Statement of Consideration (SOC)

PPTL 20-13 Statement of Consideration for SOP 4.6, SOP 12.22, SOP 2.11, Parenting Youth Tip Sheet, Parenting Together Plan (PTP), Parenting Together Plan for IL Programs, and DPP-116. 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 4.6 Parenting Youth Supplement (NEW TITLE- Parenting Youth in Foster Care)**

1. **Comment:** Staff feel this applies to the father of the child as well if he is a youth and wants his baby if mom is not able to care for child.  Staff inquired - can we place the whole family together if they are both youth?

Some guidance around engaging fathers of infants to youth in OOHC is needed.

**Response:** SOP states parenting youth, which includes fathers. If there is a shared custody agreement discussion should occur regarding where the child resides and if time will be split between homes. There is currently no SOP to support placing **both** parents in the same home with the child.

1. **Comment:** Staff feel the issue will lie with getting the foster parent to allow the youth to parent and develop parenting skills.

**Response:** Information specific to foster parent interaction with the parenting youth is included in the Parenting Together Plan. Training for foster parents is being developed, and is forthcoming.

1. **Comment:** Staff think if the youth retains custody of their child then the infant’s care is the youth’s responsibility. Staff question why should there be a plan to outline the responsibility of care? Rather than having a responsibility chart in the plan, maybe the responsibility of care should be implemented as a daily or weekly form to be maintained in the foster home to show that the youth is doing what they should to care for the child.

**Response:** The Parenting Together Plan is not a compliance driven document. The schedule is to provide clarification on who is responsible for tasks while the youth is completing other responsibilities such as school or work.

1. **Comment:** Staff feel the youth and her infant will require close supervision as there may be some safety issues regarding the child being able to be in the same room with youth.

**Response:** If safety threats are identified, a Family First prevention services referral would be appropriate to mitigate risk.

1. **Comment:** Staff feel there could be some sleep fatality risks when the youth doesn’t respond to the child or the youth gets frustrated and the foster parent is in a different room.

**Response:** At the beginning of the case, safety threats should be assessed. If there are concerns that the parenting youth and child should not share a room, or any concerns of abuse or neglect, they should be reported to centralized intake. Safe sleep space information is included in the Parenting Together Plan.

1. **Comment:** Staff feel that workers are going to have to have more meetings/discussions with the youth and foster parent/relatives in order to try to make or keep the peace.  In addition to the extra meetings, the social workers will be really overwhelmed with all of the paperwork that this change is going to make.

**Response:** This SOP only requires one additional meeting and one additional form; however, it will ensure that the rights of the parenting youth are preserved.

1. **Comment:** Fortunately we don’t have very many parenting youth in foster care. Staff think this will lead to clashes between youth and foster parents in how the youth chooses to parent their child. Should the parenting disagreement resolution be in its own form rather than at the end of the parenting plan? What if there are multiple disagreements during the six month period the plan is active?

**Response:** The disagreement portion of the form is on a separate page. Unless additional changes are needed, only the disagreement portion needs to be completed.

1. **Comment:** When the youth turns 18, can she and her baby move into an IL apartment since she will have childcare assistance, TANF, Food Stamps, WIC, HANDS/First Steps, etc.?

**Response:** Yes

1. **Comment:** If the baby gets some type of benefits from his/her father, how will that work?  Would the foster child receive that benefit ?

**Response:** The parenting youth, as the custodian, will receive any benefits the child is eligible for, including child support.

1. **Comment:** If the baby has a lot of medical issues and would qualify as medically complex if it was in foster care, would we provide any additional services or support?

**Response:** Supports related to providing care for the child would be offered to the parenting youth. Service provisions are not provided for the child of the parenting youth. The child’s own medical coverage should provide for any medically complex specific interventions. A Family First Prevention Services referral would also be an appropriate resource for the family.

1. **Comment:** Whose responsibility will it be to have a crib/etc for the youth child?  Car Seat?  Baby items in general?

**Response:** The parenting youth supplement provides a payment to the foster parent or caregiver to help meet the everyday needs of the parenting youth’s child.The foster parent/facility should use the supplement to provide any items needed for the child.

**SOP 2.11 Investigation Protocol**

1. **Comment:** Will SI be required to complete the investigations on the youth due to them being in a foster home placement? Staff feel there will be more referrals made on foster parents as a result of lack of monitoring the youth and infant.

**Response:** If the alleged perpetrator is the foster parent or facility staff, the specialized investigation team will complete the investigation. If the parenting youth is the alleged perpetrator, the report will be handled as a regular investigation. The allegation must be that the youth or child were abused or neglected, lack of monitoring does not meet acceptance criteria.

1. **Comment:** Additional input is how the regions would sort out the UR’s are not required on the 058 comparison.  Individuals feel this would be confusing and hard to monitor.

**Response:** The UR process is now a safety and risk consultation. If it is determined by the SSW that there is a serious safety threat and the youth may not be able to remain in the home, a safety and risk consultation (formerly UR) with regional office must be conducted prior to a removal via safety plan or court order. The SSW/FSOS should discuss the issues surrounding a parenting youth during the consultation. All of the safety and risk consultations are tracked by the Division of Service Regions.

1. **Comment:** Would we not be doing UR’s for the kids we just receive custody of from the Judge without us being involved?  Often if we didn’t do a full UR, would another smaller check and balance be put in place? I do like where the UR process helps us not to miss the small things we sometimes do.
	* 1. **Participants should be in agreement with the consultation outcome.  If participants are not in agreement, the regional SRCA or SRA (if SRCA is involved with the initial consultation) will be consulted; and The consultation is not required when the court awards DCBS custody of a child(ren) when DCBS did not request or recommend custody**

**Response:** The UR policy has been replaced with the safety and risk consultation and the SOP has been updated. Please see SOP 1.5 Supervision and Consultation.

**SOP 12.22 Parenting Youth Supplement**

1. **Comment:** I know this is beyond our control or say – but just $24 per month per child**?**

**Response:** There was an error on the DPP-116 that was sent for review, the actual supplement payment is $24 per day.

**DPP-116 Parenting Youth Supplement Contract**

1. **Comment:** On the form about the supplement, it lists placement. Staff realize that we start with the youth and their baby in the foster home together but what if behaviors of the teen later cause the youth to go be hospitalized or placed in crisis stabilization for instance and short term they will be at a different placement than their child?  Will that effect the Supplement if the foster child is placed somewhere else for a few days?

**Response:** These cases will require consultation with regional office/central office on a case-by-case basis.

1. **Comment:** What about respite?  Would the foster parent just have to pay the other foster parent to babysit the baby out of the supplement?

**Response:** The parenting youth will make decisions regarding respite. Respite does not include babysitting. If the child goes with the parent to respite then the foster parent and the respite provider will negotiate payment.

**Parenting Together Plan (PTP)**

1. **Comment:** This PTP and the case plan goal (ILO/FLO) for the youth are very similar and it appears this would be double documenting.

**Response:** There would not be a case plan on the child if the parenting youth has custody. The parenting youth would not have a FLO/ILO. The parenting youth’s parent (child’s grandparent) would have an ILO.