

TO: DCF All Staff

FROM: CT DCF Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes

DATE: April 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Supports for Services Post-Majority Youth 18+ years of Age

The youth and families we serve may require services which take on different forms and levels of intensity. We wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of ensuring our ongoing connection with, and assessment of, our young adults. Specifically, their unique needs during these periods of heightened concern in our communities.

Supports for youth participating in Services Post-Majority (SPM) go beyond housing or placement assistance. They also include access to food, health care, emotional support and others.

In order ensure consistency in our practice, the following protocol will be enacted effective today:

- 1. Every worker shall connect with their SPM youth twice a week. This can be accomplished by remote technology such as phone, text, FaceTime, Microsoft Teams or through social media. Per previous directives, only in those circumstances where an issue cannot be resolved remotely, should an in-person response occur.
- 2. Contacts will address four main areas:
 - a. Maintaining connections to others
 - b. Basic needs assessment
 - c. Check on mental health and emotional wellbeing
 - d. Assessment of physical health
 - e. If enrolled in PSE, that they have connected virtually to maintain their casework
- 3. These contacts shall be documented in LINK
- 4. After one week with no successful contact with a particular youth, follow up with the chain of command should occur to discuss heightened efforts to engage with the youth.

Each region will be provided a spreadsheet of their SPM youth in order to provide the aforementioned information, which will need to be updated weekly to their Transitional Supports and Success (TSS) Division Staff.

The TSS Staff below will continue to track overall needs of youth and will be available to assist Regional Office personnel on a case by case basis if needed:

Region 1 and 2:Pamela Cranfordpamela.cranford@ct.gov or 860-716-7261Region 3:Steven Smithsteven.smith@ct.gov or 860-209-7253Region 4:Daniel Rossdaniel.ross@ct.gov or 860-818-3847Region 5:Lisa Driscolllisa.driscoll@ct.gov or 860-597-8817Region 6:Latosha Johnsonlatosha.johnson@ct.gov or 860-922-2576

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Latosha Johnson 860-922-2576 or latosha.johnson@ct.gov or Linda Dixon linda.dixon@ct.gov or 860-219-2261