

JUDICIAL BENCH CARD



THE OKLAHOMA SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD PROGRAM SEEKS TO SERVE YOUTH:

- Ages 14-17 who are in legal custody of the Oklahoma Human Services (OKDHS) or a federally recognized tribe and in out-of-home placement;
- Ages 16-22 who were in OKDHS or tribal custody and living in an out-of-home placement on their 16th birthday and achieved permanence through a permanent guardianship, adoption or reunification, and who have not reached their 23rd birthday; and
- Ages 18-26 who participate in the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program.

ELIGIBILITY AGES 14-15

- *OKSA Assessment*
- *OKSA Plan*
- *Tutoring*
- *Youth Development Funds to support youth's OKSA Goal Setting Plan*
- *Monitoring of credit report annually*

ELIGIBILITY AGES 16-17

- *OKSA Assessment*
- *OKSA Plan*
- *Tutoring*
- *Youth Development Funds to support youth's OKSA Goal Setting Plan*
- *Monitoring of credit report annually*
- *Assistance with transition planning*

ELIGIBILITY AGES 18+

- *Voluntary Care: Youth may request placement and services from OKDHS on a voluntary basis as long as they are participating in an approved educational program to obtain a high school diploma or GED or need out-of-home care during the months following graduation prior to the youth entering college or a vocational program.*
- *If youth exited OKDHS or tribal custody and out-of-home placement on or after their 16th birthday, they may qualify for extended services, including OKSA aftercare services.*
- *Youth Development Funds to support the youth's transition to adulthood*
- *Educational assistance, such as scholarships and tutoring*

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

- *Attend teen-specific events such as summer Teen Conferences, Page Week and various life skill groups*
- *Participate in the Oklahoma Youth and Young Adult Network*

Regarding young people in custody with an undocumented status, OKSA resources and Youth Development Funds can only be issued to youth who have a status of Citizen or Qualified Alien, and meet the above criteria for eligibility.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH 14-17:

- Is the youth or OKDHS in possession of their **essential documents** (original certified birth certificate, original Social Security Card, state ID, tribal membership documents)?
- Has the youth accessed **OKSA funding**? If so, what for? If not, what are the barriers to accessing these funds?
- Are there monthly discussions with the youth surrounding **relational permanency** and identification of their permanent connections? Who are the youth's supportive connections, not including OKDHS staff?
- Is a **referral** to any of the following services needed for this youth: Mental Health Consultants, Social Security Income, Developmental Disability Services or other behavioral health services? Has a referral been made?
- Has the youth completed the **OKSA Hope Assessment**?
- Has the youth's **OKSA Goal Setting Plan** been created with the youth and their support system?
- Is the **OKSA Goal Setting Plan** updated at every visit and attached to each court report? Is OKSA involved?
- What are the youth's **educational goals**? Are they on track for their goals?
- Are there monthly discussions with the youth surrounding **legal permanency**? What does that look like?
- If the case plan goal (CPG) of the youth is **Planned Alternative Permanent Placement** (PAPP), what other permanency options are being explored?
- Has the youth signed the **Foster Youth Bill of Rights** and been provided the grievance process information? *(The basic rights of youth in the custody of the State of Oklahoma per Section 1-6-103(c))*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR YOUTH 17 YEARS OF AGE:

- Is the youth or OKDHS in possession of their **essential documents** (original certified birth certificate, original Social Security Card, state ID, tribal membership documents)? If not, what are the barriers to obtaining these documents? *(Oklahoma Statute §10A-1-9-107, Item F requires youth exiting foster care at 18 years of age be provided with certain documents.)* What is the plan to ensure the youth receives these documents before exiting care?
- Has **OKSA transition planning** been initiated, to include the youth, their supportive connections, and OKSA? Has the Transition Plan been completed as directed per policy and submitted to the court 90 days prior to the youth's 18th birthday? When is the next follow-up meeting with the youth and OKSA?
- What is the youth's **housing plan** after turning 18? What is their alternate housing plan?
- Has the youth been provided contact information for the **OKSA Helpline** to open their aftercare case?

For additional assistance, please contact: **OKSA Helpline** at **1-800-397-2945** (call or text) or by e-mail at oksa@ou.edu. The Oklahoma Successful Adulthood Program website is located at www.OKSA.ou.edu and is a valuable resource accessible to young people in and out of care, child welfare specialists and staff, foster and adoptive parents, as well as other supportive adults.

