Statement of Consideration (SOC)

PPTL 19-16 SOP 4.30 Normalcy for Children and Youth in Out of Home Care and Youth Development Funds form.

The following comments were received in response to SOP drafts sent for field review. Thanks to those who reviewed and commented. Comments about typographical and grammatical errors are excluded; these errors have been corrected as appropriate

SOP 4.30 Normalcy for Children and Youth in Out of Home Care

1. **Comment**: Staff would like clarification regarding how many times this can be accessed per child. Would like clarification on how many times it can be approved for children that tend to move a lot and switch schools.

**Response:** The funds may be requested up to two times per year.

1. **Comment:** What would make it rise to the level that we would request to use this money? Should that be more defined?

**Response:** Youth development funds should only be requested when other funding sources, such as foster parent per diem, community programs, etc. have been explored and exhausted.

1. **Comment:** Some foster parents are not going to allow kids to participate unless we pay for it and pay them for the travel. Seems like we just need to say foster parents don’t have to pay for these items out of the per diem or they do have to pay for it unless it’s a special circumstance

**Response:** Two (2) times in a lifetime per youth includes all categories.

Extra-curricular is maximum one thousand $1,000 per year, as funds are available.

1. **Comment:** The age range with supplemental funds is 14 to 21; however with the Youth development funds- it indicated the range was from 16 to 21 – need clarification.

**Response:** Youth age fourteen (14) and over can make a request for extracurricular funds, all other funds being requested will start at age sixteen (16).

1. **Comment:** Need clarification under The SSW: number 5; 3 (youth age 14 and older ware involved in transition planning for successful adulthood? – What does this mean?  Are we going to start doing youth transitional plans at 14 years old now?

**Response:** The regional independent living specialists will coordinate a formal transition plan for a youth at age seventeen (17), however, there should be transition planning included in the youth’s case plan beginning at age fourteen (14).

1. **Comment:** Under the Practice Guidance: Babysitters for care plus children who must receive child specific training or have training in the mental health treatment of children or their families – who will provide this training – is there a set curriculum. Same with the medically complex

**Response:** The child specific training for care plus is conducted by the caregiver.  This training is just to ensure the babysitter is aware of the child’s specific needs.  There is not a curriculum.

For medically complex, the training would come from a medical professional or a previous caregiver who has been trained by a medical professional.

**Youth Development Funds**

1. **Comment:** Extracurricular activities:  Concern with only being able to request one time per year.  Does not take into consideration of those youth who may play more than one sport with different equipment needs.  Also, $1000 may seem like a lot of money; however, depending on the sport, this money would be gone quickly.

**Response:** Policy has been changed to permit request up to two times per year, however due to budgetary constraints, the amount has been reduced to five hundred dollars ($500). Funds included for extracurricular activities is included in the foster parent per diem, the Youth Development funds are supplemental.

1. **Comment:** I think the funds for extracurricular stuff is great! But the Cap out and only requesting once a year is not really fair. What if a child wants to play more than one sport a year? Also if the CAP out is 1000 a year, that is not feasible either, not only do they have to sign up for the sport and registration costs but they also have to get any equipment such as bats, cleats, certain socks, cups, helmets,  or whatever they need and that stuff adds up quickly. Say if a child wants to do baseball then also try basketball those are two totally different sports with different equipment needs. While the idea is wonderful, they need to reassess the CAP outs and once a year rule.

**Response:**  See response above.