

AFTERCARE STUDY: OUTCOMES OF INDEPENDENT LIVING

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CENTER FOR FAMILIIES

Final Report

Contract Period 3/1/02-9/30/03

Section 1. Program Highlights:

During the contract period, a project implementation workgroup comprised of representatives from both collaborating entities met on 3/6/2002, 3/26/2002, 7/2/2002, 7/30/2002, 8/29/2002, 11/4/2002, 1/30/2003, 5/14/2003, 7/10/2003, 9/15/2003.

- Workgroup discussions regarded aftercare study protocol development and implementation. The following accomplishments were made:
 - 1) Development of an Exit Interview
 - a. BCO-DSS staff utilized a previous exit interview in order to develop the new exit interview.
 - b. Recent legislation (Independent Foster Care Act of 1999) guided the work group's choice of outcome domains.
 - c. BCO-DSS staff created the first draft of the interview.
 - d. In development of a final draft, SSW staff provided consultation regarding formatting, organization, and item clarification.
 - 2) Development of Follow-up Interviews
 - a. An interview will be administered six months following the youth's

exit from care. The interview will be conducted by BCO-DSS staff over the phone.

- b. An annual interview will be administered each year for five years.

The first annual interview will be administered 1.5 years after exit from care. The annual interview will be conducted by BCO-DSS staff over the phone.

Section 2. Evaluation Highlights:

A. Process Evaluation

1. Notes were taken during meetings to record decision-making.
2. Quarterly reports were prepared.

Section 3. Accomplishments/Challenges:

- 1) Development of hard copy interview forms for each data collection point: exit,

six-month follow-up, and annual follow-up. Table 1 presents the outcome and explanatory domains included in each of the three interview protocols.

- a. Exit interview includes data from case record
- b. Follow-up interviews includes data from telephone interviews with young adult participants

Table 1. Data collected by interview

Data collected:	Exit Interview	Six-Month Follow-up Interview	Annual Follow-up Interview
Demographics	✓	✓	✓
Placement history	✓		
Living arrangements	✓	✓	✓
Family factors	✓	✓	✓
Education	✓	✓	✓
Employment/financial factors	✓	✓	✓
Victimization	✓	✓	✓
Criminal behavior history	✓	✓	✓
Health care access		✓	✓
Runaway history	✓		
Mental health	✓	✓	✓
Substance use	✓	✓	✓
Rosenberg Self-esteem Scale		✓	✓
Exit summary information	✓		
ILP involvement	✓		
Preparation for independent living		✓	
Service access and utilization		✓	✓
General life satisfaction.		✓	✓

- 2) Development of an Interview Manual including recommendations for interview implementation procedures and question by question specifications.
- 3) Development of an Access database
 - a. Records data from three interviews
 - b. Facilitates scheduling of interviews by displaying list of interviews that are scheduled in the next months
- 4) Development of an Information System Guide corresponding to the Access database.