HOW CAN TECHNOLOGY BE USED TO IMPROVE THE PROCESS OF CREATING "TRANSITION INDEPENDENT LIVING PLANS" (TILP) FOR FOSTER YOUTH TRANSITIONING INTO ADULTHOOD?



SAMPLE TILP

Goal	Activities	Responsible Party	Planned Completion Date
Apply to College	Meet with school counselor to strategize on finishing A-G requirements Take SAT prep class and take SAT exam Apply to college	Youth CSW will assist locating SAT class if not offered at school CSW will refer youth to Education Consultant if additional assistance is needed ILP will fund SAT class and assist with college applications	09/10/2012 to meet counselor 10/9/2012 (date of next SAT exam, deadline to register is 9/10/2012.) No later than 11/30/2012 for college applications (follow specific college application deadlines)
Obtain funding for college	Attend ILP financial aid workshop Apply for scholarships, grants, and financial aid	Youth ILP will hold workshop and assist with financial aid applications CSW will refer youth to Education Consultant if additional assistance is needed	03/15/2013
Learn to drive	Take driver's training class Take driving exam Obtain driver's insurance	Youth Caretaker ILP/DCFS will provide funding for training and insurance	12/30/2012
Obtain part- time employment	Visit school's career center Obtain work permit Register at local OneSource Center	Youth Caretaker CSW will take youth to register at OneSource ILP will provide funding for job transportation and job clothing	02/30/2012
Establish permanent connection	Find mentor	CSW/ILP will refer to mentoring program	02/30/2012

The TILP is a state document generated in the youth's case file. It is then uploaded to the Child Welfare Services Case Management System.

The information can be typed into the electronic case file, and then signed by the youth, caregiver and caseworker. The caseworker can also print a blank copy, handwrite the TILP, then upload the completed document into the system. The TILP is designed to cover the youth's goals for the next 6 months.

The key to an effective TILP is to take the youth's long-term goals for the future and break them down into smaller goals that can be achieved during the 6 month. The plan is meant to help youth lay out achievable goals on their road to adulthood.



BACKGROUND

- One of the ways DCFS prepares older youth (age 14-21) for adulthood is by completing the "Transition Independent Living Plan" (TILP). The TILP is a document that describes the youth's goals and the activities that will lead to the achievement of those goals, including accessing programs and services provided by the county and other organizations for "transition age" youth.
- In LA County, approximately 5,000 youth are in the age range when TILPS need to completed which translates into 10,000 TILP documents per year.
- The TILP also identifies the individuals assisting the youth in meeting goals, indicates a completion date and evaluates progress towards meeting goals.
- Social workers report challenges with engaging youth and their caregivers in creating a TILP.
- In addition to the TILP foster youth are required to have a <u>90-Day Transition Plan</u> (completed ninety (90) days prior to exiting foster care) that covers the following areas:
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Health insurance
 - Mentors/Continuing support services
 - Workforce support/employment services

Links to TILP descriptions and other background materials:

- http://policy.dcfs.lacounty.gov/content/Transitional_Independent.htm#TILP
- http://kids-alliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/TILP-2015.pdf
- https://www.ilponline.org/
- http://framework.latimes.com/2014/04/30/aging-out-voices-from-those-in-the-foster-care-system/



STORY



"I want to go into sports management – that's my plan. But this wasn't really included in my transition planning. I didn't pay much attention to the TILP for that reason. But if I had had more say in the process, I would probably be more committed to the TILP."

-Eric, 19

