



California Department of
EDUCATION



DOR DEPARTMENT of
REHABILITATION
Employment, Independence & Equality

June 9, 2020

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 20-63
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (BH) INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 20-013

TO: ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM DIRECTORS
COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CENTERS
ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL CENTER AGENCIES
DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION REGIONAL DIRECTORS
COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREAS

SUBJECT: NEW STATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROCESS TO ASSIST
COUNTY AND LOCAL AGENCIES SERVING MULTI-SYSTEM
INVOLVED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES PURSUANT TO
ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 2083 (CHAPTER 815, OF 2018)

REFERENCE: AB [2083](#), [ACL NO. 17-122](#)

The purpose of this notice is to provide information and guidance to county and local agencies serving children and youth in, or under consideration for entry into, foster care, regarding a new process by which county and local agencies may request technical assistance from the State of California pursuant to [AB 2083](#).

Background

[AB 2083 \(Chapter 815, Statutes of 2018\)](#) requires each county to develop and implement a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) setting forth roles and responsibilities of agencies and other entities that serve children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma. The purpose of the MOU is to ensure that children and youth in foster care receive coordinated, timely, and trauma-informed services.

Additionally, AB 2083 requires the establishment of a Children and Youth System of Care State Technical Assistance (TA) Team consisting of representatives from California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Department of Health Care Services, Department of Developmental Services, and the California Department of Education. The statute requires the state to develop a process for local partner agencies that are parties to the county MOU to request interdepartmental technical assistance from the established Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team. The Department of Rehabilitation is available to consult with the Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team, as appropriate. In addition, the Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team will partner with the CDSS Office of Tribal Affairs to appropriately seek out consultation from Tribal Partners.

New State Interagency Resolution Team Technical Assistance Process

A primary role of the Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team is to develop guidance and provide technical assistance to local partner agencies in order to identify and secure the appropriate level of services to meet the needs of children and youth in foster care. This letter provides guidance to partner agencies regarding interdepartmental technical assistance and how to request technical assistance for both youth/case-specific challenges and assistance in designing, implementing, or sustaining its local System of Care.

The new state technical assistance model is built upon the foundation of the current Continuum of Care Reform technical assistance process. It broadens the scope and participation of existing technical assistance calls, consistent with AB 2083.

Once the local resolution process has been exhausted, a request may be made to the Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team and submitted via the provided electronic forms found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZJNKLKY>.

Technical assistance may be requested using the provided link for the following purposes:

1) *Request for Technical Assistance for System of Care Policy Development and Practice Implementation*

This request form will be completed and submitted when local partners need technical assistance related to designing, completing, installing, implementing, or sustaining the local MOU and related processes and practices. The goal of the Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team will be to offer support to local partner agency leaders in identifying and outlining solutions related to the MOU and the local System of Care.

As the technical assistance calls evolve, the request form and information collected through the process will be analyzed to inform future processes, recognize patterns in systems, identify challenges, and discern growth and opportunities for system improvements.

2) *Request for Child or Youth-Specific Technical Assistance*

This request form will be completed and submitted when local partners require assistance for a specific child or youth in care, including Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program admittance denials. The goal of the Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team will be to provide high-level state and local interagency technical assistance and child-specific case resolution or multi-system process resolution.

Any county department, regional center, county office of education, or local educational agency may complete and submit the electronic form, describing an account of the issue to be resolved. Documentation of attempts at resolution at the local level, barriers identified by system partners, and relevant background inclusive of the educational history should also be included.

Once a request is submitted, it will be triaged, and a call will be scheduled and facilitated by the Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team using a guided facilitation format. The Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team will work with the local partner agencies and respective involved state agencies to ensure that necessary information and the appropriate members of the various teams familiar with the individual child are prepared in advance. The meeting facilitators will prepare guidance to ensure only essential participants are included in child-specific case or process resolution calls to ensure privacy and confidentiality aspects are addressed.

As the technical assistance calls evolve, the request form and information collected through the process will be analyzed to inform future processes, recognize patterns in systems, identify challenges, and discern growth and opportunities for system improvements.


Although the TA process and MOU development efforts are not intended to solely serve as crisis response protocol, the structures and relationships created through the MOU development process will be beneficial for local partners in their responses in times of crises.

The mandate for counties to develop local MOUs was designed to help build communication and shared responsibility across local agencies to avert the need for state-level intervention. However, we recognize that the MOUs are in a process of development. Local partner agencies are encouraged to continue to first approach their local solution finding and dispute resolution process based on the values, principles, and leadership behaviors found within [California's Integrated Core Practice Model for Children and Youth, \(ICPM\)](#). The ICPM ensures effective service delivery in ten empirically based principles of care, and includes elements of engagement, assessment, service planning and implementation, monitoring/adapting, and transitions.

Additionally, the state recognizes the amount of coordination required by the local partners to develop and implement meaningful MOUs and to develop an authentic interagency leadership team based on System of Care principles and processes. In response to the timely need for adequate MOU development and coordination, if your local MOU is not completed by July 1, 2020, an MOU status update for each county should be submitted in lieu of the MOU to SystemofCare@dss.ca.gov.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, contact the Children and Youth System of Care State TA Team at SystemofCare@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bradley P. Gilbert".

Bradley P. Gilbert, MD, MPP, Director
Department of Health Care Services



Kim Johnson, Director
California Department of Social Services



Nancy Bargmann, Director
Department of Developmental Services



Stephanie Gregson, EdD, Chief Deputy Superintendent
California Department of Education



Joe Xavier, Director
Department of Rehabilitation