Supporting Youth Who Are Parents

Youth Parents

There are a variety of resources available (educational, financial, and support) to the youth. Most services can be referred or coordinated by the social worker. Here is a summary of some common resources available for parenting youth:

* Placement: the youth can potentially be placed with or without their child
* Infant Supplement Payment: a monthly stipend from the county to be paid to the placement (or NMD) to support the additional
* Adolescent Family Life Planning (AFLP): provided through Riverside University Health System, provide: family planning, safer sex, healthy relationships workshops, etc.
* Youth Partner and/or Parent Partner: depending on their age
* Nurse Family Partnership: a county nurse will come to placement once a week and teach parenting classes and provide education on caring for and supporting infants and children, can meet the youth at their school instead of placement
* Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): a special supplemental nutrition program that provides nutrition education and financial support for healthy foods. Available to low-income women during pregnancy, nursing, and mothers of children up to age 5
* Bibs to Blue Jeans: a clothing resources for parents to have access to free clothing for their youth. The social worker can coordinate an appointment.
* Transportation: if the youth is a IEHP member, they can contact the transportation department 5 days prior to any appointment to arrange and have transportation provided (1-800-440-4347 press Option 2)

Additional resources:

* First 5 California: online resources for breast feeding, toilet training, separation anxiety, literacy education, etc.
* AAA: online resources for car seat safety
* Family resource centers: local family resources centers are found all throughout the county and can be a great resource

Advocating for a Youth Who is a Parent

* Talk with the social worker and ensure that the youth has the access to the resources they need. Coordinate with the social worker on what resources the social worker will refer (Infant Supplement Program) versus what the youth will need to apply for directly (WIC). Collaborate with the social worker to inquire about additional items donated that the youth might need (car seat, stroller, etc.).
* Talk with the youth to ask what they need.
* If the youth and their child are placed together. You cannot transport the child. You can hold visits in the placement or coordinate transportation to be arranged by the placement.
* Get a better understanding of the youth’s child’s placement and if there is open dependency case for the child. If the child has an open dependency case, help ensure that the youth is aware of what is going on with their child’s dependency case. You can attend the child’s hearings as a support person for your youth, but you do not serve on that case and are there to support your case child. Support the youth in ensuring that any visitation orders are followed and ask the youth how the visits with their child are going.
* Ensure that the youth has transportation (for themselves and their child) to medical appointments, court hearings, etc. This can be coordinated through the social worker.
* Contact SW at least monthly.
* Contact Advocacy Supervisor at least monthly.
* Attend small groups to hear from peers who have also worked with youth who are parents and to feel supported.
* Continue to submit court reports and attend hearings.
  + The reports should contain information, including how the youth is progressing with parenting classes, any updates on visits with their child, and utilizing various services, etc.
  + The CASA’s recommendations should include any needs or additional services that the youth may need to adequately parent and provide for their child.