



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Chafee Advisory Group Meeting

February 7, 2020



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Group Agreements

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1. Listen to understand.
2. Respect diverse perspectives.
3. Stay on topic...or use the parking lot.
ELMO 😊!
4. Lean toward solutions.
5. Comfort in asking questions.



Chafee Advisory Group Teaming Structure

OAS

Strategy #1: Chafee Advisory Group

Strategy
Teams #2:
Youth
Voice

Strategy
Team #3:
Changes
to Chafee
Program
Philosophy

Strategy
Team #4:
Promoting
Kinship
Care,
Permanenc
y, and
Connection
s

Strategy
Team #5:
Services
for Young
Adults
18+

Strategy Team
#6: Marketing
Chafee
Services to
Eligible Youth
And Strategy
#7:
Technology
*NEWLY
COLLAPSED*

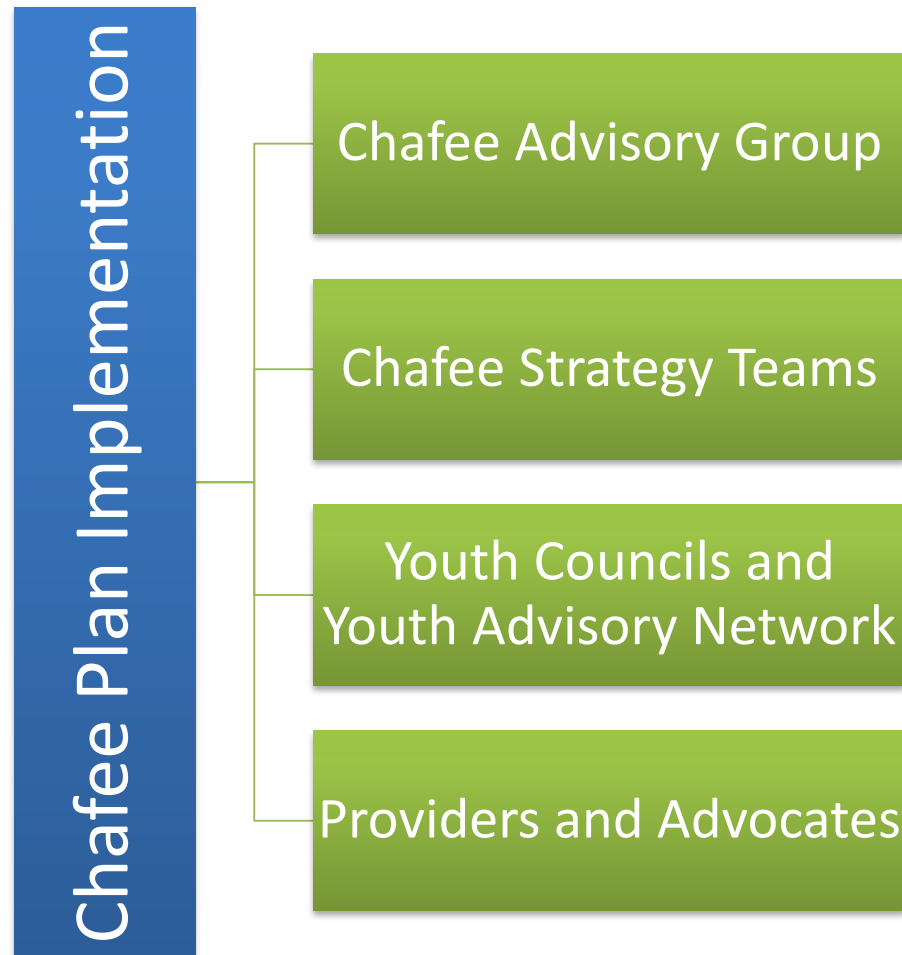
Strategy
Team #8:
Using Data
to
Measure
Service
Delivery

Strategy
Team #9:
Mental
Health,
Substance
Use, and
Domestic
Violence

Strategy
Team #10:
Expectant
and
Parenting
Youth

Strategy
Team #11:
ETV *NEW*

Chafee Plan Implementation Teaming Structure



Strategy and Team #2: Continue to Elevate Youth Voice

- Develop and implement 2 Youth Advisory Councils (North and South).
- Develop and implement a strategic sharing training for youth and adults to prepare young people to participate in communities, workgroups, etc.
- Youth are informed of, prepared for and attend family court hearings.
- Increase opportunities for youth with lived experience to serve as peer supports for youth currently in care.
- Increase opportunities for youth with lived experience to be included in training initiatives (informing curriculum, serving as trainers).
- Continue implementation of the Youth Advisory Network (YAN).



Strategy and Team #3:

Changes to Chafee Program Philosophy

- Race Equity Informed Policy, Practice and Programming.
- Healing-Centered Engagement.
- Ensure that the Chafee program serves youth statewide.
- Refining eligibility for benefits and services.
- Update assessments and tools to determine individualized needs.



Strategy and Team #4: Promoting Kinship Care, Permanency, and Connections

- Develop a formalized process and create resources to train and increase knowledge of judiciary staff regarding adolescents and young adults in foster care.
- Support youth in kinship care through system and direct service intervention strategies that support both the youth and caregiver.
- Update life skills via appropriate skill development within the context of family, peer, and community relationships.
- Refine efforts to ensure that youth in foster care experience developmentally appropriate activities that will assist in building and strengthening relationships in their home, promote stability, and support effort towards legal permanency (normalcy).



Strategy and Team #5: Services for Young Adults 18+

- Review and update the housing program model for youth 18+.
- Review and update aftercare services for youth 18+ to support a youth's transition to adulthood.



Strategy and Team #6: Marketing Chafee Services to Eligible Youth

- Develop and implement a strategy to market Chafee services to newly eligible youth that achieved reunification 14+.
- Refine and implement marketing strategies of Chafee services to Chafee eligible youth whose child welfare cases are closed.
- Explore the possibility of providing services to adolescents who are not in placement but involved with child welfare to prevent placement.
- Strengthen strategy to ensure Medicaid continuity of coverage for youth eligible for the Medicaid extension for young adults.



Strategy and Team #7: Technology

- Update content and functionality of the NJ Youth Resource Spot website (www.njyrs.org).
- Develop a mobile application specific to youth in foster care.
- Post NYTD data on public DCF and NJYRS websites.
- Develop online access for youth to complete the NYTD follow up survey.



Strategy and Team #8: Using Data to Measure Success and Improve Service Delivery

- Analyze NYTD data and share with stakeholders (e.g. CAG, Youth Advisory Network, and Youth Councils).
- Incorporate NYTD data into trainings and presentations.
- Develop system to capture NYTD services being provided by resource parents and child welfare staff.
- Incorporate NYTD data in contract monitoring
- Develop NYTD QA process.
- Use youth specific data to inform programming.
- Refine outcomes that will be tracked and identify measurement tools.



Serving Youth of Various Ages and Stages of Permanency

- Team #9: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Domestic Violence
 - Develop a stakeholder informed plan to review supports and services currently available and used, while also identifying areas that need to be strengthened and tailored to meet the needs of youth in foster care.
- Team #10: Expectant and Parenting Youth
 - DCF will update and improve policy, practice, and programming to best meet the needs of these youth to promote successful parenting and prevent maltreatment with their own children.
 - DCF will develop a stakeholder informed plan to improve these systemic efforts.



Strategy and Team #11: ETV

- Review available ETV data and update goals and outcomes for the ETV program as needed.
- Coordinate and leverage education, training, financial aid/scholarship programs through public and private resources.
- Review CP&P placement and trends to determine updates needed for ETV eligibility.
- Explore whether ETV will be extended to age 26.

