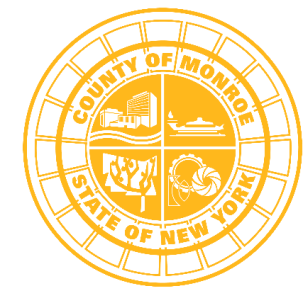




Cross Systems Action Team

Quarterly Meeting

8 December 2025



Agenda

Working together for children with unmet complex needs



- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Guest Speakers w/ Q&A** – Virginia Department of Social Services
 - Em Parente, Asst. Director, Division of Family Services
 - Samantha Brooks, Special Permanency Project Manager
- **Working Group Updates**
 - Advocacy Workgroup
 - 2026 Future Workgroup
- **Other Updates & Announcements**
- **Wrap Up**

Guest Speakers

Working together for children with unmet complex needs



Em Parente
**Asst. Director, Division of
Family Services**



Samantha Brooks
**Special Permanency Project
Manager**



Localizing Success: Implementing a Go Team Model For Your Community

November 20, 2023

- Purpose and Background..... 1
- Core elements of Go Teams..... 2
- Why implement locally?..... 2
- Considering a regional approach..... 2
- How is the Go Team Model Different from a FAPT?..... 3
- "High acuity youth": Defining and Prioritizing..... 3
- Example: Team Members in Go Team/Rapid Response and Their Responsibilities..... 4
- Meeting Format..... 5
- Sample Opening Script..... 5
- Framework for Success: What Would It Take?..... 6
- Three Steps to Launch a Localized Go Team Process..... 6
- System of Care Principles..... 7
- Conclusion..... 8

Purpose and Background

This manual helps localize and implement Go Team and Rapid Response Teams, originally organized at the state level as part of the Safe and Sound Task Force. It supports the development of a localized structure to assist local organizations supporting high acuity youth facing significant needs, such as youth in foster care at risk of or experiencing placement disruptions. While Go Teams and Rapid Response Teams were initially designed for the Task Force's objectives, this template to localize that process can also be a broader tool for coordinating resources and authorities across localities and systems.

Go Teams started in June 2022 as a strategy to address needs around youth in foster care sleeping in offices and hotels. Involves a collaborative multi-system approach

Go Teams brings together representatives from relevant organizations to discuss, problem-solve, and plan and help ensure maximum coordination and cooperation

Go Teams emphasize shared responsibility in addressing individual and system-level barriers, while recognizing organizational-level duties, authorities, and roles

Go Teams aim for quick, coordinated decision-making; provides concurrent system-level education and information

"Go Team" refers to a state-level interagency process developed by the Task Force in June 2022. It involves designing a collaborative approach to address the needs of high-acuity youth in foster care—those requiring appropriate placement, currently displaced, or at risk. Go Teams bring together representatives from relevant organizations to discuss, problem-solve, and plan how to support youth (and localities) and help to ensure maximum coordination and cooperation. Each organization plays a



specific role, emphasizing shared responsibility while recognizing individual duties. Rapid Response is a similar concept, including past or potential placement providers based on the youth's current care needs. Both processes aim for quick, coordinated decision-making to ensure effective support and cooperation among involved entities.

Core elements of Go Teams



Why implement locally?

Developing and implementing a local model is essential for aligning goals of state-level initiatives like Go Teams with the unique needs and assets of specific communities. While some critical actions must be carried out at the state level, many impactful solutions, flexibilities, and actions occur locally. Embracing localization empowers communities to shape their strategies, enhancing the Go Team model's effectiveness in the context of state processes and solutions. Locally developed solutions can also strengthen local child-serving system relationships and systems because participants invested in their communities actively contribute to tailored solutions for their challenges and strengths, as well as identify gaps and needs.

Considering a regional approach

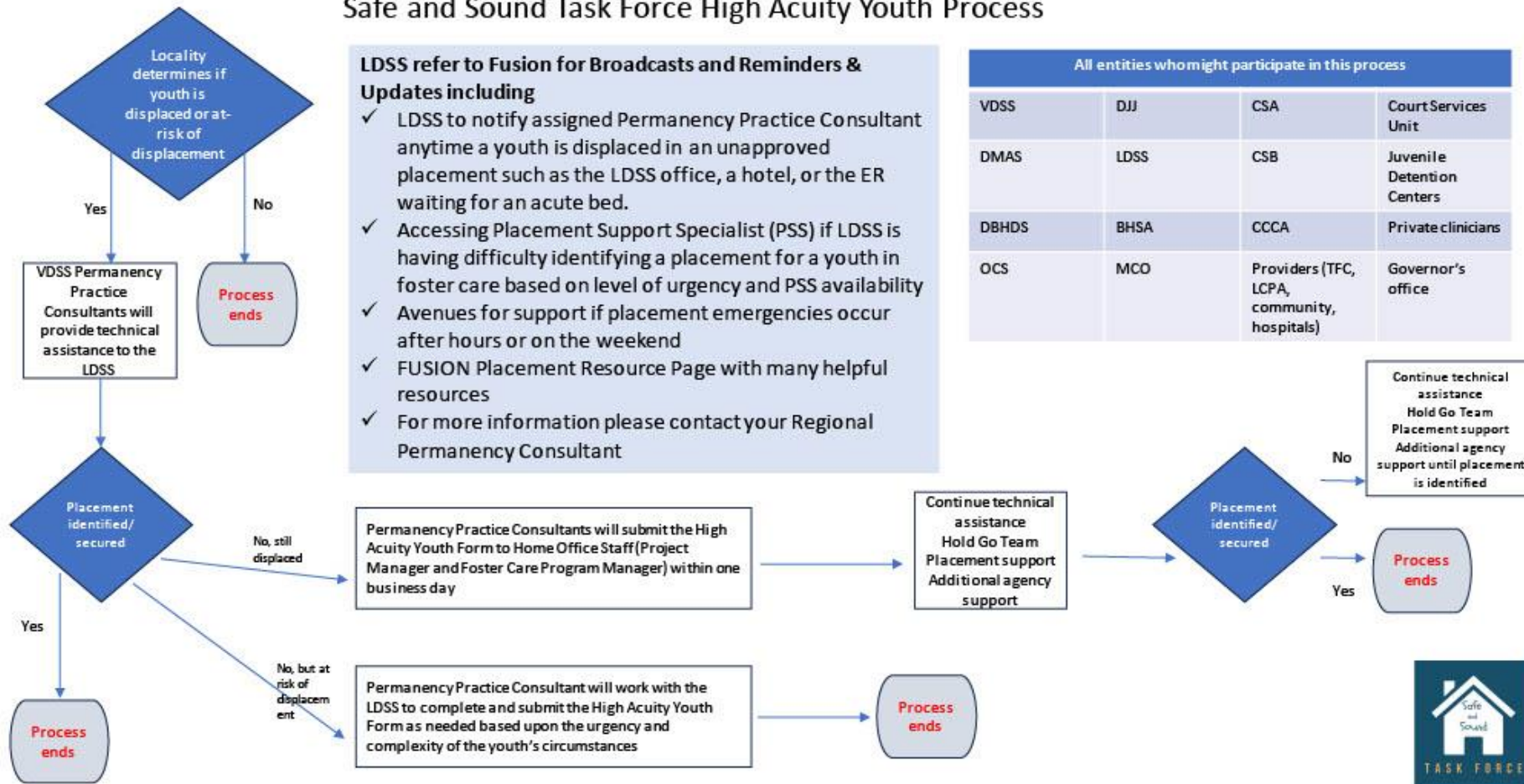
Some localities may want to consider implementing Go Teams on a regional level. This approach becomes critical to consider when multiple localities or communities need to collaborate such as when a community services board covers more than one locality. Developing a regional model can lead to a more cohesive and robust model. Regional collaboration enables the pooling of resources, expertise, and perspectives, which can foster a collective approach that is often more comprehensive and efficient. Also, a regional approach can also allow for the identification and utilization of shared resources and best practices. When neighboring localities work together, they can leverage each other's strengths and learn from successful initiatives and promote a sense of unity among communities within the region. Although this guidebook uses the term "local" throughout, also consider whether a regional approach is the right approach for your community.

VA Safe and Sound Initiative

An example of another states' effort to address unmet complex needs



Safe and Sound Task Force High Acuity Youth Process



LDSS refer to Fusion for Broadcasts and Reminders & Updates including

- ✓ LDSS to notify assigned Permanency Practice Consultant anytime a youth is displaced in an unapproved placement such as the LDSS office, a hotel, or the ER waiting for an acute bed.
- ✓ Accessing Placement Support Specialist (PSS) if LDSS is having difficulty identifying a placement for a youth in foster care based on level of urgency and PSS availability
- ✓ Avenues for support if placement emergencies occur after hours or on the weekend
- ✓ FUSION Placement Resource Page with many helpful resources
- ✓ For more information please contact your Regional Permanency Consultant

All entities who might participate in this process			
VDSS	DJJ	CSA	Court Services Unit
DMAS	LDSS	CSB	Juvenile Detention Centers
DBHDS	BHSA	CCCA	Private clinicians
OCS	MCO	Providers (TFC, LCPA, community, hospitals)	Governor's office





Discussion

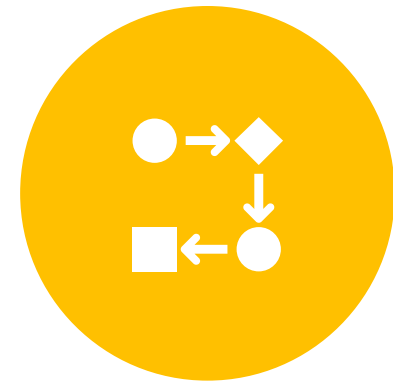
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What about the VA High Acuity Youth example **sparks your interest or curiosity?**



Based on what you have heard, what are the **key elements we should consider in New York to improve process and access to care** regarding children boarding in hospitals?



As we **set the stage for redesign**, are there principles or strategies we can incorporate now?

Workgroup Updates



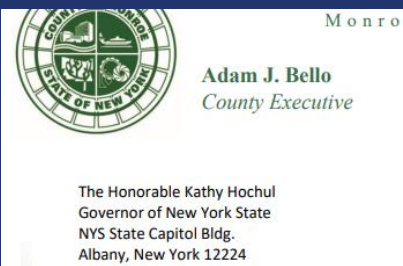
Advocacy Work So Far

Current focus: A.7603/S.7978

1

Letter to Governor

Broad asks raised at September Convening



2

Joint Letter on Budget

Signed by 14 organizations, sent to 36 legislators



14
Organizations

3

Budget Testimony

Joint Budget Hearing on Human Services



4

Joint Letter on A.7603/S.7978

Sent to OCFS Region 2 + Wyoming & Genesee County State Legislators



35
Organizations

5

Meetings with Legislators

Asking them to support A.7603/S.7978 + \$25M for CCFS



16
Legislators

Meetings with Legislators

16 legislators

14 counties

15 workgroup members

8 organizations

5 families

Assembly

Bailey
Bronson
Clark
Gallahan
Hawley
Jensen
Lunsford
Manktelow
Meeks
Palmesano

Senate

Brouk
Cooney
Helming
O'Mara
Ortt
Borrello

