

Monitoring Juveniles in Placement

The following topics should be addressed during every placement visit. These questions, while not exhaustive, should be used, as needed, to ensure juveniles are healthy and safe, determine whether they have maintained communication with family members and other supportive people, confirm participation in treatment programs to address criminogenic needs, and whether progress is being made in educational and/or vocational programs.

Family

- Do you feel that anything has changed with family relationships since your placement began? If so, what do you think might help to re-build these relationships?
- Are you permitted to be on the phone with a family member/guardian? When was the last time you had a phone call with a family member/guardian? How often do these calls occur? How long are the phone calls?
- Have you had any visits from family members this month? How many? Do you want to talk about the visits?
- Were you hoping someone specific would visit? Do you know the reason(s) your family was unable to visit? (if applicable)
- Does the program help you to stay connected to your family?
- What is your understanding of the agency's policies/procedures related to visits?

Safety (required and should be completed later in the conversation)

Juvenile probation officers should inform each youth that they are mandated reporters before beginning questions about safety, or before each interview. Probation officers should indicate that they are concerned for the youth's safety, that they may have to report information if they were harmed, and that they will follow up with each youth if they were harmed. Sample Language: *"Before we check in for our monthly follow up, I wanted to remind you that I am a mandated reporter. That means, for example, that if you feel unsafe, or if something bad has happened to you, or if you have harmed someone else, I may have to report this information for your safety or the safety of others."*

- How safe do you feel in this program?
- Have you been involved in any incidents since my last visit, such as physical/verbal aggression? Conflicts with peers or staff? Others?
- Tell me about your relationships with other young people in the program.
- Have there been any issues related to contraband during the past month?
- Were you involved in an emergency safety physical intervention during the past month?
 - If you were, do you feel the intervention was necessary for your safety or the safety of others?
 - Do you believe you were treated safely and professionally during the intervention?
- Tell me whether you've seen staff physically restrain a youth (including yourself) in the past month. Please describe the manner in which the restraint occurred before, during, and after the physical hold. Did you feel the staff response was reasonable or unreasonable?
- On average, how much time do you spend in your room during the day? How does this compare to other youth in the program?
- Did you file any grievances since my last visit? Was the grievance addressed, and if so, were you satisfied with the response?

Education/Recreation

- On a typical day, how many hours do you spend attending school? How many hours, if any, do you spend on vocational coursework? Tell me about your classes. In which classes do you struggle? In which classes do you excel?

- Tell me about your relationships with teachers. In your opinion, are teachers making an effort to help you? Please explain.
- Do you feel that your coursework is helping you? If so, in what ways? If not, why not?
- Do you feel like you are challenged in school? Tell me more.
- How does your educational experience here compare to your school involvement at home or at other placements? What changes would you like to make to your school programming?
- How many recreational activities did you participate in since my last visit? What are some recreational things you would like to do, but have not yet had the opportunity to do?

Treatment Planning and Services

- What are your treatment goals? Do you think accomplishing these goals will help you after placement?
- Who is typically involved in the development of your treatment plan and goals? How often are your treatment goals reviewed with this person or others? What, if any, changes have been made?
- In what ways do you think that staff are trying to help you reach your treatment goals? Is there anything which could be done differently by staff to assist you with progress in your treatment?
- How do you feel about your progress in treatment? Have staff told you how they think you are progressing in treatment?
- Tell me about your current group programming. What are some of these groups called? How are they designed to help you?
- Tell me about some of the successes you have had in treatment as well as struggles. In your identified areas of struggle, what could be done differently to assist you with addressing these specific concerns? What are your suggestions for strengthening your treatment program or making your treatment more effective?
- If relevant, what opportunities are there to earn money for restitution while in placement? Have you been able to make any payments? Do you know how much money is left for you to pay? (Probation officers should work with the youth to help them calculate remaining financial obligations.)

Staff

- Tell me about your general interactions with staff. Tell me about what staff are like when interacting with your peers.
- Is there at least one staff person here that you feel you can talk to if you have a problem or something is upsetting you? If appropriate, what has staff done to assist you with any problems or when you were feeling distressed?
- Do you believe that either you, or a peer have been singled out or treated differently during the past month? In what ways?

Other

- Have you been given the opportunity to speak with your attorney, or in dually adjudicated cases, their GAL or CASA?
- Is the placement facility clean both in and outside of the unit? What measures are taken to ensure the facility is clean? What things would you like to see changed in terms of the physical characteristics of the facility?
- Have you been given the opportunity to speak with your attorney, or in dually adjudicated cases, their GAL or CASA?
- Have you seen a doctor or nurse since my last visit? Did you have any medical complaints during the past month? If so, what process was undertaken by staff and what was the outcome?
- What items are provided to you by the facility? Do they give you the toiletries you need (soap, shampoo, lotion)? Is there anything else that you would like them to provide?
- Are you getting enough food? How does the food taste?
- Are you having problems sleeping at night? If yes, please explain.
- Is there anything else you would like to tell me?