

Safe at Home West Virginia: Post IV-E Waiver

Amy Hymes, Director, Safe at Home West Virginia

On October 1, 2015, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) implemented the Title IV-E Waiver initiative Safe at Home West Virginia. The initiative was designed to address the safety, permanency and well-being of the State's youth with very specific goals.

Although federally funded Title IV-E Waivers officially ended September 30, 2019, BCF is committed to continuing wraparound model services for children and their families in need of a highly intensive level of service provision through a state funded Safe at Home program. This program will share similar goals with the Title IV-E Waiver program. BCF will continue to serve youth exiting foster care placement or at imminent risk of foster care placement; however, BCF wraparound services will no longer include children placed within child-serving agencies foster family homes. The program will continue to facilitate transitions from residential placement. The local coordinating agencies (LCA) will also continue their roles in coordinating individualized services for Safe at Home participants. BCF made changes to expand the population of children served to include children between the ages of 9-11 who are placed in a psychiatric setting such as acute care or children who require treatment and support who are placed in the Bureau for Juvenile Services. BCF anticipates that approximately one-third of children served will be eligible for the Children with Serious Emotional Disorder Waiver (CSED) program, administered by DHHR's Bureau for Medical Services.



BCF Regional Program Managers will continue the role of approval for Safe at Home enrollment based on the eligibility definitions. Specific timelines will be required for LCA to conduct the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment to confirm program eligibility. BCF intends to work with Marshall University and Dr. John Lyons to develop eligibility criteria that will be tied directly to CANS assessment results in the future.

Through these changes and this new state funded program, BCF will continue to ensure the children and families in need of intense wraparound services will be accepted and referred for Safe at Home services. BCF will continue aligning utilization of the program with wraparound opportunities provided by other bureaus within DHHR to ensure a continuum that will support children, while adhering to the fidelity of the wraparound model.

For future updates, visit <http://safe.wvdhhr.org>.