

Family Centered Services Provider Roles and Responsibilities for Therapeutic Foster Care Cases

PURPOSE

The Family Centered Services (FCS) provider becomes involved upon receiving a referral from the Social Work Case Manager (SWCM). FCS referrals are most appropriate when the child's parents have their own needs related to the safety and welfare of the child such as substance use, mental health, or use of discipline methods that are consistently ineffective and/or harmful to the child. Thoughtful consideration should be used before making referrals to FCS in cases where the child's permanency goal is not to return to the home to avoid duplication of services.

PRIMARY ROLE

The Family Centered Services Provider (FCS):

- Uses core casework skills to gain an understanding of the family's needs, focused on the needs of the parents and the parents' ability to support the child upon the child's return home.
- Develops a family service plan with the family, using practical responses to everyday stressors in the parental home.
- Maintains active communication with the SWCM and Therapeutic Case Manager (TCM), to incorporate the clinical needs of the child into the family service plan.
- Participates as necessary in status meetings to address placement progress or barriers to progress with members such as: the SWCM, Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) (and other key legal parties), school representative, family and other key paraprofessionals who serve the child.
- Develops and maintains a supportive relationship with the parent(s) of the child, to support reunification.
- Encourages and supports the parent in communicating with and co-parenting with the TFC provider.
- Participates in the development and implementation of a family interaction plan in conjunction with the therapeutic resource parent, TCM, and the SWCM.
- Monitors parental readiness for the child's return to their home, focused on parents observed behavioral change.
- Provides regular updates on the family's functioning and parents' ability to manage the child's needs to the SWCM through conversations and written reports.
- Assists in transition to subsequent placement, depending on the service needs of the child.

STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

The FCS provider will:

- Reach out to the SWCM with questions about the foster care system, the relationship with the parent or child, or other matters related to the family service plan.
- Reach out to the TCM with questions about the treatment needs of the child, including the role of other clinical service providers.

RESOURCES

The following supports are available to the FCS provider:

- Be identified as a key team member and included in all team meetings.
- Receive one-on-one clinical guidance from the therapeutic case manager. Clinical guidance is available to service providers involved with a child in a TFC home. Clinical team calls are routinely held at least once every month for each child. These calls will be set up by the therapeutic case manager.