September 07, 2018

Foster Care Rates Bureau  
744 P Street, MS 8-11-38  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
SCI@dss.ca.gov

Re: Specialized Care Increments in Placer County

Placer County will cease provision of the Specialized Care Increment (SCI) supplement to the foster care rate for new children/youth entering foster care within 60 days of the date in which the new Level of Care (LOC) rate determination structure becomes effective.

The new LOC rate structure and its accompanying matrix, used to determine a higher than basic rate, is based on the behavioral, emotional and physical requirements of children/youth in care. Placer County is committed to providing the needed assistance to Placer County families and believes that the existing Placer County SCI plan (currently on file with The California Department of Social Services) performs a more limited function than what has been created through the LOC.

When LOC becomes effective, and therefore, the SCI rates terminate locally, the recipient will receive a Notice of Action letter informing them of the foster care rate change due to the implementation of the LOC and their informing them of their new rate based on the new reassessment. Staff from the Placer County Foster Care Eligibility unit will be available to answer questions regarding foster care rates and their applicability for caregivers and youth, and the specifics of each case.

Families ineligible for the LOC, including those in the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP), the Kinship (Kin-Gap) program, and the Non-Related Legal Guardianship program will continue to receive the negotiated SCI rate until a change or reassessment is requested by the family, or they become ineligible for AAP. Placer County currently
has 301 cases in which the new LOC matrix will not apply. These include 9 Non-Related Legal Guardianship, 7 Kingap and 285 AAP cases.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact me at the email or phone number provided below.

Sincerely,

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