

GH A.M. Session Program Changes – NOTES

Under Consideration	Rationale	Concerns/Recommendations
<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/Probation/DMH recommendation to enhance child well-being to improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to best select intervention models in GH's?(DMH input needed) • Medi-Cal no longer covers Psych. Evals w/o certification (Affects long-term Psych Eval providers) • Only Psychologists and Psychiatrists associated with DMH contracted facilities are able to bill Medi-Cal. • Board Cert. Child Psychiatrists/Psychologists are very hard to find in LA County • Psychiatrists have notified providers to no longer being able to provide services through Medi-Cal (Donations are being used to fill this need) • Can Nurse Practitioners be used for evaluations? • Interns supervised by LCSW's are being used for assessments, which impacts points in rating system. • Will DMH increase and extend contracts to non-contracted agencies? Can they be expedited? (DMH input needed) • Can language regarding Psych services be grandfathered in to lessen impact and allow providers to continue to use Non-Board Certified Psychiatrists? • Will every youth entering GH's be

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		<p>required to be assessed? And if so, by whom? Will only trauma informed/EBP be required for every youth?</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/Probation 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will this also apply to Probation youth? Currently, 7 Day notices extend out to 30 days. Will the new 30 day rule extend out to 60 days? Transitions with planned CFT/MDT's should occur timely. If hospitalization occurs beyond 7 days will bed be held and payment honored? Improve intake screenings (with full disclosure) is necessary to ensure proper placement, better address the needs of children, and prevent further disruption of placements. Improve partnering with DCFS Develop facilities to better meet the needs of high risk youth (i.e. fire setting, violent behaviors, sexual predators, etc) Additional support needed for youth to help transition when searching for new placement.
<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 	<p>DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language deemed too broad. For example: will a HOLD occur for non-

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Conference, HOLD, DNR, DNU or Contract Termination	permanency to improve outcomes for children and families	comprehensive NSP's? What will OHCMD role be in this process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to be more specific. Further discussion needed to address specifics.
<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 • 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 • 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 	Children's Special Investigations Unit (CSIU) and DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families	N/A
<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) 	Board of Supervisors (BOS) and DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance quality of services and to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve coordination with Departments (DCFS/DMH/Probation) • Facilitate CEU's

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain records of training 	<p>improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up w/ Michelle Guymon (Probation) is needed to work out details about providing CEU.s for Community Partners, GH and FFA Staff. DCFS will not be responsible for issuing CEU's as they are only issued for DCFS Staff.
<p><u>Intake</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require 24/7 intake with a 1 hour response time 	<p>DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies are having difficulty returning phone calls to CSW's due to their phones being blocked to incoming calls. Concerns regarding cost related to increase of staff availability for 24/7, 1 hr. response. Can expectations be more clear/specific? Can expectations vary according to RCL level/resources? Unfunded mandate? Include specific language regarding expectations for medically fragile children More streamlined process for intake, replacement, discharge. Ensure completion of intake with all required/necessary documentation (Can this be automated-perhaps integrated to FCSS?) – Emergency and middle of the night placements are especially challenging. Launch of FCSS will help streamline

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		placement process.
<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/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure language states “offer” and/or “encourage” as some children will refuse.
<p><u>Extended Foster Care/AB12</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) Population Type 	Legislative change	No feedback
<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/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify expectations: in person and/or phone contact? • Concerns with staff related costs (OT). Access to child when hospitalized can be very difficult. Children are often hospitalized out of county (i.e. Ventura, Orange, etc), hospitals often refuse access to GH staff, etc. • When hospitalized beyond 7 days, can beds be held open and DCFS guarantee payment? (Consult with State/Fed for consideration) • Placements are not always terminated timely/effectively creating

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		overpayments unnecessarily. (FCSS will help improve this process)
<p><u>Information Technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required technology to support Foster Care Search System (FCSS) (i.e., internet access, etc.) • Daily updates to include caregiver profiles, vacancies, certification/decertification, etc. 	DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed Change • Ongoing training and support may be needed. • For FCSS GH providers are to contact Sabina Choi (OHCMD-Development))
<p><u>Permanency Planning</u></p> <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/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specify transportation needs for NMD's. What are the expectations? • Will permanency connections identified as "friends" far away be required to be vetted/approved by DCFS?
<p><u>Well-being</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All discharged youth leave with a duffel bag or suitcase 	DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No trash bags to be used • Who will provide duffel bags (DCFS/providers?) • Can clothing allowance be increased to fill this need?

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<p><u>Educational Enrichment</u></p> <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 	<p>DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to “ensure” meeting this need with youth who are suspended from school and unwilling to participate in any educational/enrichment activity? • DCFS support is needed to be more proactive with school districts • Agencies encounter many obstacles with alt/non-public schools. • Youth are at times prohibited from participating in athletic programs. • Is watching TV an acceptable activity? (time limits?) • Resources from two providers were identified and offered in the room (Equine therapy/college tours)
<p><u>Clothing</u></p> <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 • Added a minimum clothing allowance requirement to the FFA SOW 	<p>DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are they available to GH’s? Many within DCFS say “NO” – Need to clarify • Many youth arrive with no clothing • Need to further clarify “feel normal in comparison to non-foster peers” – subjective? • Define and specify “sufficient clothing” requirement

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<p><u>FFA Social Worker Caseloads</u></p> <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) 	<p>CSIU and DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><u>Monetary Allowance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum increase in required children’s allowance 	<p>DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who will fund increase? How to compensate for willful destruction of property? Accountability?
<p><u>Child and Family Teams (CFTs) and Multi-disciplinary Teams (MDTs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require membership and participation NSPs shall be developed through the CFT 	<p>DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of clear deadlines for coordination of CFT’s and MDT’s
<p><u>Quality Control Plan</u></p> <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 	<p>DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance agency performance to improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can DCFS assist with development of QA guidelines? Training?

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<p><u>Transportation Plan</u></p> <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 	<p>DCFS/Probation recommendation to enhance child safety, well-being/self-sufficiency and permanency to improve outcomes for children and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include transportation after dark in NSP for youth 16 and over.
<p><u>Site Relocation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation notice changed from 30 to 60 days 	<p>DCFS/Probation recommendation to allow sufficient time to process and approve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency provision if they can’t meet 60 day timeframe. • Why can’t it be done on 30 days? F/U?

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