

What CSWs Should Know About Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs



WHAT ARE STRTPs?

- Through the Continuum of Care Reform, residential care will be provided to foster children by Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). By December 2018, STRTPs will replace traditional group homes for children who require intensive support and cannot be placed in a family-based setting.
- STRTPs provide short-term, high-quality, intensive therapeutic intervention services. STRTPs are not considered long-term placement options. All services are designed to stabilize, support and transition children to a lower level of care on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the child's needs and case plan.

HOW ARE STRTPs DIFFERENT FROM GROUP HOMES?

- Facilities seeking licensure as an STRTP must provide an array of core services, including Specialty Mental Health Services.
- The new STRTP rate will be \$12,498 per child/month. Group homes can receive an extension to operate under their existing RCL rate structure until December 31, 2018 if they receive support for the extension from the County and State.

HOW WILL THIS IMPACT MY CASES?

- The STRTP referral process includes an evaluation by an Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) which considers Child and Family Team (CFT) recommendations, if available. A child is eligible for an STRTP if he/she:
 - Meets the medical necessity criteria for Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services;
 - Is seriously emotionally disturbed; or
 - Exhibits behavioral or treatment needs that can only be met by a STRTP.
- In coordination with the CFT, CSWs should plan for a successful transition to a home-based setting prior to and after the placement into an STRTP, consistent with the child's needs and case plan.
- Similar to the Level 14 review process, the IPC evaluates STRTP placement recommendations. DCFS IPC liaisons (formerly D Rate evaluators) will support CSWs with the process for STRTP admittance.
- Children currently placed in group homes may remain in their placement and will be evaluated by the IPC to determine if it is best suited to meet their individual needs.
- A child may be placed in a STRTP on an emergency basis but must be screened by the IPC within 30 days.
- Children in STRTPs should transition to family-based settings when determined to be appropriate and in their best interest. **For STRTP stays beyond 6 months** for dependent children, a request must be discussed by the Child and Family Team and approved by the Deputy Director.
- STRTPs will be funded to provide up to 1 year of aftercare outpatient mental health services, including all DMH services, after a child's discharge.

For additional information, contact: LACCRinfo@dcfs.lacounty.gov or visit www.fosterLAKids.org