

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

January 5, 2015

MEMORANDUM**What's Inside:**Therapeutic  
Foster Care

TO: REGIONAL DIRECTORS, FIELD SUPPORT MANAGERS,  
CIRCUIT MANAGERS, SPECIALISTS, AND SUPERVISORS

FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

## DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce therapeutic foster care (TFC), a new program available to children in foster care as well as children who have achieved permanency through guardianship or adoption. Therapeutic foster care is a living situation consisting of highly intensive individual treatment for one (1) or two (2) children living in a family foster home setting and community environment. TFC programs typically provide services to youth with severe behavioral disorders, psychiatric diagnoses, delinquency, and symptoms of complex trauma. TFC is administered as part of a residential child care agency's array of services for children with significant emotional or behavioral needs, who, with additional resources, can remain in a family setting and achieve positive growth and development.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Children referred to the program shall be between the ages of 6-21 and demonstrate behavior which indicates the need for intensive and individualized intervention. Children referred to this program require a higher level of care than a traditional or elevated needs foster home, but may not require placement in a restrictive setting. This program may also be used for children who have received residential treatment services but are no longer in need of such services. To refer a child to the program, the case manager must submit a completed referral packet to the appropriate Residential Care Screening Team (RCST) Coordinator. Additional referral criteria can be found in Section 4 Chapter 16.2 of the Child Welfare Manual.

**Therapeutic Foster Care Treatment Plan**

Each child in the therapeutic foster care program will have a treatment team. The treatment team develops an individualized, strengths-based treatment plan within thirty (30) days of placement. The contractor shall evaluate the progress of a child and his/her family at least every thirty (30) days thereafter and modify the plan when appropriate. The length of the service will vary depending on the child's needs as specified in his/her treatment plan. The treatment plan should be reviewed by the TFC

worker and supervisor weekly to evaluate the continued need for TFC. The contracted agency shall provide treatment team meetings at least every three (3) months or more often as necessary.

### **Monitoring of the Placement**

The contractor shall provide 24-hour, seven (7) day a week crisis intervention and support for all TFC homes and children in the program. The contractor shall provide at least weekly consultation to the TFC home. The contractor shall provide in-person contact to the TFC home every two (2) weeks or more frequently when indicated.

### **Termination of Therapeutic Care/Transition Planning**

The state agency shall seek a less restrictive setting once the child's presenting problems have been replaced with appropriate coping behaviors. At the end of six (6) months, the transitional plan must be initiated. To prepare for the transition, a review shall be conducted by the contractor and RCST at the end of five (5) months to ensure a successful transition. If additional time in the program is requested, the contractor shall seek authorization from the RCST and shall provide justification for keeping the child in the program including what will be accomplished with additional time. After the child is discharged from the program, the contractor shall provide thirty (30) days of transition planning which includes providing mentoring/support to the step down resource.

### **Entry into FACES**

For children who are in foster care, utilize the following steps.

For children in Legal Status 1, 2, and 7 on the Alternative Care (AC) function:

1. Select a placement type of RFH.
2. Enter a temporary location of FHT.
3. Enter a temporary location type of T.
4. Enter the DVN of the foster home.

For children in Legal Status 5 on the Adoption Function:

1. The primary placement type is Adoption by Family (ADF), Adoption by Relative (ADR), Adoption by Other (ADO).
2. Enter a temporary location of RFH.
3. Enter a temporary location type of S.
4. Enter a secondary temporary location of FHT.
5. Enter a secondary temporary location type of T.
6. Enter the DVN of the foster home.

For children in Legal Status 9 on the AC Function:

1. The primary placement type is legal guardianship subsidy placement (LGS).
2. Enter a temporary location of RFH.
3. Enter a temporary location type of S.
4. Enter a second temporary location of FHT.
5. Enter a temporary location type of T.

There will be no changes to the program for children currently placed in therapeutic foster homes however the RCSTs will coordinate the placement change to RFH for

children case managed by Children’s Division. For all TFC placements, the maintenance should always be set to No Maintenance Payment (3). This service will be paid utilizing the service authorization screen and the service code TFCM. The Intake Admission Assessment, Evaluation and Rehabilitative Treatment Plan continue to be a requirement of the residential treatment contract. The new program will be implemented January 1, 2015.

<b>NECESSARY ACTION:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff.</li> <li>2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.</li> <li>3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:</li> </ol>	
<b>PDS CONTACT:</b>	<b>UNIT MANAGER:</b> Christy Collins (573) 751-9603 <a href="mailto:Christy.Collins@dss.mo.gov">Christy.Collins@dss.mo.gov</a>
<b>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS:</b>	
<p>Section 4 Chapter 4.2 <a href="#">Guidelines for Placement Resource Selection</a></p> <p>Section 4 Chapter 4.4.14 <a href="#">Therapeutic Foster Care</a></p> <p>Section 4 Chapter 5 Attachment A <a href="#">Summary Chart of Out-of-Home Care Placement Resources Characteristics</a></p> <p>Section 4 Chapter 16 <a href="#">Index Therapeutic Foster Care</a></p> <p>Section 4 Chapter 16.1 <a href="#">Definition</a></p> <p>Section 4 Chapter 16.2 <a href="#">Referral Process</a></p> <p>Section 4 Chapter 18.5 <a href="#">Residential Care Screening Team Coordinator Responsibilities</a></p>	
<b>FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS</b>	
<a href="#">Alternative Care Client Information Instructions</a>	
<b>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES</b>	
N/A	
<b>RELATED STATUTE</b>	
N/A	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE RULE</b>	
N/A	
<b>COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS</b>	
PA-FKC 11 <a href="#">Treatment Foster Care</a>	
<b>CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR)</b>	
<a href="#">Item 17: Needs and Services of Child</a>	
<b>PROTECTIVE FACTORS</b> N/A	
Parental Resilience Social Connections Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development	

Concrete Support in Times of Need  
Social and Emotional Competence of Children

**FACES REQUIREMENTS**

N/A