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F O R Y O U R I N F O R M A T I O N

Issue 06-

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INTENSIVE TREATMENT FOSTER CARE (ITFC)

Many seriously emotionally disturbed DCFS foster children spend too many years in the highest level group homes (RCL 12, RCL 14 and Community Treatment Facilities). DCFS has developed the Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) Program to provide an alternative to higher level group homes. ITFC does this by placing only one DCFS foster child in a specialized foster home where the child has an individualized treatment program and the foster parents are carefully matched to each child and are specially trained and supported 24/7.

TARGET POPULATION

ITFC will accept children who are 10-17 years of age, emotionally disturbed and:

- Have successfully completed or whose treatment needs are no longer met by a higher level group home; or
- Have a history of one or more placements in higher level group homes (RCL 12, 14, or CTF); or
- Are at serious risk of psychiatric hospitalization; or
- Are at serious risk of replacement in an RCL 12 or higher group home; or
- Are currently living with relative caregivers or NREFM but are at risk for replacement in a higher level group home.

ITFC PROGRAM PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING:

- Places one youth at a time with a family
- Matches the foster family and child with care
- Uses a team approach to treatment, with the foster parents as part of the treatment team along with program staff
- Utilizes a unique Support Counselor to offer individualized counseling & emotional support, mentoring and modeling skills for both child and foster parent
- Employs case managers with low caseloads for frequent on-site consultation for individualized problem-solving & treatment planning
- Uses Trauma-focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy as its treatment model
- Offers a more normalizing living environment and better opportunities for permanence

REFERRAL PROCESS

The DCFS Resource Utilization Management (RUM) Unit is the exclusive gatekeeper for all referrals to the ITFC program. The Regional RUM Liaison will need a packet for the referred child consisting of the following information:

- History of placements;
- Psychiatric evaluation & diagnosis;
- History of psychotropic medications;
- Medical evaluations;
- History of trauma*;
- History of previous attempts at permanency*;
- Identification of referred child's family members & others influential or interested in the child's life; and
- A completed Child & Adolescent Needs & Strengths (CANS) assessment.

*Current court report can be submitted containing this information.

The referred child will be reviewed by the Interagency Placement Review Team (IPRT) which is composed of representatives from DCFS, DMH and the ITFC Foster Family Agencies (FFA). FFAs participating in the ITFC program are Five Acres, ChildNet and Olive Crest. The homes certified for ITFC placements are matched with the children needing intensive treatment at the weekly IPRT teleconference meetings.

If the ITFC FFA is interested in a possible match between the referred child and one of their certified homes, the ITFC agency staff will interview the child and then present the information about the child to the ITFC foster parents. Pre-placement visits between the child and foster parent will take place to determine if this is a good placement match.

If the child is presented to the IPRT but there are no appropriate homes currently available, they will be placed on a "Candidate Log" for future matching.

Please Note: ITFC homes are not emergency placements. It can take time to make an appropriate match and submission to the IPRT does not guarantee an ITFC placement.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

Policy@dcfs.co.la.ca.us

Clerical Handbook: <http://198.51.213.151/Policy/Hndbook%20Clerical/Default.htm>

Child Welfare Services Handbook: <http://198.51.213.151/Policy/Hndbook%20CWS/default.htm>

FYI's: <http://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/Policy/FYI/TOCFYI.HTM>