

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Child and Family Services Agency



June 25, 2019

Shana Bartley, Vice-Chair
Citizen's Review Panel
c/o Center for Child Protection
714 G. Street S.E., #3
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Ms. Bartley,

The Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) received *The Citizen's Review Panel Annual Report May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019*. We appreciate the Citizen's Review Panel's (CRP) thoughtful, comprehensive efforts of the two working groups (i.e., Youth Aging Out of Foster Care and In-home Care Services). Members of the CFSA Executive Leadership reviewed the report and we've provided responses to the recommendations from the Youth Aging Out of Foster Care work group. As stated in the report, the research project on In-home services will be completed by August 30, 2019. While this report provides recommendations from that working group, we want to provide comprehensive responses based on the final report.

This grid below will outline the specific recommendations beginning on page 8 of the report for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care and CFSA's responses to them. We are happy to speak with you in detail about any of our responses.

We appreciate your commitment to the children and families of the District of Columbia and look forward to our continued collaboration.

If you have any questions, please contact Michele Rosenberg, the Deputy Director for the Office of Policy, Planning and Program Support at micheler.rosenberg@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda Donald".

Brenda Donald, Director
DC Child and Family Services Agency

DC Child and Family Services Agency Responses to the 2018-2019 Citizen Review Panel Annual Report Recommendations

Recommendations	Responses
<p>The CRP concluded the tool used by the Young Women’s Project (YWP) to evaluate the participants’ progress is not informative nor amenable to determine outcomes.</p> <p>The CRP suggested that the recommendations from the 2017-2018 report be reconsidered and these include the following:</p> <p>Clarify how CFSA will monitor/assess the effectiveness of the Young Woman’s Project (YWP) contract with respect to preparing youth for independence - particularly compared to previous arrangements (CASA, Collaboratives). Who is doing quality assurance (as opposed to contract adherence) and how.</p> <p>Recommend that CFSA require YWP to present a draft evaluation tool for individuals illustrating the progress of youth moving them forward on the "spectrum of growth."</p> <p>Recommend that the Director assign one staff person to oversee and be fully accountable to the Director for the effective implementation of the YWP contract.</p>	<p>The Office of Youth Empowerment (OYE) decided to bring the Aftercare program in-house to be administered by the Office of Youth Empowerment from a contracted provider. The transition process began in May 2019 to go into full effect October 2019. The program will consist of an Aftercare supervisor who will manage and oversee it and the three specialists.</p> <p>CFSA decided to transition from a contractor to administering it in-house because of the implementation of the YV LifeSet program model in April of FY 2019. The model will further increase OYE’s capacity to engage older youth and improve outcomes in the areas of education, employment and housing. The YVLifeSet model includes intensive support and guidance to young adults leaving the foster care system to make a successful transition to adulthood, and to support the youth after leaving foster care. Importantly, placing aftercare services in-house with OYE will create a seamless transition from out-of-home care to aftercare, and the allow youth to remain connected to familiar supports.</p> <p>The program success is defined as a young adult’s maintenance of stable and suitable housing, participation in an educational/vocational program, and development of life skills necessary to become a successful, productive citizen. The program not only assists with young adults who are “aging out” of foster care, but also works with the young person’s family and support systems to ensure a more successful transition.</p> <p>The program’s effectiveness will be evaluated by the OYE Program Administrator and will look at the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth obtain and maintain full time employment • Youth obtain and maintain stable housing • Youth obtain and maintain medical and mental health • Connection to community resources • Documents (assisting with getting vital documents) • Parenting support, when appropriate <p>CFSA anticipates the first outcome report will be completed by December 31, 2019.</p>