

## Advocacy for Adult Clients in Fostering Connections Cases

- Advocacy begins with teen clients - transition planning meetings

Real Goal Setting; Collaboration; Client Buy-in

- Transition Plan/ToolKit is an essential document

- Support Services Early & Throughout - Rapport Building is Key

New Day: Wraparound; Counseling; Case Management; Pregnant & Parenting Teen Support; Life Coaching; Life Skills Academy; Transitional Living Program

NMCAN “Back on Track” and Mentoring

- Signing and Execution of VSSA

- Adjacent Legal Services: DV, Landlord-Tenant; Benefit Eligibility

- o <https://www.lawhelpnewmexico.org/node/9/renters-guide>
- o <https://www.nmcourts.gov/Self-Help/domestic-violence-forms.aspx>

- Client Contact and Communication - IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

- Active Efforts Findings and Protecting the Record

- Ensuring the Culture Shift Happens - Your Client is Not in Custody

“We found that it took awhile for the culture shift to happen. You had some workers in some places who were treating extended foster care as a privilege and not a legal entitlement and were actively pushing kids out if they weren’t doing all of things,” Blalock said. **“I don’t think we’re going to make that mistake.” - Secretary Blalock,** “Pandemic Accelerated Rollout of Extended Foster Care ‘In a Really Good Way,’” [YouthToday.org](https://www.youthtoday.org), Steve Jansen, June 28, 2020

