



**Continuum of Care Reform (CCR)  
Stakeholder Implementation Advisory Committee  
MEETING NOTES**  
July 26, 2016  
CDSS Auditorium, 744 P Street, Sacramento CA 95814

**Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Purpose of the Committee:** Obtain input/recommendations on policy, best practices, and other aspects of CCR implementation.

AGENDA ITEM	NOTES/DISCUSSION	ACTION ITEMS
<p><b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b> Theresa Thurmond</p> <p><b>II. Opening Remarks</b> Pete Cervinka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been a great deal of collaboration regarding CCR implementation and CDSS remains committed to these efforts.</li> <li>• The CDSS has released a significant volume of information regarding various areas of CCR implementation via numerous formal policy letters, fiscal letters, county and provider implementation guides, and stakeholder engagement, etc.</li> <li>• There is a substantial commitment from the CDSS for ongoing technical assistance.</li> <li>• No opportunity should be passed up to say thank you. This is the most exciting thing that has happened in child welfare in decades because of the commitment from youth, our county and tribal partners, providers, and advocates - including all of you here in attendance. We are all here because we believe we can do better on behalf of children in foster care.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>A. Rate Structure and Level of Care</b> Cheryl Treadwell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FCARB has released a draft Level of Care (LOC) assessment protocol to be used by counties to translate their existing assessment processes (such as specialized care increment assessments) into the new LOC rate structure and has been soliciting input from stakeholders. FCARB will consolidate the feedback received with the goal of creating a grid and document to guide the LOC process. The goal is to have this completed mid-August and attached to either an ACL or ACIN. The document will be distributed for stakeholder review prior to being released. Three key focus areas:</li> <li>• AB 403 provides for CDSS to grant extensions, upon county request, that will allow current group home providers to continue their RCL rate while they are converting to a STRTP or, if they have decided not to transition to STRTP licensure, to allow for time to transition youth to a new placement.</li> <li>• An Accreditation Reimbursement Process for FFAs and GHs is under development. Providers will need to apply for reimbursement after August 1, 2017. The availability of reimbursement for retroactive payments is under consideration by CDSS. The letter providing details regarding this process is anticipated to be released in August.</li> <li>• An ACL introducing the new home-based family rate structure is currently under stakeholder review. The letter will provide more detail and context including information regarding and how Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) has been incorporated into the new rate structure. It will also introduce the rate structure for the STRTP license category and provide more detail on how the rate is designed.</li> </ul>	<p>A Rates Adequacy committee meeting is tentatively set for August 3, 2016. CDSS needs to report to legislature by August 10, 2016</p>
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<p><b>B. Mental Health Program Approval/Medi-Cal Certification</b> Sara Rogers for Karen Baylor (DHCS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DHCS is working to integrate the mental health program approval (formerly known as program certification) and the Medi-Cal certification into a unified process for licensed STRTPs.</li> <li>• Medi-Cal certification allows the provider to bill and receive reimbursement for allowable specialty mental health services provided. All STRTPs will be required, as a condition of licensure to have a mental health program approval and Medi-Cal certification no later than 12 months after receiving their license.</li> <li>• DHCS also committed to providing Medi-Cal 101 trainings statewide to inform providers and other stakeholders regarding the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health system. The goal is to address commonly stated concerns and barriers. Feedback is currently being sought from the Mental Health workgroup.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>C. Interim Standards</b> – Teresa Owensby</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Interim Standards:</b> Out for stakeholder feedback early August and includes language for Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). This is the complete regulatory framework for FFAs. The biggest change in the Standards is the program statement in which FFAs will describe how they will ensure access to core services, as well as how they will implement RFA under AB 1997. FFAs who are not ready to approve families under RFA, are not required to submit an RFA implementation plan, but they cannot recruit new families and may only service their existing families until they are ready to perform RFA functions. The RFA directives will be incorporated into the Standards so there is only one document to follow (the current Standards draft reflects Version 2.1 of the Written Directives, and will be updated once Version 3.0 is released). FFAs will not need to submit separate program statements for different programs it operates or populations it serves.</li> </ul>	<p>Interim Standards will be sent out for stakeholder review in early August</p>

<p><b>D. Regional Convening/Local Implementation</b> – Sara Rogers/Theresa Thurmond</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regional Convenings:</b> CDSS along with DHCS, CWDA, CBHDA, CPOC, Casey Family Programs and the RTAs are coordinating regional convenings throughout the state. The convenings will enable participants to ask questions related to CCR Implementation and receive answers in real time. Prior identification of questions and potential barriers will ensure that the subject matter experts are present. Initially the meetings will be for state and county employees only, however, CCR is committed to holding meetings with providers and other stakeholders in a subsequent round through the regions. Counties and licensed providers are encouraged not to wait to engage with each other toward CCR implementation.</li> </ul>	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>Bay Area August 19, 2016</p> <p>Los Angeles August 31, 2016</p>
<p><b>E. Open Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ACIN regarding CCR:</b> All County Information Notice (ACIN) I-50-16 has been released providing an overview of the statutory changes made in AB 403 and as reflected in AB 1997. AB 1997 is in its final stages and has clarified mental health provisions and entrance criteria for into Short-term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), including the role of the Interagency Placement Committee (IAPC) in approving STRTP placements. Additionally, AB 1997 clarifies Resource Family Approval (RFA) provisions.</li> <li>• <b>Child and Family Team (CFT):</b> AB 403 requires all placing decisions and case planning to be informed by CFTs. The ACL will be released soon that includes information about the composition of the CFT, background information, eligibility criteria, meeting frequency, and other relevant information.</li> <li>• <b>Resource Family Approval:</b> ACL 16-58 regarding RFA Program providing clarifying Instructions for Statewide Implementation was released.</li> <li>• <b>Funding Opportunity for Activities to enhance Foster Parent Recruitment (FPRS):</b> ACL 15-88 has been released for both probation and child welfare departments. The ACL clarifies the funds available CW and Probation additional investment in activities to retain and increase the number of foster parents, relative caregivers and resource families available for placement</li> </ul>	

	<p>of juvenile court dependent minors and NMDs beyond existing efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Implementation Guides:</b> This is a useful tool that agencies can use to show how they can move forward in preparation for the January 1, 2017, implementation date.</li> <li>• <b>Rate Structure and Level of Care (LOC) protocol:</b> is still being developed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>III. Youth Engagement</b> Alyssum Maguire &amp; Alexis Barries</p>	<p>The Youth Engagement Project (YEP) presented the “Next Steps” brochure that was a product of the Youth Convening held on May 5, 2016. Over 40 community agencies attended and explored ways to engage youth at local levels in planning and communicating CCR.</p>	
<p><b>IV. Targeted Recruitment/Permanency Supports Presentation</b> Rami Chand</p>	<p>Panel Presentation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoptive Parent,</li> <li>• Adoptive Youth,</li> <li>• FFA Youth Permanency Worker,</li> <li>• FFA Chief Executive Officer</li> <li>• FFA Chief Permanency</li> </ul> <p>The panel discussed the importance of providing intensive permanency support services to adolescent youth. Specifically the panel described how the county, providers, family and youth worked together to find the right placement fit for the parent and youth and to provide intensive supports to ensure the long term success of the placement. They discussed the barriers they came across throughout the process emphasizing the importance of communication and being culturally sensitive. This panel was provided as a best practice for counties that have difficulty identifying and supporting home based placements for adolescent youth to consider.</p>	
<p><b>V. Next Steps</b> Theresa Thurmond</p>	<p>Next meeting scheduled for November 1, 2016</p>	