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By:   
Karyn L. Tribble, PsyD, LCSW, Director

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>  <b>Criteria for Therapeutic Foster Care Services</b>	<b>Policy No: 403-8-1</b>  <b>Date of Original Approval:</b> 10/31/2022  <b>Date(s) of Revision(s):</b>
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**PURPOSE**

This policy establishes screening protocol to determine children’s medical necessity criteria and need for Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) services within Alameda County Behavioral Health Services (ACBH) and complies with federal, state, and county regulations.

**AUTHORITY**

- All County Information Notice (ACIN) NO. I-52-16E
- Mental Health Substance use Disorder Services (MHSUDS) Information Notice NO. 16-031E

**SCOPE**

All Alameda County Behavioral Health county-operated programs serving children and youth, including entities, individuals, and programs, providing specialty mental health under a contract or memorandum of understanding (MOU), shall be responsible for implementing this policy.

**POLICY**

This policy establishes guidelines in adherence to appropriate screening conducted to determine if children and youth who meet medical necessity criteria require Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) services.

**PROCEDURE**

- I. Determination of Criteria needs for Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Services**
  - A. All applicable providers delivering specialty mental health services for children and youth ages 0-21 shall assess for eligibility to receive TFC services within 30 days of the Date of Service (DOS).
- II. Alameda County Behavioral Health Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) agency shall be responsible for:**
  - A. Recruiting, approving, and annually re-approving TFC parents, following the Resource Family Approval process, as well as Medi-Cal specialty mental health requirements as a TFC parent who has the ability to meet the diverse therapeutic needs of children/youth;
  - B. Providing, at a minimum, 40 hours of required training for TFC parents, prior to the TFC parents providing TFC;
  - C. Verifying and maintaining records on TFC Parent Qualifications.

- D. Actively participating in the CFT to identify supports for the child/youth and family, including linking the child or youth with a TFC parent who can best meet the child's or youth's individual needs;
- E. Integrating the TFC parent and appropriate staff into the existing Child and Family Team (CFT);
- F. Providing competency-based training to the TFC parent, both initially and ongoing;
- G. Providing ongoing supervision and intensive support to the TFC parent;
- H. Monitoring the child's/youth's progress in meeting client plan goals related to TFC;
- I. Providing a Licensed Mental Health Professional to review, co-sign, and maintain progress notes related to interventions used by the TFC parent to assist the child/youth in meeting the child's/youth's client plan goals;
- J. Providing a Licensed Mental Health Professional to give direction to the TFC parent regarding the interventions that the TFC parent will provide to the child/youth, as identified in that child's/youth's client plan;
- K. Providing a Licensed Mental Health Professional to meet with the TFC parent, face-to-face, in the TFC parent's home, a minimum of one (1) hour per week;
- L. Providing Medi-Cal-related reports to ACBH; and
- M. Providing other supports to the TFC parent and child or youth (i.e., parent partner and/or youth mentor)

## NON-COMPLIANCE

Any failure to comply with this policy may result in formal actions including and up to formal sanctions as outlined in ACBH policy 1302-1-1 *Contract Compliance and Sanctions for BHCS – Contract Providers*.

## CONTACT

ACBH Office	Current as of	Email
Child and Young Adult System of Care	09/4/2019	<a href="mailto:InfoACBH.CYASOC@acgov.org">InfoACBH.CYASOC@acgov.org</a>
Network Office	09/4/2019	<a href="mailto:Contracts@acgov.org">Contracts@acgov.org</a>
Provider Relations Claims Processing	09/4/2019	(510) 383-1582
Utilization Management	09/4/2019	(510) 567- 8141
Quality Assurance	09/4/2019	<a href="mailto:QAOFFICE@acgov.org">QAOFFICE@acgov.org</a>
Quality Improvement	09/4/2019	<a href="mailto:QITEAM@acgov.org">QITEAM@acgov.org</a>

## DISTRIBUTION

This policy will be distributed to the following:

- ACBH Staff
- ACBH County and Contract Providers
- Public

**ISSUANCE AND REVISION HISTORY**

**Original Authors:** Lisa Carlisle, Director, Child and Young Adult System of Care

**Original Date of Approval:** 10/31/2022 by Karyn L. Tribble, PsyD, LCSW, Behavioral Health Director

Revise Author	Reason for Revise	Date of Approval by (Name)

**DEFINITIONS**

Term	Definition
<b>Therapeutic Foster Care Services (TFC)</b>	Short-term, intensive, highly coordinated, trauma informed and individualized rehabilitative service covered under Medi-Cal that is provided to a child/youth up to age 21 with complex emotional and behavioral needs who is placed with trained and intensely supervised and supported TFC parents.

**APPENDICES**

NONE