

Referrals and Transitions

Phase 1 Requirements

Original Date: July 2024 | Revised Date: Month XX, 20XX

Partnership, Prevention and Services | Approved for distribution by Hannah van Veen, Placement Continuum Administrator

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

What is required for DS System Improvement 4.12

- A Process for children and youth to review information that goes out to potential placements.
- Helping youth create a narrative about themselves to share with potential placements.
- Facilitating pre-placement contacts with potential caregivers.
- Planning to preserve relationships and connections.
- Offering services for grief and loss post transition.





The work that is part of 4.12 will be implemented in 4 phases.

4.12 Referrals and Transitions

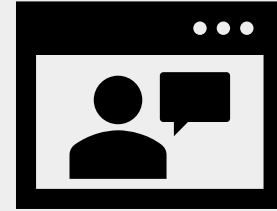
Phase	Targeted populations – Youth in Class
Phase 1 July 2024	Children and Youth experiencing a placement exception.
Phase 2 September 2024	Phase 1 populations + Youth preparing to transition out of QRTP.
Phase 3 November 2024	Phase 1 and 2 populations + Youth in a receiving care or short-term placement.
Phase 4 February 2025	All youth in class

Providing Youth the Opportunity to **Review** their Referrals

- Before the youth review their referral, it must be reviewed to ensure that it is accurate, strengths-based, and trauma informed.
- If the team feels like it would be detrimental for the youth to review their referral, the team will coordinate a meeting to discuss solutions.
- Youth can choose the DCYF staff they want to review the referral with.
- Youth can also decline to review their referral.

Providing Children and Youth the Opportunity to add their Voice to Referrals

- Youth will be asked if they want to share information about themselves with potential caregivers.
- If the youth would like to provide additional information on the referral, the team will explore opportunities for the youth to respond in a way they are comfortable with doing.
 - Examples: "all about me" form, letters, pictures, etc.
- This response will be included with the referral and sent to potential caregivers.



Ensuring Youth Have **Pre-Placement Contact**

- When a potential caregiver has been identified, the youth will have the opportunity to connect with that caregiver
 - Examples: phone, video, or in-person visit

Planning to Ensure Youth Maintain Connections

- The team and youth should provide information on important connections that the youth would like to maintain.
- This can be discussed at Shared Planning Meetings or Family Team Decision Meetings.



A person wearing a dark jacket and a white cap stands on a rocky peak, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range. The landscape is filled with rolling hills and valleys, with a soft, misty atmosphere. The sky is overcast with light clouds.

Providing Youth with Grief and Loss Resources and Supports

- The team will be provided with grief and loss supports that are available
- There is a list of resources that can help the youth in processing being in the foster care system
- If a resource is not available, the youth can be referred to Coordinated Care and they can assist in finding a resource.

Role of the Referral and Transition Program Consultant

- The RTPC is here as a supportive role in ensuring that these system improvements are being used to partner with our youth who have experienced multiple placements
- We want our youth to be able to use their voice and advocate for themselves

Thank you!

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