

**CCR/FFA/STRTP Workgroup
Meeting Minutes**

Date: 02/22/2016	Time: 10:30 am to 3:00 pm	Location: CA Dept. of Social Services at 744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
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In-person attendees:

Agencies Representatives: LaVerne Ishibashi (A Brighter Childhood); Joe Lopez (Aldea Children and Family Services); William Smith (Alliance for Children’s Rights); Kristen McQuary (Atkinson); Cora Hardy (Better Life for Children); Stephanie Ivler (Bienvenidos Children’s Center Inc.); Carroll Schroeder & Jackie Rutheiser (CA Alliance of Child and Family Services); Jerry Johnson (CA Coalition of Foster Family Agencies); Michele Bennyhoff (CA Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies); Kate Acosta (CCTA); Roberto Favela (EMQ Families First); Linda Guisti (Families for Children); Gail Johnson Vaughan (Families Now); Jill Jacob (Family Builders); Jim Roberts (Family Care Network, Inc); Wambui Wainaina (Family Extension Foster Care); Debra Benjamin (Greater Hope Foundation); Rob Getty (Koinonia Family Services); Karen Alvord (Lilliput Children’s Services); Shauna Rossington (Mountain Circle Family Services); Jackie Wong (National Center for Youth Law); Robert Pye (Paradise Oaks Youth Services); Kathleen McKuin (Positive Options); Vida Khavar (Private Consultant); Victor Antonio (Promesa Behavioral); Nena Penza (Ready for Life); Lorraine Montano (Redwood Community Services); Monica Caprio (Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice - UC Davis); Shelby Howard (Seneca Center); Tim Matthews (Sierra Vista Children and Family Services); Yuri Kimura (Stanford Youth Solutions); Nancy Reagh (Triad Family Services); Alexis Barries & Alyssum Maguire (YEP); Kim Chilvers (Youth Homes).

Child Welfare County Representatives: Jennie Pettet (CWDA); Maria Bermudez (Kern County DHS); Karen Richardson (Los Angeles County DCFS); Bridgette Hernandez & Jenell Ross (Riverside County DPSS); Rachel Swaykos, Sarah Glass, and Theresa Peleska (San Diego County HHS).

Probation: Vone Kegarice (Santa Clara County Probation); Ed Miller (Shasta County).

State Representatives:

CDSS: Ahmed Nemr, Angela Valdez, Cheryl Treadwell, Emerita Godleski, Erika Braccialini, Fanita Polk-Reaves, Fernando Sandoval, Jane Troglia, Jean Chen, John SanFillipo, Joti Bolina, Loretta Miller, Mai Yer Vang, Michelle (Shanie) Humbert-Rico, Rami Chand, Rebecca Buchmiller, Richard Teran, Sara Rogers, Teresa Owensby, Tracy Urban, Vevila Hussey, Wendy Cook, Theresa Thurmond.

DHCS: Erika Cristo

Attendees on the phone: Ballard Pam (Arrow Child & Family Ministries); Noble Lynn & Vernon Brown (Aspiranet); Craig Zacuto (Beta Foster Care); Lynn Thull (California Alliance); Marcie Kullback (Casa Pacifica); Elsa Saenz (Casey Family Programs); Daisy Braxton, Nina Dyba, Vevila Hussey, Ann Mizoguchi, Lila Hollman-Dowty, Happy Stuart, & Eugenia Pedersen (CDSS); Chyra Martin (Children's Way FFA); Nilanie Ramos (County of San Diego CWS); Lorrie Irving (Dangerfield Institute of Urban Problems); Kathleen Carter Nishimura (DHCS); Richard Knecht (DHCS/CDSS); Gordon Richardson & Eva Terrazas (EMQ Families First); Kimberly Sutton (Extraordinary Families); David Boschen (Hand In Hand Foundation); Nick Ryan (Hathaway-Sycamores); Kimberly Lewis (HR Dowden And Associates); Emily Stewart (Kern County CWS); Dave Wesson (Koinonia Family Services); David Finkelstein (LPE, Inc.); Rick Smith, Sherrie Butler, & Nathan Smith (Pathway Family Service); Liliana Gallegos (Riverside Behavioral Health); Erin Ellis (Rosemary Children's Services); Holly Benton (San Bernardino County Probation); Stewart Holzman (San Diego Center for Children); Valerie Thompson (Santa Cruz County Probation); Carol Bishop (Seneca Family of Agencies/Kinship Ctr.); Brad Michnevich (Sonoma County Probation); Mary Frame (Walden Family Services); Meghan Rourke (Youth and Family Services YMCA); Tara Moseley (Yuba County Probation).

Presenter(s)	Time	Agenda Items and Discussion (Major Points)	Action item	Responsible Person	Timeframe
Rami Chand Fanita Polk	10:30 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workgroup will be for both provider types: FFAs and STRTPs moving forward. • Review the agenda and any additions to the agenda 	None	None	N/A
Sara Rogers, CCR Acting Branch Chief	10:40 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CCR Updates: ▪ ACIN is on the track to be released late March. ▪ There are series of hot topics being developed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation 	ACIN Release	CCR Branch	End of March

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider implementation guides • Provider Readiness Tool to help Counties plan for 1/1/17. • Assessment tool: A decision will be made by CDSS by the end of March regarding which tool (TOP or CANS). • STRTC will now be STRTP (Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program), but not final yet, legal has to approve. • Rates: will have a meeting on 2/24/2016 to discuss the general framework, on track to get the rates out by the end of March. • FFA Adoptions licensure, two licenses verses one, no decision yet. • Mental health questions are still being worked out; DHCS will have a workgroup, coming soon. • The next CCR workgroup topic will be RFA Implementation on 3/15/2016. 			
<p>Richard Teran Shanie Humbert-Rico</p>	<p>11:00 AM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Accreditation Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB 403 Accreditation Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Center (STRTC) and Foster Family Agency (FFA) shall have national accreditation from an entity identified by CDSS. ○ CDSS may extend the term of a provisional license issued to a STRTC and FFA if requirements are met as specified, not to exceed two years, in order for the STRTC and the FFA to complete accreditation process. ○ STRTC and FFA shall timely report to CDSS any change in accreditation status. ○ Timeframes required for accreditation from statute. Accreditation process needs to be started by 1/1/17 and complete by 12/31/18. ▪ Accreditation Agencies Overview <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The three approved accreditation agencies are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF): http://www.carf.org/californiaccr/ • The Council on Accreditation (COA): http://coanet.org/ • The Joint Commission (JC): http://www.jointcommission.org/ 2. The accreditation certification is awarded for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARF: 3 years • COA: 4 years • JC: 3 years 3. Accreditation agencies approaches to accreditation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARF – program(s) is/are accredited • COA – organization is accredited 			

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JC – organization is accredited <p>4. Process to obtain accreditation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provider submits an application for accreditation and conducts a self-study. • The provider undergoes onsite review of business and service practices. • Upon approval, the provider receives a qualified public certificate. • The accreditation process takes approximately 12-18 months. • Accreditation is maintained via annual reporting. <p>5. Accreditation cost varies based on an organization’s size and services.</p>			
Fanita Polk		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accreditation allocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The \$2.5 M. are for those who are applying for accreditation for the first time. The amount of money for each provider is still to be decided and there will be cut off date to apply for the allocation. 			
Lunch	12:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CYC Rally at the Capitol 			
Panel Discussion	01:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crosswalk Matrix <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCL, FCARB, DHCS (MH & Medi-Cal Cert.), and Accreditation Process. Panel answered general questions regarding duplication and the crosswalk. (See the attached crosswalk) 			
Interactive	02:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brainstorming ideas to avoid duplication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits: Coordinate site visits required or completed by multiple entities (i.e. Licensing, FCARB and DHCS) • Accreditation standards go beyond what the state department of social services, CCL requires for plan of operation/program statement. • Program Statement is included in the accreditation process with more detail. • Align standards between state requirements and accreditation. 			
Next Steps	02:55 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accreditation Subgroup—we will be reaching out to a few folks to discuss how to streamline processes and prevent duplication. 	Subgroup to work on this task	CCR Branch	

Next Meeting: March 15, 2016 at 10:30am to 3:00 pm at CDSS Auditorium, 744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Topic: Resource Family Approval

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CCR FFA/STRTP Workgroup Q&A (Accreditation)**

1. **Will there be technical assistant workshops for RFA?**
 - Goal to provide detailed instructions by June 2016.
2. **Will out of state providers need to be accredited?** Effective on or after January 1, 2017, Foster Family Agencies (FFAs), Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), and out-of-state programs must be accredited by a national accrediting body as a condition of licensure and in order to receive a foster care rate. **Will emergency shelters have to be accredited?** No. **Will counties be involved in the accreditation process?** No.
3. **What is the process for accreditation?**
 1. Application & Agreement
 2. Provider self-evaluation
 3. On Site Visit
 4. Report on Site Visit findings to be sent to the provider
 5. If needed, complete any requirements for improvement
 6. Accreditation Decision
 7. Accreditor maintains contact with the service provider during the accreditation tenure.
 - Accreditation must be completed by December 31, 2018.
4. **How does accreditation work across county lines?**
 - Accreditation agencies have their manual of standards and are accredited to federal, state, provincial, and local government's laws of commitment to quality of programs and services that receive government funding.
5. **Will accreditation standards be the same as licensing standards?**
 - To be determined.
6. **Please clarify timeline for accreditation.**
 - The accreditation process takes approximately 12-18 months and must be completed by December 31, 2018. As of January 1, 2017, a provider must have started the accreditation process.
7. **What is the cost of accreditation?**
 - Fee structures vary across accrediting agencies and often consider agency size and budget.
 - COA: Fee information can be found on COA's website at <http://coanet.org/home/>
 - CARF: Contact CARF for their fee at <http://www.carf.org/home/>
 - JCO: Free estimate worksheet available at www.jointcommission.org
8. **Do I have to be accredited as program or organization?**
 - It is up to you. An accredited provider recommended getting accredited as an organization.
9. **Are the out of state agencies aware of the CCR requirements?**
 - Yes.
10. **Is the program statement required by AB 403?**
 - Yes, for both FFA & STRTP.

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11. Can the CCL and others work with the accreditation agencies to avoid duplication and honor the hard work that done by providers to meet accreditation standards?
 - CDSS and the accreditation agencies have been communicating to find out more about the accreditation process and possible duplications.
 12. What are the new AB 403 mandates for the program statement?
 - Community Engagement
 - Mental Health certification
 - Core Services and Support
 - Child and Family Team
 - Discipline Policies/Expectations and consequences/NMD
 - Contracting Staff Services
 - Resource family Agency Supplemental (recruiting, Approving and Training Resource Family Homes)
 - Permanency-Related Services
 - Reunification
 - Performance and Outcomes
 13. What is the timeline for the license application, review and approval?
 - Interim regulations projected to be released by 7/1/2016.
 - CDSS will start to review applications as soon as received.
 - CDSS will not penalize providers for being late as long as they are in the process of completing the CCR requirements.
 14. Can Accreditation waive the licensing process?
 - No.
- **Concern:**
- Group home staff telling foster youths that the group homes will be closed on 1/1/17.
- **Recommendations:**
- Need for the state to educate counties with the correct information.
 - Providers should not pass their anxiety on to the children.
 - Convey it is a change process that is in the best interest of the children.
 - Counties should work on placement for those group homes that may close and still have children in the home.
 - CCR should try to view the new changes as a positive change.
 - Create FAQ list to address any confusions.
 - Careful conversation during placement/transition meetings.
 - Better communication with media to correct any wrong information.