

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency



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February 21, 2017

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) NO. I-05-17  
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES (MHSUDS)  
INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 17-009

TO: ALL ADOPTION DISTRICT OFFICES  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY ADOPTION AGENCIES  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES  
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS  
ALL TITLE IV-E AGREEMENT TRIBES  
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS  
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES  
COALITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSOCIATIONS  
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM EXECUTIVES, INC.  
CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES  
CALIFORNIA OPIOID MAINTENANCE PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE (TFC) SERVICE MODEL AND PARENT QUALIFICATIONS

REFERENCE: [ACIN I-52-16E \(August 16, 2016\)](#)  
[MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE 16-031E \(August 16, 2016\)](#)  
[ACL 16-10 \(February 17, 2016\)](#)  
[MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 16-004 \(February 5, 2016\)](#)  
[ACIN I-06-16 \(January 12, 2016\)](#)  
[ACL 14-79 \(October 16, 2014\)](#)  
[MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 14-036 \(October 16, 2014\)](#)  
[MHSD INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 13-03 \(March 15, 2014\)](#)

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) and Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services (MHSUDS) Information Notice (IN) is to provide counties, Mental Health Plans (MHPs), Child Welfare Departments (CWDs), and providers with information on the Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) service model and TFC parent qualifications.

## **BACKGROUND**

In December 2011, the State of California entered into a settlement agreement of the class action lawsuit *Katie A. v. Bontá*. The State subsequently took a series of actions to transform the way children and youth in foster care, or at risk of placement in California's foster care system, access mental health services in a more intensive array of well coordinated, clinically-appropriate, and community-based mental health service settings. One aspect of these settlement activities includes the development of a TFC service model as a way of delivering Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) to children and youth.

The TFC service model implementation is effective January 1, 2017.

## **TFC SERVICE MODEL AND TFC PARENT QUALIFICATIONS**

The TFC service model allows for the provision of short-term, intensive, highly coordinated, trauma-informed and individualized SMHS activities (plan development, rehabilitation and collateral) to children and youth up to age 21 who have complex emotional and behavioral needs and who are placed with trained, intensely supervised, and supported TFC parents. TFC is intended for children and youth who require intensive and frequent mental health support in a family environment.

TFC parents will work under the supervision of a TFC Agency who will recruit, train and oversee TFC parents. Specifically, TFC parents will provide TFC services under the direction of a Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP) who is able to direct services and is employed by the TFC Service Model Agency (TFC Agency).

The "Service Delivery Through the Therapeutic Foster Care Service Model" and the "Therapeutic Foster Care Service Model Parent Qualifications" are included as attachments to this ACIN/IN<sup>1</sup>. These documents will be posted on the Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) and the California Department of Social Services'

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<sup>1</sup> These documents were previously released in draft as attachments to ACIN I-52-16E/IN 16-031E dated August 16, 2016.

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(CDSS) websites at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/KatieImplementation.aspx> and <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/PG3346.htm>. DHCS and CDSS continue to partner with counties and stakeholders on implementation of the TFC service model and to the extent that subsequent revisions are needed to these attachments, updated versions will be posted to both departments' webpages.

Please address questions regarding this information notice or attachments to DHCS, Mental Health Services Division, at (916) 322-7445 or email [KatieA@DHCS.ca.gov](mailto:KatieA@DHCS.ca.gov) or to CDSS, Children and Family Services Division, Integrated Services Unit, at (916) 651-6600 or email [CWSCoordination@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CWSCoordination@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Original signed by,

KAREN BAYLOR, Ph.D., LMFT  
Deputy Director  
Mental Health & Substance Use  
Disorder Services  
Department of Health Care Services

Original signed by,

GREGORY E. ROSE, MSW  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division  
California Department of Social Services

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Service Delivery Through the Therapeutic Foster Care Service Model  
Attachment 2 - Therapeutic Foster Care Service Model Parent Qualifications