

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

**What's Inside:**

Healthcare for  
Former Foster Care  
Youth 18-21

June 29, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS AND  
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: HEALTHCARE FOR FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH, AGES  
18-21

DISCUSSION:

This legislative session ended with the passage of SB 577, The Missouri Health Improvement Act of 2007, which, among its many provisions, extended healthcare coverage for former foster care youth. This bill, which the Governor is expected to sign into law on July 2, renames MO Medicaid to MO HealthNet and extends MO HealthNet coverage for *all* former foster care youth who were in the State's custody (Legal Status 1) on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, were released from jurisdiction, and have not yet reached their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Youth are eligible without regard to income or assets. Missouri is one of a limited number of states offering this service to older youth and we are pleased we can now provide healthcare to this population.

CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF ROLES

As staff work with youth who are nearing, or past, their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and opting to exit from custody, it is imperative that these youth are made aware of this new resource. Children's Service Workers shall inform these youth of their eligibility for MO HealthNet, and, if possible, determine the address where the youth will reside upon leaving care.

Each county must designate a liaison/contact person(s) for those youth who have exited care to contact. This liaison will ensure address changes are manually tracked and/or refer to the Older Youth Transition (OYT) Specialist, if necessary. The OYT Specialists should contact former foster care youth to verify their current address and inform them of their MO HealthNet eligibility.

System changes are being developed with ITSD (Information Technology Services Division) and FACES (Family and Children Electronic System) staff which will allow

these youth to be tracked electronically, but until then, each county should manually track all youth exiting from care. Staff should document the youth's name, Departmental Client Number (DCN), address, and date of birth. Performance Based Contractors must provide this information for the youth they serve to the county liaison/contact person so those youth can also be tracked. More information regarding procedure and policy updates will be soon forthcoming.

An Exit Packet is included in the attachments to this memo which should be provided to those youth currently in care as they exit the foster care system, or to former foster care youth requesting Aftercare services. The Exit Packet includes information regarding MO HealthNet coverage, services available through the Chafee Aftercare program, and an Education and Training Voucher (ETV) brochure. However, each county should include additional resources pertinent to their own geographic areas into the packet.

The division will provide outreach services to notify former foster care youth of this new resource. Youth will be asked to contact their nearest county office and provide their address, so that a MO HealthNet card may be mailed to them.

**MO HEALTHNET COVERAGE**

Similar to the coverage youth received while in foster care, former foster care youth will be required to enroll into a MO HealthNet Managed Care plan for their physical healthcare, if they reside in a geographic area covered by Managed Care. Their behavioral healthcare will be provided on a fee for service basis. *Please note that coverage cannot begin prior to the effective date of this bill.*

NECESSARY ACTIONS:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please review this memorandum with all Children's Division Staff.</li> <li>2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:</li> </ol>	
PDS CONTACT: Belinda Kay Luke, PDS 573-751-8615 <a href="mailto:Belinda.K.Luke@dss.mo.gov">Belinda.K.Luke@dss.mo.gov</a>	DEPUTY DIRECTOR: James C. Harrison 573-751-2502 <a href="mailto:James.C.Harrison@dss.mo.gov">James.C.Harrison@dss.mo.gov</a>
RELATED STATUTE: <a href="#">RSMo 208.151</a>	

PN/BL

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Exit Packet:**

- [MO HealthNet Information](#)
- [Education and Training Voucher Brochure](#)
- [Chafee Aftercare Pamphlet](#)