

FFA and GH (Foster Care Placement Services) Program Changes

Under Consideration	Rationale
<p><u>Mental Health Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize trauma informed and evidence based practice models • Provide DMH services with either a DMH contract or DMH approved provider if agency does not have its own DMH contract • FFA Contractor shall ensure the Certified Foster Parent cannot refuse any mental health or Wraparound Services determined necessary to stabilize a child/youth and NMD • Contractor shall have a formal plan for emergency provision of psychiatric and medication evaluations by a Board Certified Child Psychiatrist, either on staff, subcontracted, or obtained through written agreement for fee-for-service and who is licensed and certified to treat children/youth 	<p>DCFS recommendation to enhance child well-being to improve outcomes for children and families</p>
<p><u>Replacement Notification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed notice requirement for replacement from 7 days to 30 days unless the child is a threat to himself/herself or others 	<p>DCFS recommendation to implement efforts to preserve placement stability and/or locate appropriate placement matching to enhance child well-being to improve outcomes for children and families</p>
<p><u>County Actions for Unmet Performance Outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substandard performance may result in Consultation, implementation of a CAP, Review Conference, HOLD, DNR, DNU or Contract Termination 	<p>DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families</p>
<p><u>Staff Duties (for FFAs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required visits by the FFA social workers with the placed child and the certified foster parents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weekly face-to-face contacts with the placed child ○ Two of the weekly contacts each month shall occur in the Certified Foster Home ○ At minimum two unannounced visits each month to the Certified Foster Parents by the Contractor’s Administrative Staff and/or FFA social worker 	<p>DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visits shall not occur at the Contractor’s offices ○ Visits made with the Certified Foster Parents and/or the placed child during participation in trainings, meetings, family visits or other business-related meetings are not considered a visit ○ Private interviews with the placed child required during each weekly visit 	
<p><u>Training Requirements for Staff, Volunteers and Certified Foster Parents</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a training plan including DCFS/Probation recommended trainings (i.e., Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children - CSEC) ● Maintain records of training 	Board of Supervisors (BOS) action and DCFS recommendation to enhance quality of services and to improve outcomes for children and families
<p><u>Intake</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require 24/7 intake with a 1 hour response time 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<p><u>Meals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No frozen or powdered milk ● Minimum of 3 nutritious meals and balanced diet throughout the day and 2 snacks in between meals ● Address specific dietary needs of the child ● Opportunities for healthy exercise readily available 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<p><u>Extended Foster Care/AB12</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) Population Type 	Legislative change
<p><u>Hospitalization including Psychiatric Holds</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visit hospitalized children and youth and maintain telephone contact ● Re-admit children following hospital discharge if a vacancy exists or if paid bed-hold 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<p><u>Information Technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require technology to support Foster Care Search System (FCSS) (i.e., internet access, etc.) ● Daily updates to include caregiver profiles, vacancies, certification/decertification, etc. 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families

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<u>Permanency Planning</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate development of healthy relationships and regular contacts including transportation for the placed child/youth and NMD with significant adults Develop ways to assist placed child establish connections in the community and use community resources 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<u>Well-being</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All discharged youth leave with a duffel bag or suitcase 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<u>Educational Enrichment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure children are participating in alternative educational-related activities during normal school hours if suspended from school or not in school Children under the age of 6 should be encouraged and allowed daily play and recreational time to assist with developmental milestones Contractor shall document justifications for the placed children/youth and NMDs unable or unwilling to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities and make the documentation available upon request 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<u>Clothing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clothing allowances should not be withheld from the placed child by the Contractor and/or the Certified Foster Parents Ensure placed child has appropriate clothing to meet basic needs and feel normal in comparison to their non-foster peers Add a minimum clothing allowance requirement to the FFA SOW 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<u>FFA Social Worker Caseloads</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require written declarations for any social worker, whether employed or contracted, verifying they understand and are in compliance with the maximum caseload requirement (15 placed children/youth and NMDs across all agencies) 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families

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<u>Monetary Allowance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum increase in required children’s allowance 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<u>Child and Family Teams (CFTs) and Multi-disciplinary Teams (MDTs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require membership and participation NSPs shall be developed through the CFT 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<u>Quality Control Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop internal operational procedures and monitor for compliance with all applicable federal, state, municipal, county and local laws, regulations and policies, their CCLD approved Program Statement, the SOW and Ts & Cs of the Contract 	DCFS recommendation to enhance agency performance to improve outcomes for children and families
<u>Transportation Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No placed child should miss school, Court, therapeutic or medical appointments because the Contractor does not provide or arrange transportation With CSW/DPO approval, the Contractor and the certified parents can instruct NMDs how to use and access public transportation No child/youth shall be allowed to access public transportation after dark without the company/supervision of an appropriate adult Any youth (16 and older) shall have documented in the NSP their ability to safely navigate and access public transportation after dark – this provision in no way limits or prohibits the youth’s participation in their activities 	DCFS recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being/self-sufficiency and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families
<u>Site Relocation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocation notice changed from 30 to 60 days 	DCFS recommendation to allow sufficient time to process and approve

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