

19. Expectant and Parenting Young People (EPYP)

19.0 PURPOSE: As parents or expectant parents who are in the child welfare system as young people themselves, it is crucial that Child Welfare staff provide these young people with tools, information, and resources to support them. CWS will offer understanding and promote empowerment, free of judgement, as to not subject the young person to shame or punishment. When a young person has someone that they can trust and turn to, their well-being improves and they experience better outcomes in areas such as housing, employment, education, social connections, and more.

Expectant and Parenting Young People (EPYP) in foster care and in the Imua Kākou program (IK) are eligible to **voluntarily** receive evidenced-based prevention services through Family First Hawai'i (FFH). This procedure is specifically for CWS caseworkers serving EPYP in Foster Care. Policies and procedures for serving EPYP in IK can be found [Imua Kākou – Young Adult Voluntary Foster Case Program](#). Specific documentation is required to access the services. Please note: *their child does not have to be at imminent risk of placement in foster care in order to be eligible for FFH and/or services*. This document outlines several key items and requirements to support these young people in accessing these services and ensuring proper documentation.

19.1 DEFINITIONS

This section provides definitions for key terms included in this procedure.

- **Expectant:** All young parents who are expecting a child, including birth parents and partners of birth parents.
- **Parenting:** Any young person who is acting in the role of a parent or caregiver. This can include a birth parent, a birth parent's identified partner, or any person acting in a caregiving capacity.
- **Young person:** Any youth or young adult in foster care or Imua Kākou.

19.2 Engaging EPYP and Connecting to Resources and Services

Caseworkers shall:

1. Provide space and opportunity for the young person to share more about their current situation without judgement

2. Be supportive of the young person and their family planning and reproductive healthcare decisions.
3. Meeting the young person where they are at in a supportive manner. This may be a process to engage the young person in identifying needs, priorities, and supports.
4. Explore and connect the young person to appropriate resources and information, potentially including medical care, family planning, reproductive and sexual health, prenatal health, parenting education, abortion services, postpartum support etc.
5. Partner with the young person to identify additional services and supports to enhance their parenting capacity, as needed.

19.3 FFH EPYP Eligibility Considerations

- Parenting is not defined by the legal or biological relationship to the child. Eligibility is based on their role in parenting or involvement in caregiving.
- Expectant or parenting young people are not required to be the primary caregiver or have the child live with them.
- Eligibility is not based on risk or safety of the young person's child. The young person's child does not have to be at risk of entering foster care.
- Only verbal verification from the expectant or parenting young person to the CWS caseworker is needed to determine eligibility.
- A young person's partner does not have to be in foster care for the young person to be eligible.
- Once a young person is determined eligible for FFH, their eligibility continues for the full 12 months. If the young parent in foster care is reunified, FFH eligibility will terminate, but the young person may continue to receive services.

Procedure for EPYP in Foster Care

- A. When a young person verbally discloses or confirms that they are expectant or parenting, the caseworker shall:
 1. Complete a log of contact (CPSS/SHAKA) describing inquiry or disclosure, efforts to support, engage, and connect the young person with resources, services, and information, and whether the young person wishes to engage in FFH services.

2. Support the young person to identify services and resources that meet their needs including medical care. This may be health plan services, community services, and/or CWS services including FFH services.
3. Provide information to the young person about what information must be shared, who it will be shared with, and the purpose of sharing the information to ensure their health and safety.
 - a. For minor young people in foster care, CWS shall inform:
 - i. the young person's parents,
 - ii. the Guardian Ad Litem/Court Appointed Special Advocate,
 - iii. the Court, and
 - iv. the resource caregiver.
4. Ensure updates to the young person's relevant case plan(s).
 - a. Update the child section in parent's SFHR or Permanent Plan
 - b. Communicate with the Independent Living (IL) and case plan and Independent Living Program case plan.
5. For all EPYP – regardless of their plans to participate in any services, complete the following documentation in CPSS. (You may view [AFCARS Training Video #3](#) for more information on completing these fields in CPSS.)
 - a. Complete the following fields in the Expecting/Parenting Info section on the CU24 screen. When you type a "?" next to "Expecting/Parenting Info", a pop up will appear.
 - i. Is the Young Person Expecting or Parenting?
 - ii. Date Determined:
 - iii. Is the Young Person Pregnant?
 - iv. Does Young Person have Biological Children?
 - v. If so, what is the Child's DOB?
 - vi. Are the Young Person and their Child/children currently living together?
 - b. When the child is born or the young person is already parenting, the child shall be added to existing cases and assigned a higher family member number #30-49
 - i. In the case when there is a report of suspected abuse/neglect and DHS has permanent custody of the young person,
 1. a case needs to be created in the minor parent's name, and the minor parent assigned a family member number #1-9, and

2. prevention plan elements shall be captured in the Family Service Plan and no EPYP Support Plan is to be created.
 - c. No coding in the CU24 screen is necessary if the pregnancy does not result in a live birth, i.e., if the pregnancy terminates via abortion or miscarriage. CWS staff shall update pregnancy status via logs of contact.
6. If the young person chooses to participate in FFH services,
 - a. Describe these services in the young person's existing case plan (Family Case Plan, Permanent Plan, or Independent Living Case Plan); and
 - b. Complete an EPYP Support Plan (known as 'Prevention Plan' in federal guidance) in SHAKA (See Completing a EPYP Support Plan in SHAKA section).
- B. When a young person does not disclose or denies that they are pregnant to the caseworker, but the caseworker has information that the young person may be pregnant, the caseworker shall:
 1. Provide space and opportunity for the young person to share what they feel comfortable about their current situation without judgement.
 2. Support the young person to identify services and resources that meet their needs including medical care. This may be health plan services, community services, and/or CWS services including FFH services.
 3. Consider others that the young person is connected to assist in engaging the young person to support the discussion and access to services (including therapists, independent living case managers, youth partners, etc.).
 4. Complete a log of contact (CPSS/SHAKA) describing inquiry or discussion, efforts to support, engage, and connect the young person with resources, services, and information.
 5. If information indicates that the young person is expecting, as the legal custodian, discuss with the young person about what information must be shared, who it will be shared with, and the purpose of sharing the information to ensure their health and safety.

- a. In consultation with the CWS Supervisor, for minor young people in foster care, CWS shall inform:
 - i. the young person's parents,
 - ii. the Guardian Ad Litem/Court Appointed Special Advocate,
 - iii. the Court, and
 - iv. the resource caregiver.
6. Document information known from other source and/or information gathered from the young person in logs of contact
 - a. CPSS CU24 screen regarding pregnancy/expecting status:
 - i. Responses to the "Expecting and Parenting Info" section "Is the Young Person Expecting or Parenting?" and "Is the Young Person Pregnant?" shall only be answered "yes" if the young person discloses the pregnancy or information
 - b. When the child is born or the young person is already parenting, the child shall be added to existing cases and assigned a higher family member number #30-49
 - i. In the case when there is a report of suspected abuse/neglect and DHS has permanent custody of the young person,
 - a. a case needs to be created in the minor parent's name, and the minor parent assigned a family member number #1-9, and
 - b. prevention plan elements shall be captured in the Family Service Plan and no EPYP Support Plan is to be created.
7. On an ongoing basis, revisit the young person's needs and interest in accessing FFH and other services.

Completing an EPYP Support Plan in SHAKA

Under Family First Hawai'i, each EPYP who is receiving FFH services must have an EPYP Support Plan (known as the "prevention plan" under the Family First Prevention Services Act and federal guidance) completed in SHAKA for CWS to claim federal reimbursement funding for FFH prevention services.

A. Identifying Information

1. Young Person Information

- a. Ensure case information populated from CPSS is correct:
 - i. Legal Name and Date of Birth
- b. Age will be calculated and populated by SHAKA
- c. Enter chosen names, if applicable
 - i. A chosen name is the use of a name that is different from a person's legal name (such as a preferred name, a nickname, or a name-in-use)

B. Family First Hawai'i (FFH) Eligibility

1. Mark the young person as eligible for FFH by selecting "yes" or "no" next to the appropriate names
2. Check the box under "Pregnant" if the young person is currently pregnant
3. Enter the date eligibility was determined
 - a. This is the date EPYP status was disclosed or confirmed by the young person

C. Youth Circle (YC)

Youth Circle is a youth-driven group process to assist the youth/young person in foster care (or formerly in foster care) in planning for their successful transition from foster care to independence. YCs are culturally sensitive, youth-centered and strengths-based. YCs assist the youth/young person to identify their social support system once they leave foster care. *See Independent Living Transition Plan Procedure Part III Section 4.16.2(F).*

1. Caseworker shall select "yes" or "no" indicating if the young person is currently participating in a Youth Circle
2. If "no", the caseworker shall select "yes" or "no" if a Youth Circle was offered to the young person

D. Services and Activities

This section is intended to identify which FFH services the young person is engaged in or plans to engage in.

1. Adding a Service or Activity:
 - a. Select the appropriate FFH service(s) from the drop-down menu

E. Supportive Strategy

The purpose of this section is to clearly identify the supportive strategy to strengthen and support the young person as a parent and their other identified goals with evidenced-based services. The supportive strategy is known as the “prevention strategy” under the Family First Prevention Services Act and federal guidance.

1. The supportive strategy for EPYP shall be “EPYP's participation in enhanced voluntary services to support EPYP in caring for their child.”

Ongoing support and case planning with expectant and parenting young people

Case planning and engagement strategies shall be in accordance with the [Imua Kākou – Young Adult Voluntary Foster Case Program](#) policy and procedure.

EPYP Feedback Q&A

1. IK cases are not active CWS cases/logs related to concerns should not be logged in this case
 - In IK cases, the IK case manager should be entering logs of contact with IK liaison approval. The procedures for EPYP in IK will be coming out later this year.
2. ICF should identify registration of CWS cases under minor mother.
 - This is clarified in A. 5. b.
When the child is born or the young person is already parenting, the child shall be added to existing cases and assigned a higher family member number #30-49

In the case when there is a report of suspected abuse/neglect and DHS has permanent custody of the young person, a case needs to be created in the minor parent's name, and the minor parent assigned a family member number #1-9, and prevention plan elements shall be captured in the Family Service Plan and no EPYP Support Plan is to be created.
3. Specify that cws cases and IK cases should be managed in the same unit
 - This was not an area of focus for this procedure.
4. Are there identified service providers locally (POS and non-POS) beside Home Visiting Program that meet the criteria of FFH that CWS need to refer the EPYP to?
 - Home Visiting Services and IHBS are the only FFH services included in our approved state plan. FFH services may be expanded in the future.
 - An EPYP Support Plan will only be created when an FFH service is selected. When other services (non-FFH, community or contracted) are provided, a Support Plan is not required.
 - EPYP may be referred to other services as needed.
5. If there are identified providers, will CWS send a copy of the referral to an entity tracking these referrals?
 - The CWS caseworker will be responsible for completing the referral for services. When the referral for FFH services is emailed to the provider, the caseworker must email CC ffh@dhs.hawaii.gov (see ICF dated 03/22/22 *Family First Hawaii [FFH] Referrals for Services*)
6. If there aren't identified providers and they need to be added into the Prevention Plan in SHAKA, how is the quality or efficacy of the service selected provided? Or, is that at the discretion of the worker?
 - An EPYP Support Plan will only be created when an FFH service is being provided. When other services (non-FFH, community or contracted) are provided, a Support Plan is not required.
 - Only FFH services are to be added to the EPYP Support Plan.
 - Other community services (non-contracted) can be referred to in consultation with the caseworker's supervisor to ensure quality of services. These services are not added to the EPYP Support Plan
7. Will there be specific SACs that need to be entered into CPSS for these providers to identify FFH-eligibility?
 - SACs will be generated from the EPYP Support Plan in SHAKA
 - SACs must be manually terminated in CPSS at the termination of services
8. Suggestion: this is a voluntary service, so attempts to engage the youth in this service need to be made by the CWS SW and documented in CPSS and addressed in the SFHR.

- Engaging EPYP is very important. This is covered in the procedure in I. A. and I. B.
9. What is the best way to explain EPYP to the youth/young adult to elicit their involvement?
- Guidelines for engagement are included in the section **Engaging EPYP and connecting to resources and services**. Training will also include a EPYP panel video.
11. What case plan? SFHR? PP? FSP?
- This has been clarified in the procedure and is dependent on the legal status of the EPYP and what case plans are in place (See A.4.)
12. Will it (case plan) be different or will it matter if minor mother is in FC or PC?
- See above answer. See A.4. of procedure.
13. What if minor mother has her own FC case and child is in FC? Not eligible?
- If minor mother (EPYP) is not in permanent custody, and their child is in foster care, the EPYP is still eligible. Eligibility shall be captured in the EPYP Support Plan
 - In the case when there is a report of suspected abuse/neglect and DHS has permanent custody of the young person, a case needs to be created in the minor parent's name, and the minor parent assigned a family member number #1-9, and prevention plan elements shall be captured in the Family Service Plan and no EPYP Support Plan is to be created.
14. What about when minor mother turns 18 and her child is still in FC? When child reunifies then this family is eligible?
- Yes
15. How will this effect IV-E eligibility? This sometimes cause problems when we are trying to add in service lines?
- Please let us know if issues arise.