



CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM BRANCH

Newsflash #8



CDSS
CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

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CCR Messaging

This is the eighth edition of the CCR Newsflash brought to you by the Continuum of Care Reform Branch. This newsletter provides up-to-date information about CCR implementation, promising innovations, and opportunities. We welcome your suggestions and questions, which may be sent by email to the CCR inbox at ccr@dss.ca.gov.

Please help us ensure that this information is passed on to stakeholders at the local level by widely forwarding this communication to staff, colleagues, care providers, social workers, probation officers, youth and any other interested stakeholders. Consider providing a copy of the newsletter at any meetings that include child welfare stakeholders. In addition, if you were forwarded this newsletter, you may have your name added to the distribution list by emailing the CCR inbox.



"I first entered the foster care system when I was 3 years old, then I exited and then I went back into Foster Care. I've been in Group Homes, both high level and medium level. I'm sure there are other youth out there who are in my situation or even worse, who need that family connection and family-like bond instead of living in a Group Home. I wish I had that: consistency, that one on one, to have a consistent bond with an adult or adults instead of having a staff that come in every hour and having to fight for attention. I think it is important to have permanency because as young adults we are influenced by others and being in Group Homes we are immensely influenced by people we live with, what we see, what we hear, how we talk. If we are in a more stable environment we will grow that sense of maturity and be molded into what we see - which is stability, a loving family, and acceptance. I think [therapeutic services] it is really good because I have been in some Group Homes that don't have that therapy, and basically you are just there because there is a bed available. Since there is a therapeutic aspect to residential care now, when a youth is going through an emotional stressor, or PTSD is triggered, you can focus on the therapeutic side of the program and work with that youth towards figuring out why".

Melissa Leong, Youth Engagement Project Ambassador

CCR Agent for Change Cherie Schroeder

Her name is synonymous with quality foster care in Yolo County.

For more than three decades, Cherie Schroeder has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of abused and neglected children. As director of the Woodland Community College Foster and Kinship Care Education Program (WCC FKCE), Schroeder has built a reputation for offering quality classes, building community connections and supporting caregivers. Under her leadership and coordination, recruitment and retention of foster care has increased dramatically and the transition from traditional licensing to Resource Family Approval (RFA) under the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) is positive and encouraging. She is excited to report, as early RFA implementers, Yolo County has approved 37 amazing new Resource Families.



Cherie and three of her cherished youth - Jasmine, Amaya and Dorothy - beautiful faces of foster care.

The Woodland Community College FKCE Program is one of sixty California Community Colleges providing high quality education and training to resource families (foster parents, kinship and Non-Related Extended Family Members (NREFMs) and is supported in partnership with the state, federal and Local County.

Schroeder has first-hand knowledge of the issues faced by caregivers. As NREFMs she and her husband have welcomed transitional age youth and a non-minor dependent into their home. As the County began to implement CCR, Schroeder was instrumental in helping caregivers navigate the changes and potential challenges. It has been her drive to secure positive, well-trained RFA families that bridge connections between foster parents, social workers and community groups. For the past 10 years Schroeder, has written grants and solicited donations to ensure that local children coming into foster care receive a \$200 shopping trip to Target for “essential placement items”, and that events to facilitate support and networking are organized on a regular basis for RFA families. These “small” supports make the difference for feeling connected and cared about as a foster family. We all know support is only a text, email or phone call away. ~ Yolo County foster mother, Theresa Arias

Her professional and personal connections to foster care help her not only be an effective educator and parent, it also provides unique insight and a voice for caregivers at the legislative level. Schroeder serves on several boards, including the California Child Welfare Council and the CCR Advisory Committee. She speaks on behalf of both educators and caregivers — offering a unique perspective to the challenges resource families face and the strengths of CCR.

That knowledge is also passed on to prospective and current Yolo County RFA families. Schroeder leads each group of prospective caregivers through 30 hours of pre-approval classes. With kinship, NREFM’s and traditional foster parents all receiving the same training and support, Yolo County has seen a steady increase in the quality of homes and retention of caregivers. With better understanding of how to parent traumatized children and secure needed support and resources it has led to placement stability and broadened community awareness for the needs of children in care.

A bonus to the changes within CCR and the RFA Process has been kinship homes available to accepting placements outside their family. “We are excited to see this shift with several of our recently approved relative caregivers broadening their scope to accept non-relative placements”, shared an excited Schroeder at a recent FKCE Curriculum Advisory and Resource Family Task Force meeting. System change has inherent challenges and often it takes time to reap the full benefits. Cherie doesn’t see that she does anything extraordinary. To Yolo County she has been a beacon of leadership in support of the CCR.

“Prospective Resource Families often enter classes focused on the impact fostering will have on them and their immediate family. It is a process of transformational learning that shifts their concerns to the needs of the child. For prospective Resource Families to start asking, “What’s happened to this child? How can we help? What can we do to make a difference?” Foster care from my lens is an opportunity to cherish and nurture a child at a time of crisis and a chance to leave a legacy of kindness and love.” Cherie Schroeder



County of San Luis Obispo, Department of Social Services Probation Department, Foster Support Unit

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services, in collaboration with The Probation Department, Mental Health, community agency partners, schools, former foster youth, birth families and resource families, has identified the Expansion of our Foster Support Unit (FSU) as a priority focus area as part of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) efforts to provide supportive, home-based family care for children and youth, increase the recruitment, retention and support of resource families and improve placement stability and well-being for the children and families we serve. Providing ongoing support to resource families is critical to retaining families and insuring that foster children have stability in their placement.



San Luis Obispo County recognized that resource families can be confused as to who they should contact with all with their questions, and are frustrated when they don't receive a timely reply. In response to this need, San Luis Obispo County created the FSU in October 2015. This unit is designed to provide an additional level of support for resource parents and to relieve some burden from staff by being able to take care of resource parent requests for information, general questions, and requests for referrals for certain items. By providing additional support to resource families, and reducing workload for staff, the FSU is a win for everyone!

FSU Goals Include:

- ✓ Enhanced retention and support of resource families
- ✓ Improved placement stability
- ✓ Streamlined access to needed supports
- ✓ Enhanced collaboration and relationship with resources families
- ✓ Supporting the workload of our social workers and probation officers

FSU provides many services including:

- Follow up phone calls within 24 hours of a child being placed in resource family home:
 - Initial call made within 24 hours of a new placement, and then again one week later to follow up with any needed supports.
 - Information covered in the calls include: Medi-Cal cards, upcoming appointments, educational needs, transportation, tutoring, Independent Living Program (ILP), tangible needs such as beds or clothing.
 - Calls also include information about other resources available such as Women Infant Child (WIC) food and nutrition services, parenting and mentoring supports, respite resources and enrichment activity funding.
 - In addition to the direct service needs, the calls also include a general discussion about how the child is doing, and how the resource family is feeling.
 - Information about the call and any services provided as part of the call is provided to the social worker.
- Enrichment Program
 - Monthly events held for resource families and the children/youth to encourage to family bonding. Examples include: ice skating, whale watching, attending local sporting events, bowling, and theatre events.
 - The FSU also helps coordinate individual activities that help normalize the youth's experience in foster care such as dance lessons, sports fees, etc.
- Mentor Program
 - Seasoned resource parents share their experience and knowledge with new families.
 - Families can request a mentor at any time or social workers can refer families.

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The Key to Collaboration: CCR Workgroups!

Committed stakeholders from across California join state staff to develop the essential elements of CCR.

Here are the highlights of our recent work:

CCR Education Workgroup

This workgroup is a sub-workgroup of the CCR State/County Implementation Team and is currently working on its first deliverable; a California Department of Social Services (CDSS)/ California Department of Education (CDE) joint letter clarifying Child and Family Team (CFT) and Individualized Education Program (IEP) processes and requirements. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2017. Among the items on the agenda will be a presentation and facilitated discussion around High Needs Youth. A subset of this workgroup has also formed to discuss the role of education in CFT meetings. These meetings are by invitation only. For more information, contact Ahmed.Nemr@dss.ca.gov.

CCR Stakeholder Implementation Advisory Committee

The next quarterly meeting of the CCR Stakeholder Implementation Advisory Committee is scheduled for July 18, 2017. A meeting held on March 22, focused on Performance and Outcome Measures. The activity and discussion provided an opportunity to consider performance and outcome measures that address the needs of the child/family while developing methodologies to track levels of engagement, family relationships, service and care coordination, cultural sensitivity and trauma-responsiveness.

All Stakeholders are welcome to attend these meetings and can expect:

- Updates regarding CCR implementation
- Educational/informational sessions
- Networking possibilities
- Opportunities to provide recommendations on policy, best practices, and other aspects of CCR

For more information, please contact Loretta.Miller@dss.ca.gov.

Resource Family Approval (RFA)

The Background Assessment Guide (BAG) was released for county review and should be released soon. This guide will assist counties in processing criminal background checks and exemptions. Forms are continuing to be finalized, check the RFA webpage for updated versions. There will be a RFA Convening for county child welfare and probation on June 13-14 in Sacramento. More details to follow. The RFA Academy trainings are continuing to be held; contact your training academy for details. For additional information, please visit <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Resource-Family-Approval-Program> or contact rfa@dss.ca.gov with questions.

Program and Services Implementation

A process is currently under development to coordinate reviews of Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Program Statements between county agencies and the CDSS. The All County Letter (ACL) regarding changes to respite care (extending respite care for up to 14 days) and STRTP Eligibility and the Interagency Placing Committee (IPC) process is expected to be released in spring 2017. The CDSS has partnered with Lightbox, a strategic communications team, to find and build upon current intrinsic ways to recruit quality Resource Families in addition to traditional recruitment methods. The goal is to assist counties in enhancing efforts to promote quality care and partnership with resource families and in achieving permanency for children and families. Regional convenings beginning in late May will offer counties throughout the state training on recruitment, retention and support of caregivers by nationally known foster care consultant and expert, Denise Goodman.

Treatment Outcome Package (TOP) and Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment Tools

The CDSS is partnering with counties to evaluate two assessment tools TOP and CANS. Both tools measure the well-being of youth in foster care in order to identify needed services as well as support effective case planning. The TOP pilot continues in the following five counties; Los Angeles, San Diego, Fresno, Tuolumne and Merced. Key initial findings during the pilot indicate 83 percent of children in child welfare in the pilot counties have one clinically elevated TOP score that would justify a behavioral health intervention. Summarily, 55% of all California child welfare kids in the TOP pilot counties have three or more clinically elevated scores. The CDSS has finalized the contract for the independent evaluation of the TOP and CANS assessment tools with a final recommendation expected in June 2017.

Foster Care Audits and Rates Branch (FCARB)

The Level of Care (LOC) small workgroup has completed its first CCR Webinar – “Overview of the LOC Protocol Tool.” The pre-recorded webinar was broadcasted on March 30, 2017, and was followed by a “live” Q&A session. The recording of this Webinar including the Q & A session is now available at <https://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/program-sections/1628>. The webinar provided an overview of the LOC protocol tool, the expectations for its use, and the next steps for implementation following a short but wide piloting of the tool. The CDSS in collaboration with UC Davis Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice will coordinate the LOC pilot activities and training needs for the field. For more information or questions, please contact CCR@dss.ca.gov.

Performance and Outcomes

The next quarterly update for the County Group Home Rates Classification Level (RCL) profiles will be available early April. The profiles provide counties with information on the number of youth placed in group homes and are aggregated by agency, RCL level, age, and ethnicity. They will be mailed out to the Child Welfare and Probation contacts. The Provider Performance and Outcomes Executive Committee met on March 28. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to create a roadmap in the identification of performance measures for the workgroup to develop and to ensure transparency. The Executive Committee has intentionally been created as a small group of state, county and stakeholder representatives. For more information, please email the CCR Oversight Unit at ccroversight@dss.ca.gov.

CCR Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Foster Family Agencies

Question: According to 88372(a), A FFA shall require each member of a resource family to complete a minimum of eight hours of annual training. What is the Department's definition of each member? Is it each adult member of the resource family?

Response: The members are the applicants. If the applicants are a husband and wife, then they both would complete the RFA requirements. If the applicant is the wife and the husband is not an applicant, then only the wife would complete the RFA requirements.

Question: Are FFA's required to participate in initiatives to improve the child welfare system? What if the FFA does not want to participate?

Response: All FFAs are required to participate in initiatives to improve the child welfare system per section 88222.1 Program Statement (b)(20)(C) of the FFA Interim Licensing Standards.

Question: Which certificate of approval do we use when we have approved a new family? The LIC-05A has draft written across it and does not allow us to enter the information.

Response: FFAs can use the LIC-05A or they can create one as long as it has the information required in the LIC-05A. The LIC-05A is still currently in draft form and is in the process of being approved. For more information regarding the requirements for the certificate of approval, please see FFA ILS Version 2 section 88330 "Identification of Resource Families."

Question: We are continuing to educate our foster parents on the RFA process. Is there a handout you recommend to detail the changes in a user friendly way?

Response: CDSS does not have handouts for providers to educate foster parents on RFA. However, FFAs can review how the early implementing counties created their brochures for foster parents: <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG5064.htm> to get ideas. FFAs can also review other non-early implementing counties to see how they created their brochures and check with partnering counties to see if they have created new or updated handouts for prospective foster parents. Lastly, FFAs can review CalSWEC's website on RFA keeping in mind that CalSWEC is intended primarily for counties and there will be different elements not pertaining to FFAs such as due process <http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/resource-family-approval-rfa>.

Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs

Question: Does a group home that is already accredited have to repeat the process of accreditation after receiving an STRTP license?

Response: A group home accredited by one of the three nationally recognized accreditation agencies that have been identified by the CDSS should contact its accrediting body to verify that they met the standards to be accredited as an STRTP.

Question: Do group home providers who have not yet transitioned to STRTP need to comply with the STRTP Interim Licensing Standards hiring qualifications?

Response: Depending on when the group home is planning to transition to STRTP, the group home should take into consideration the hiring qualifications as stated in the STRTP ILS Version 2. The licensed group home will continue to be governed by the regulation provisions contained in Title 22, Div 6, Chap 5 until it receives the STRTP license.

Question: Prior to our receiving our STRTP license, while still operating at a RCL12, are STRTP Certified Administrators required to get STRTP Continuing Education Units (CEUs) if they will renew before we convert to a STRTP? Will conventional Administration CEU's suffice?

Response: A group home administrator who possesses a valid group home certificate issued by the CDSS is exempt from completing the 40 hours of initial certification training, program classroom instruction, and passing the written exam, but has to complete the 12 hours of CDSS approved courses provided in order to serve as an STRTP administrator.

CDSS Recent Letter & Information Notice Releases

- **All County Information Notice (ACIN) Number I-05-17**
- **Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services (MHSUDS) Information Notice Number 17-009**
THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE (TFC) SERVICE MODEL AND PARENT QUALIFICATIONS
- **All County Letter (ACL) 17-14:** OPTIONAL COUNTY REVIEW OF PROVIDER PROGRAM
- **ACL 17-15:** SHARING RATIOS FOR GROUP HOME PROGRAMS, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016-17
(Reference: ACL NO. 15-74, DATED OCTOBER 14, 2015) This ACL provides current information regarding sharing ratios for group home programs for SFY 2016-17.
- **ACL 17-16:** RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL PROGRAM-CONVERSION OF EXISTING APPROVED AND LICENSED FOSTER CAREGIVERS TO RESOURCE FAMILIES

These letters are available on the County Letters and Notices web page: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Letters-and-Notices>

Interagency Leadership Sustainability

Richard Knecht, CDSS Transformation Manager

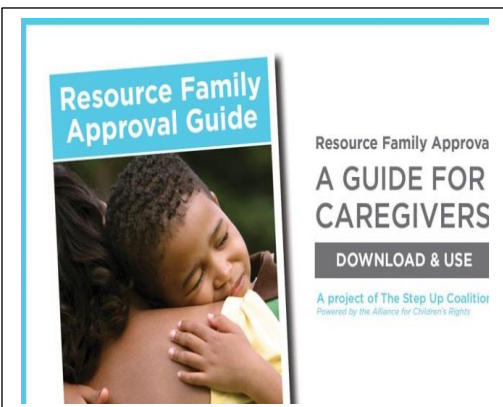


As counties move toward early implementation of CCR, there is growing awareness of and experience around how these efforts connect to our earlier work on implementation of Pathways to Mental Health/Cross system planning and coordination. Many counties are experiencing and sharing success with the construction of, or enhancement of their interagency leadership and management processes--that all important regular meeting time where department leaders from Probation, Child Welfare, Mental Health and Education can convene to discuss policy, support the sharing of funding, and jointly discuss and solve the shared challenges of implementation.

This regular leadership process is a hallmark of the systems of care approach which CCR invites and which was recently highlighted in the state's hosting of New Jersey state System of Care leaders. Counties should take pride and be celebrated for these early shared leadership successes.

The urgency to create a consistent and regular interagency **leadership** conversation can also be found in what for many staff members is an overwhelming calendar of CCR, RFA, Pathways or other meetings. What makes a unified and single executive/senior leadership meeting even more imperative now is that the sooner your interagency leadership process begins, the sooner your currently overwhelmed CCR planning calendars will evolve to ***use that central and standard regular meeting as coordination of all reform activities.***

To further support this critical joint leadership effort, Interagency Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) can be a valuable tool to establish the clarity in each county as to who, how, why and what forms that sharing and collaboration will take. While most counties have existing MOUs or letters of agreement between youth serving agencies which spell out program specific expectations for Pathways to Well Being, Dual Status youth, or other specific programs--a master MOU which effectively binds the various agency's policy making, revenue sharing and service processes, not only brings clarity to purpose and staff performance, shares risk and accountability, but serves to institutionalize the integrative process and structure, so that changes in leadership, staffing, or other business operations issues don't undermine the collaborative work over time.



The Alliance for Children's Rights, the Step Up Coalition, and a wide range of state and local partners is pleased to share the Resource Family Approval Toolkit. This toolkit is designed to help walk caregivers through the newly implemented Resource Family Approval process. RFA, which took effect January 1, 2017, creates one uniform approval process for all caregivers in the foster care system, relative and non-relative. It is part of the statewide Continuum of Care Reform intended to ensure that children are raised in family homes and limit the time children spend in institutional group settings.

<http://kids-alliance.org/programs/system-wide-reform/stepup/>



San Diego Collaborating to Increase the Capacity of Resource Families

Kimberly Giardina, MSW, Deputy Director

Child Welfare Services County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

One approach that San Diego has adopted has been to increase the collaboration with our Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) to address placement needs for high needs youth. We began having regular meetings between leadership from Child Welfare Services (CWS), Behavioral Health Services (BHS), and the FFAs to discuss how to recruit homes willing to care for high needs youth and how to support those families. We've used these meetings to discuss new models for recruitment and retention and ways to help support stability for the FFAs as they transition into these new models. Next month we will have our Resource Family recruiters attend the FFA meetings to learn more specifically about the particular niches that each FFA can fill. This will allow us to do a better matching of children to placement homes that can meet their needs. These conversations have also included BHS and allowed early discussions about how to implement Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) and what the FFAs will need to support the implementation of TFC.

San Diego has also been working to use our Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Support (FPRRS) funding in multiple ways to increase recruitment and retention of resource families. One of the first areas of focus was to increase funding for our Kinship Support and Kinship Navigator program with the YMCA. San Diego added new Kinship Navigator positions to be able to support relatives as they go through the RFA process, helping connect them

with resources, providing support, and connecting them to support groups with other relative caregivers. We expanded the contract for Project KEEP which provides

parenting education and peer support to resource families using an evidence-based curriculum. The original curriculum was for children ages 5-12. Using the FPRRS funding we have been able to expand and include curriculum for 13-17 year olds. Project KEEP has been shown to improve placement stability and resource family retention. San Diego has also used FPRRS funding to expand and increase our media recruitment outlets. We have used our media to reinforce messaging about the types of families needed to care for children in foster care. We are also partnering with Southern Indian Health and Indian Health to develop Tribal Recruiters who can recruit and support tribal resource family homes. This will enable us to better meet the needs of Native American families. Additionally San Diego has expanded opportunities for social enhancement activities for foster youth. This allows resource families, including our FFAs, to access social activities for youth that were previously not covered by Specialized Care and Incentive Assistance Program (SCIAP) funding. The goal is to support the normalcy protocol and provide trauma informed activities in which youth can participate.

Child and Family Team (CFT) Orientation Trainings:

In partnership with the Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice at UC Davis, CDSS is conducting eleven trainings statewide, delivering Child and Family Team (CFT) orientation trainings to child welfare social workers, probation officers, behavioral health staff, community partners, and educators. The purpose of this orientation training is to provide the historical context of teaming practices in California and to provide a broad overview of the requirements and guidelines of the CFT process as outlined in All County Letter No. 16-84. Seven orientation trainings have been held in March and April. The final four regional orientations will be held in May: Los Angeles, May 2 and May 3; San Jose, May 11; and Contra Costa, May 12. To enroll, please contact James Williams at jewilliams@ucdavis.edu or (530) 752-9724. If you have any questions, please contact James or email the Integrated Services Unit at CWSCoordination@dss.ca.gov.

County of San Luis Obispo,

Department of Social Services Probation Department, Foster Support Unit

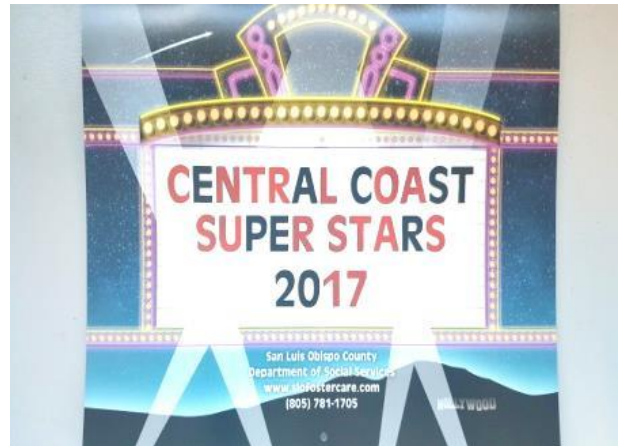
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Youth Calendar Project:

- Initiated in 2009
- Yearly calendar highlights twelve youth who choose an activity or career that they then experience through coordination with community partners
- Local businesses and photographers donate their time and services
- Consent is obtained by youth, birth parent, resource parent, parent and child's counsel and then judicial approval is obtained from juvenile court judge
- Helps to raise community awareness and support children and youths' confidence, development and growth
- Calendar celebration event is held prior to formal release of the calendar to celebrate the child/youths' experience

FSU Expansion Goals submitted in 2016-2017 SLO DSS/Probation FPRRS joint proposal include:

- Expansion of program to include a program review specialist and a recruitment, retention and support social worker
- Expansion of family finding efforts
- In home behavioral support for resource families
- In home parenting education for resource families
- Expansion of funding to support enrichment activities for children and youth
- Provision of respite care for every child
- Development of a contract with a community partner to provide specialty respite care with therapeutically trained staff
- Countywide Trauma Informed Care Training
- Expanded Family Finding Efforts
- Implementation of the Faith In Motion (FIM) Program



Outcome Updates since July 1st 2016:

- 7 Children and families have been referred to one of 4 In-Home Behavioral Support and Parent Education contracts developed for RFA families
- 9 New resource families recruited and completed Resource Family Training (RFT)
- 6 Newly recruited resource families registered to complete RFT in January and February 2017
- 6 Specialized Foster Homes developed to receive and divert children from congregate care
- 10 Newly recruited resource families referred to partner agency to explore becoming a therapeutic foster home, shelter home, respite home or mentor home
- 23 Community recruitment events held
- 20 Churches participating in Faith In Motion to recruit and support resource family homes
- 75 Leads from community events, 8 business leads and 4 school leads
- 40 Children in care have been referred to receive additional opportunities to engage in activities to support resilience & well being
- All RFA families have been offered respite care
- 74 RFA families have been referred for respite care
- 3 Children in care have been referred to specialty respite care
- Enhanced trauma informed training has been provided to RFA families and bi-monthly trainings are offered in the community
- Trauma informed parenting courses are now offered to all RFA families on a recurring basis
- Community collaborative formed to provide trauma informed training to SLO county schools to improve well-being, support educational success and promote greater placement stability
- Extended Family Finding searches are being completed for all children and youth in care

Since its beginning just over a year ago, the FSU has become a mainstay of our support for both resource families and staff. Families describe feeling supported by contact with the FSU and have expressed particular appreciation for the additional supports in serving our most vulnerable children.

CCR COMMUNICATION TOOLS

CCR OVERVIEW:

CDSS has developed a webinar that is pre-recorded and available on the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) website. The webinar provides an overview of CCR and the provisions of AB 403, and the framework for implementation.

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/continuum-care-reform-ccr/abcs-ccr>

CDSS INTERNET WEBPAGE:

This web-page provides a variety of information including the CCR Fact Sheets, links to Assembly Bill 403, and calendar of meetings and presentations.

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG4869.htm>

CCR TOOLKIT:

The toolkit is designed to help navigate various components of the CCR initiative and is available on the CalSWEC website.

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/continuum-care-reform-ccr>

CCR EMAIL BOX:

This e-mail portal is available for stakeholders to ask questions, request information and to be connected with CCR workgroups at ccr@dss.ca.gov.

CCR TOOLS FOR YOUTH:

Tools are available on the CalSWEC website to assist stakeholders with messaging to youth.

<http://calswec.berkeley.edu/toolkits/continuum-care-reform-ccr>

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES INTEGRATED PRACTICE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALLS:

The CDSS and the DHCS host a monthly call that provides open and timely communication between state teams and county staff in providing updates and discussion surrounding CCR planning and implementation, continued implementation of Pathways to Well-Being (Core Practice Model, Intensive Care Coordination, and Intensive Home Based Services), and planning and implementation of Therapeutic Foster Care services. A monthly bulletin of the Integrated Practice Technical Assistance Calls, including discussion points, Q&A, and resources to support counties and their partners in these program areas, is sent out to county and partner staff each month.

Email KatieA@dhcs.ca.gov to subscribe to the TA Call list for alerts, materials, and bulletins.

CCR Updates Continued

Policy

The CDSS has received many updated program statements from FFAs that include the RFA implementation plan component as required. The CCR staff has finished reviewing all program statements that were submitted with a completed plan of operation. Program statements that are missing the plan of operations were returned to the FFA to correct and resubmit. All STRTP program statements have been reviewed. Both FFA and STRTPs will be notified by the CDSS or their Community Care Licensing (CCL) Regional Office, Licensing Program Analyst (LPA) when their review has been completed and approved or if revisions or additional documentation is required. Please visit <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Continuum-of-Care-Reform-for-more-information>. If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to the CCR Mailbox ccr@dss.ca.gov and/or the CCL Manager Marisa.Sanchez@dss.ca.gov.

Regional Information Transformation Exchange (RITE)

The CDSS and the DHCS in partnership with the Chief Probation Officers of CA, CA Institute of Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS), County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), CWDA, and Casey Family Programs has begun the second round of regional meetings across the state to partner with counties and stakeholders. The next confirmed RITE will be held on May 3, 2017, in the Southern Region, the Bay RITE on June 23, and Northern in July. For this second series of RITEs, counties are encouraged to build teams including CWS, Probation, Behavioral Health and additional stakeholders including providers, tribes, youth, parents, court and education partners. For more information or if you need assistance identifying stakeholders for your region, please contact your Regional Training Academy representative or Theresa.Thurmond@dss.ca.gov.

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

The DHCS has contracted with the CIBHS to offer technical assistance, training, and resources to support the statewide implementation of CCR. Training announcements and materials are posted on the CIBHS website at <http://www.cibhs.org/continuum-care-reform-ccr>.

Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Implementation Committee Meetings

The TFC Implementation Committee continues to meet to discuss the TFC service model and TFC parent qualifications. The committee meets bi-monthly and the next meetings are scheduled for

- June 20: 2-4 pm
- September 13: 2-4 pm (Tentative)
- December 7: 2-4 pm (Tentative)

Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services 101:

An overview for FFAs and STRTPs Supporting Continuum of Care Reform Implementation

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) are providing regional trainings on the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Service (SMHS) program for Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) and Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) seeking to become SMHS providers. FFAs and group homes transitioning to STRTPs will be invited via email. The final training will occur on May 5th in Sacramento County. Counties register through their respective contacts with CBHDA, CWDA, or CPOC. For more information, contact Kelly Bitz at ccr@cibhs.org.