

Wraparound Services and Adult Youth: Implementing Services for Youth 18 and Older

Polly Huffer, CYC-P, Lead Parent Partner

Dr. Brittany Nelson, PsyD, LMFT, Program Manager

What are “Adult Youth?”

- ▶ The California Fostering Connection to Success ACT (AB12) took effect January 1, 2012, giving foster youth the choice to stay connected to foster care services through age 20.¹
- ▶ Often referred to as a “Non-Minor Dependent of Juvenile Court.”
- ▶ These can be adult youth from both foster care and probation backgrounds.

¹ <http://nalcs.org/services/ab12>

Why is AB12 so important for Adult Youth?

▶ Basic Eligibility Requirements for AB12:¹

- ▶ At the six month hearing prior to youth's 18th birthday, the social worker/probation officer must have a plan to ensure the youth meets at least ONE of the following criteria:
 - ▶ 1) Completing high school or equivalent program (e.g. GED); OR
 - ▶ 2) Enrolling in college, community college or a vocational education program; OR
 - ▶ 3) Employed at least 80 hours a month; OR
 - ▶ 4) Participating in a program designed to promote or remove barriers to employment; OR
 - ▶ 5) Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a medical condition.
 - ▶ Living arrangements must be approved by the CWS social worker
 - ▶ A youth is required to meet with his/her social worker at least 1x per month

¹ <http://fosteryouthresourceguide.my-free.website/what-is-ab12/>

What Does Adult Youth Mean for Wraparound?

- ▶ The ultimate goal is to help foster youth transition into adulthood by empowering them to become self-sufficient as someone who is able to meet one's basic need for food, shelter, income, and overall functioning.¹
- ▶ How does an adult youth qualify for Wraparound services?
 - ▶ A youth's placement must be at risk due to his/her lack of compliance with the AB 12 requirements.
- ▶ The goal of Wraparound services is to support the adult youth with maintaining home placement by helping to remove the barriers to success in school and/or employment.

¹ <http://nalcs.org/services/ab12>

Unique Needs of Adult Youth

- ▶ Unfortunately, for many years now, youth who have reached the age of 18 have not gotten the same opportunities as younger children with loving parents. Their connections were often lost, and their hope for a brighter future went unlit. Sadly, the year they age out is the year when they find themselves alone-no financial support, nowhere to go and no winning chances for them to succeed in life-may end up homeless or incarcerated.¹
- ▶ Often lack basic independent living skills, especially when coming from aggregate care, such as:
 - ▶ Cooking
 - ▶ Cleaning
 - ▶ Money Management
 - ▶ Conflict Resolution skills
 - ▶ Knowledge about seeking, obtaining and maintaining employment
 - ▶ Time management
 - ▶ Scheduling and attending necessary appointments (medical, dental, mental health)
 - ▶ Using public transportation
 - ▶ Unrealistic expectations of adult life

¹ <http://nalcs.org/services/ab12>

Roles of Wraparound Team Members

- ▶ Roles of Wraparound team members have more fluidity and are not as rigid, as there may or may not be supporting caregivers.
 - ▶ Ways this can look with service implementation and individualizing services.
 - ▶ Family Facilitator: Obtaining consents and denial of consents from the client.
 - ▶ Parent Partner: Supporting an adult youth with self-disclosure, initiating services, resources and supports as a legal adult.
 - ▶ Child Family Specialist: Supporting the client in living successfully on his/her own
- ▶ Expanding who/what are natural supports outside of family members
- ▶ Being mindful of confidentiality when an adult youth is living with parents, previous caregivers, etc.

What About the Families

- ▶ How to handle when an adult youth, living with a family/caregiver, does not want their involvement in services.
 - ▶ When the “No Secrets” policy does not apply.
- ▶ When family member’s involvement come and go.
 - ▶ How to develop a support system outside of the family.
- ▶ Supporting family’s acceptance of client’s legal choice as an adult.
 - ▶ When client’s makes choices the family does agree with.
- ▶ Setting boundaries around independence.
 - ▶ Jobs, housing, etc.

Engagement of Adult Youth

- ▶ Engaging client's as the decision maker in their services.
 - ▶ How this is different from minor clients?
- ▶ Separating Wrap from other services (mental health, CWS, probation).
- ▶ Developing goals solely focused on client's needs.
 - ▶ May or may not have family involvement in plan development.
- ▶ Identification of natural supports.
- ▶ Focusing on enhancing client's skills as a successful, independent adult.

Educating Community Partners

- ▶ Having realistic expectations.
 - ▶ Skills of children who have been raised in the system.
 - ▶ Focusing on emotional age instead of developmental age.
- ▶ Providers being more prepared.
 - ▶ Enhancing transition planning for clients from minors to adults.
- ▶ Need to connect adult clients with community and natural supports/resources.
- ▶ Acceptance that clients are in charge of their decisions-for better or worse.
 - ▶ Allowing clients to experience natural/logical consequences of decisions.

The Role of Advocating

- ▶ Shifting our focus from caregiver to client.
 - ▶ Wraparound roles can be more fluid in advocating for a client's needs.
- ▶ Advocating for client when they want to maintain their confidentiality.
- ▶ Supporting others with having realistic expectations of a clients abilities.
 - ▶ Being an adult does not equate to ability to function as an adult.
- ▶ Assisting clients in getting comfortable with community resources.
 - ▶ Medical benefits, food stamps, financial assist, SSI, legal supports, etc.

Expanding Support Systems

- ▶ High focus on linking clients to supports.
- ▶ Preparing for Transition.
 - ▶ What support systems will be ongoing for clients?
- ▶ Once Wraparound, Always Wraparound philosophy.

Changing Our Lens

- ▶ AB12 clients are Wraparound clients.
- ▶ All Wraparound team members have a role with AB12 clients.
- ▶ Emphasis on individualization of clients separate from families.
- ▶ Clients can be successful without family supports.
- ▶ Services need to continue when clients “age out” of the system.
- ▶ Being 18 developmentally does not mean being an adult emotionally.

Questions

- ▶ Any Questions?
- ▶ Brittany Nelson
- ▶ Bnelson@casapacifica.org
- ▶ 805-612-5375
- ▶ Polly Huffer
- ▶ Phuffer@casapacifica.org
- ▶ 805-407-4059