3. The county department shall maintain a copy of each credit report in the case record; and,

4. Should the annual report show evidence of any inaccuracies, the county department shall inform the court of the inaccuracies, refer the youth to a Colorado Department of Human Services approved governmental or non-profit entity to resolve the inaccuracies, and inform the GAL of the referral.

F. Emancipation Transition Plan

The youth, county department caseworker, care provider(s), and, at the option of the youth, up to two (2) other significant persons chosen by the youth who are not the foster parent or caseworker, shall jointly develop a detailed, formal emancipation transition plan a minimum of ninety (90) business days prior to the projected emancipation date of the youth. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Assurance that the plan meets the specific self-sufficiency/cost of living standard in the county or state where the youth plans to reside.

2. An individualized written assessment used to develop the plan that is as detailed as the youth elects, and is signed and dated by the youth and the parties that developed the plan.

3. Personalization at the direction of the youth to meet the individual emancipation needs in order to help prevent homelessness.

4. Copies of verifiable vital documents required in Section 7.305.5.

5. Specific options for:

a. Housing,

b. Health insurance and health care decision-making information,

c. Education,

d. Local opportunities for safe mentors,

e. Continuing after-care support services, and

f. Work force supports and employment services.

6. The plan shall be documented in the State Department's automated system in the Family Services Plan, and a copy given to the youth free of charge.

7.305.3 NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE (NYTD)

The National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) is a federal reporting requirement. Information is collected in NYTD about youth in foster care, including sex, race, ethnicity, date of birth, and foster care status. Information is also collected about the outcomes of youth who are in or have exited foster care.

7.305.31 Served Population

The served population consists of youth and children in out-of-home care, regardless of age, receiving independent living services that are paid for or provided by the state or county.

The county department shall enter the following information into various fields of the State's automated data system:

A. Basic Demographic Information

1. Date of birth;
2. Sex;
3. Race;
4. Hispanic/Latino ethnicity.

B. Youth/Child Characteristics

1. Adjudicated delinquent;
2. Out-of-home status;
3. Federally-recognized tribe;
4. Educational level;
5. Special education.

C. Independent Living Services

1. Independent living needs assessment;
2. Academic support;
3. Post-secondary educational support;
4. Career preparation;
5. Employment programs or vocational training;
6. Budget and financial management;
7. Housing education and home management training;
8. Health education and risk prevention;
9. Family support and healthy marriage education;
10. Mentoring;
11. Supervised independent living;
12. "Room and board" financial assistance;
13. Educational financial assistance; and,
14. Other financial assistance.

7.305.32 Baseline Population

The "Baseline Population" consists of any youth who is in out-of-home placement, for even one day, and that has reached age seventeen (17) as of October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011, and every third year thereafter.

The county department shall assure that surveys for the “Baseline Population” are completed within forty-five (45) days of the youth turning age seventeen (17).

7.305.33 Follow-Up Population

The “Follow-Up Population” consists of young people who were in the baseline population at age seventeen (17) who reach age nineteen (19) or age twenty-one (21) during the six-month survey period and who appear in the survey population or sample indicated in the Trails NYTD screen.

For youth open in a case and who are in the “Follow-Up Population”, the county department or Division of Youth Services shall assure that the “follow-up surveys” are completed by the youth within the six (6) month period to which they are assigned.

For youth who have discharged from care who are in the “follow-up population”, the county department or Division of Youth Services shall assist the Division of Child Welfare in locating and engaging youth to complete the survey during the period to which they are assigned.

7.305.34

When a youth in either the Baseline or Follow-Up population is unable to participate, the county shall document the reason in the State’s automated system. The reasons that shall be given are:

- A. Youth declined participation;
- B. Parent declined on behalf of the youth;
- C. Youth is incapacitated;
- D. Youth is incarcerated;
- E. Runaway/missing youth;
- F. Unable to locate the youth;
- G. Youth has died.

7.305.4 CHAFEE FOSTER CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (CFCIP) - TITLE IV-E INDEPENDENT LIVING GRANT INITIATIVE

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) is a federally funded statewide independent living program that is county administered.

The purpose of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program is to provide age or developmentally appropriate independent living resources to youth in out-of-home care who are at risk of aging out of foster care. These services shall supplement existing independent living resources and programs in county departments, residential child care facilities and child placement agencies, and by federal statute, shall not replace or duplicate existing services. Chafee

Foster Care Independence Program funds shall not be used for room and board for a youth under eighteen (18) years of age. The eligible population includes:

- A. Youth currently in out-of-home care, fourteen (14) up to twenty-one (21) years of age, and in out-of-home care for a minimum of six (6) months if under seventeen (17) years of age; consecutive months are not required;
- B. Youth eighteen (18) to twenty-one (21) years of age, who were in out-of-home care on or after their eighteenth (18th) birthday; and,
- C. Youth sixteen (16) to twenty-one (21) years of age who meet requirements for relative guardianship assistance, and youth sixteen (16) to twenty-one (21) years of age who meet requirements for adoption assistance or who met such requirements on or after their sixteenth (16th) birthday.

7.305.41 County Responsibilities

- A. The designated host county department shall submit a county plan for State approval.
- B. The county department shall comply in format, content, and time lines with the instructions for Chafee Foster Care Independence Program plans as published by the State Department in an agency letter which will also contain required instructions for program and financial reporting.
- C. The county department shall administer the State approved plan in accordance with provisions of the plan.
- D. Funds shall be used exclusively for the purposes specified in the plan.
- E. County departments must submit amendments to approved plans when the county is proposing to add or delete a service to the plan. The county department shall submit amendments of the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program plan for approval to the State Department no less than thirty (30) business days before the amendment is to be effective.
- F. The county department shall consider the following factors, in the prioritization of Chafee services on an individual basis:
 - 1. Risk or history of human trafficking;
 - 2. Risk or history of homelessness;
 - 3. Whether the youth has emancipated from Child Welfare or exited the Division of Youth Services after attaining age eighteen (18), or is expected to do so;
 - 4. Previous participation in Chafee services or transfer of services from another county or state;
 - 5. Enrollment and progress in educational programs, internships or apprenticeships;
 - 6. Enrollment and progress in workforce innovation and opportunity act programs or workforce development

activities; and,

7. Connection to permanent, supportive adults and personal support systems.

7.305.42 Eligibility

To be eligible for Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) services, the youth must:

A. Meet Program Area 4, 5, or 6 target group eligibility requirements, in a non-secure setting, with the Division of Youth Services, or meet requirements for ongoing Chafee services in the state where the youth emancipated, was adopted or entered Relative Guardianship, if other than Colorado.

B. Be at risk of aging out of foster care which includes youth:

1. Currently in out-of-home care, fourteen (14) up to twenty-one (21) years of age, and in out-of-home placement for a minimum of six (6) months if under age seventeen (17). Consecutive months are not required;

2. Sixteen (16) to twenty-one (21) years of age, who meet requirements for Relative Guardianship Assistance and entered Relative Guardianship on or after age sixteen (16);

3. Sixteen (16) to twenty-one (21) years of age, who meet requirements for Adoption Assistance and entered Adoption Assistance on or after age sixteen (16);

4. Eighteen (18) to twenty-one (21) years of age, who were in out-of-home care on or after their eighteenth (18th) birthday.

C. Have a current Family Services Plan in the State Department's automated system. For youth who emancipated, were adopted or entered Relative Guardianship in another state, have documented verification of eligibility from the state where the youth's case was closed. For youth who entered into a Relative Guardianship or Adoption Assistance agreement at age sixteen (16) or older, the following may be used in lieu of a Family Services Plan:

1. The Relative Guardianship or Adoption Assistance agreement; or,

2. An Independent Living Plan developed on or prior to the eighteenth (18th) birthday.

D. Participate on a voluntary basis. The youth may decide to refuse services, but shall be entitled to reconsider his or her choice and receive services at a later date.

E. Follow the plan developed with the youth and the county department regarding participation in the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program.

7.305.43 Educational and Training Voucher Program

The Educational and Training Voucher Program provides federally funded vouchers for postsecondary training and education to youth eligible for Chafee services in Section 7.305.42.

7.305.5 Vital Life Documents Prior to Emancipation

A. All youth in foster care who have reached the age of eighteen (18), and who have been in foster care at least six (6) months, shall be provided with the following documents a minimum of ninety (90) business days prior to the projected emancipation date of the youth, unless there is no record of the youth's birth or the identity of the youth cannot be established, in which case the basis for this shall be documented in the State automated system:

1. A certified birth certificate or, when applicable, an alien registration card (green card);
2. Tribal affiliation information for American Indian/Alaskan Native youth (see section 7.309.21, A and B);
3. A Social Security card;
4. A state identification card or a state driver's license;
5. A Health Passport and other pertinent health-related records, to include health care decision-making information, and health insurance information; and,
6. Educational records (see Section 7.301.242).

B. For all male youth with a permanency goal of "Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement", the county shall facilitate registration for the Selective Service System.

Credits

Amended Feb. 1, 2010; Nov. 1, 2010; Aug. 1, 2011; April 1, 2012; July 1, 2012; Dec. 1, 2012; July 1, 2014; Nov. 1, 2015; Oct. 1, 2016; Oct. 1, 2017; Dec. 1, 2017.

7.301.24 Family Service Plan Out-of-Home Placement Documentation

12 Colo. Code Regs. § 2509-4:7.301

For child(ren)/youth in out-of-home placement, the Family Services Plan documents:

A. That the child/youth meets all of the out-of-home placement criteria listed in Section 7.304.3.

B. That when the child/youth is part of a sibling group and the sibling group is being placed out of the home, if the county department locates an appropriate, capable, willing, and available joint placement for all of the children/youth in the sibling group, it shall be presumed that placement of the entire sibling group in the joint placement is in the best interests of the children/youth. Such presumption may be rebutted by the county by a preponderance of the evidence that placement of the entire sibling group in the joint placement is not in the best interests of a child/youth or of the children/youth. At the dispositional hearing, if a child/youth is part of a sibling group and was not placed with his/her siblings, documentation shall be submitted to the court about whether it continues to be in the best interest of the child(ren)/youth to be placed separately.

C. The problems to be resolved in order to facilitate reunification of the child/youth and family, and to safely maintain the child/youth in the home.

D. A description of the type of facility in which the child/youth is placed and the reason(s) the placement is appropriate and safe for the child/youth.

E. A description of the county's efforts to place the child/youth in reasonable proximity to the home of the parents and to the school in which he or she was enrolled at the time of each placement, referred to as the "school of origin." For a child/youth placed a substantial distance from the home of the parent(s), from his or her school of origin, or in out-of-state placement, the county shall document how the placement meets the best interests of the child/youth, including how the county took into account proximity to parents and school in making its placement decision (see sections 7.304.54, J and 7.301.241, B, 2).

F. A summary of efforts to ensure educational stability as outlined in Section 7.301.241.

G. That the placement is the least restrictive, safe, and most appropriate setting available consistent with the best interests and specific needs of the child. This includes documentation of initial and on-going efforts to place the child/youth with kin.

If the child/youth is moved to a more restrictive placement after the initial placement, the Family Services Plan documents how the more restrictive placement meets the child/youth's needs.

H. Health and educational information shall be documented in the State Department's automated system and updated at the time of each case review, including addresses and other contact information about the child/youth's current:

1. Education providers, including school, school district, and Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) contacts who assist in the coordination of enrollment and services, and the child/youth's academic progress.

2. Health care providers and the status of health care information.

I. Specific plans for how the county will carry out any court determinations or orders concerning the child/youth.

J. A description of the services and resources needed by the foster parents or kinship providers to meet the needs of the child/youth and how those services and resources will be provided.

K. A description of the services provided to reunite the family, including the plan for visitation, or to accomplish another permanency goal. The visitation plan shall specify the frequency, type of contact, and the person(s) who will make the visit. At a minimum the visitation plan shall provide the methods to meet the following:

1. The growth and development of the child/youth;
2. The child/youth's adjustment to placement;
3. The ability of the provider to meet the child/youth's needs;

4. The appropriateness of the parent and child/youth visitation, including assessment of risk;

5. The child/youth's contact with parents, siblings, and other family members; and

6. Visitation between the child/youth and his/her family shall increase in frequency and duration as the goal of reuniting the family is approached.

L. For child(ren) under the age of fourteen (14), a description of services and a plan for accomplishing tasks to prepare child(ren) to be age appropriately self-sufficient, when independent living services are provided.

M. For youth age fourteen (14) and older, a description of services and a plan for accomplishing tasks to assist the youth in preparation for self sufficiency and independent living as early in placement as possible but no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the youth's fourteenth (14th) birthday.

N. Reasonable efforts have been made to maintain the child/youth in the home, or prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child/youth from the home, or make it possible for the child/youth to return to the home; or when applicable, documentation of the circumstances that exist in which reasonable efforts to prevent removal or reunite the child and the family are not required (see Section 7.304.53, B, 3).

O. The specified permanency goal for the child/youth shall be based on the individual needs and best interests of the child/youth. Permanency goals shall include one of the following:

- Remain home;
- Return home;
- Permanent placement with a relative through adoption;
- Permanent placement with a relative through legal guardianship or permanent custody;

- Adoption (non-relative);
- Legal guardianship/permanent custody (non-relative);
- Return home through reinstatement of parental rights;
- **Other planned permanent living arrangement through emancipation;**
- **Other planned permanent living arrangement through relative long term foster care;**
- **Other planned permanent living arrangement through non-relative long term foster care.**

Permanency goals shall include the projected date (month, day, and year) by which the goal is to be accomplished for each child/youth receiving services.

1. The initial permanency goal for the child/youth is to return home with the following exceptions:

- a. Children/youth whose parents are both deceased or have both voluntarily relinquished custody;
- b. Children/youth whose parents cannot be located after family search and engagement activities, which shall begin no later than three working days following placement and shall not exceed three months;
- c. Children/youth whose parents have been guilty of repeated and/or severe abuse or neglect of the child/youth or the child/youth's siblings such that termination of parental rights of both parents is appropriate; or,

d. children/youth for whom it appears, after investigation, that a safe return home will not be possible even with the provision of reasonable efforts.

2. After twelve months, the child/youth's caseworker and supervisor shall include written justification on the Family Services Plan for continuation of the goal of return home.

3. After eighteen months, the extraordinary circumstances which exist and the reasons which support the permanency goal of return home shall be documented in the Family Services Plan. Approval of the return home permanency goal by the caseworker, supervisor and county administrative review is documented in the case record.

4. In concurrent planning cases the alternate permanency goal shall be documented.

5. The permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement through emancipation shall only be used for youth ages sixteen to twenty-one.

6. For a child/youth who has been in foster care under the responsibility of the state for fifteen (15) of the last twenty-two (22) months, the county shall either file a motion for termination of parental rights no later than the end of the fifteenth (15th) month or document and submit to the court at the next review the compelling reason why it is in the child/youth's best interest not to terminate parental rights.

P. The steps the agency is taking to find an adoptive or other permanent living arrangement for a child/youth for whom the permanency plan is adoption or placement in another permanent home.

Q. The permanency goal for the child would be to remain home barring case circumstances that would indicate the need for an alternative permanency goal when a teen mother and her child are placed together in the same foster home and if a case is opened on the child. The county must see the child when visiting the teen mother in the foster home.

R. Requirements for use of Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement goals as follows:

1. The county department may consider Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (OPPLA) as a permanency goal:

For youth who are sixteen (16) years of age or over and are demonstrating exceptional circumstances that prevent the youth from returning home, adoption, legal guardianship or permanent custody.

2. The goal shall be reviewed through the use of a family engagement meeting or equivalent team that reviews permanency needs. All of the following shall be submitted to and considered by the review team, and the recommendation shall be submitted to the court.

a. Documentation pertaining to the completion of an intensive and ongoing examination of kin and permanent connections. This process shall also address:

1) A comprehensive assessment of the youth's strengths and needs. In addition to updating the assessment of the youth's strengths and needs, the updated assessment or staffing shall address the youth's capacity to live within a family setting.

2) This review team shall also consider the youth's desired permanency outcome.

b. A detailed description of efforts made to achieve permanency through the other goals and identification of the barriers to achieve them.

c. A detailed description of how OPPLA is in the best interest of the youth.

3. The following is to be documented and made available to the court at each court review.

a. Documentation of the barriers to permanency to date and compelling reasons why the other permanency goals are not attainable.

b. Documentation of the youth's desired permanency outcome including giving the youth an opportunity to attend each hearing to voice his/her desired goal.

c. Documentation of intensive, ongoing, and as of the date of the hearing, unsuccessful efforts to return the youth home or secure a placement for the youth with a fit and willing relative (including adult siblings), a legal guardian, or an adoptive parent, including thorough efforts that utilize technology (including social media) to find biological family members for the youth.

d. Documentation of the steps taken to ensure that youth are being supported in-engaging in age or developmentally appropriate activities and social events including:

1) The youth's foster family home or other placement is following the reasonable and prudent parent standard; and,

2) The youth has regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities (including consulting with the youth in an age-appropriate manner about the opportunities of the youth to participate in the activities).

4. Documentation which includes the review team's reasons for approving Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (OPPLA) shall also be entered in the Family Service Plan as directed by the Division of Child Welfare.

5. The use of this goal shall be reviewed by a family engagement or equivalent review team at a minimum of every six (6) months. The county shall request that the court review the case every twelve (12) months to determine if the youth is demonstrating exceptional circumstances that prevent the youth from returning home, adoption, legal guardianship or permanent custody.

6. If this goal is not achieved through relative care, a family-like network of significant people shall be developed to provide the youth with a sense of belonging and with support expected to endure over a lifetime.