Child Protective Services
Level Of Care Protocol (LOCP)
Training For Resource Parents

May 2021

WELCOME

Trainer Introductions

hello my name is...

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and
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TRAINING AGENDA

- Context and Background of Level of Care Protocol (LOCP)
- Level of Care (LOC) Tools
  - ➤ Resource Parent Report Tool
  - ➤ Matrix
  - ➤ LOC Scoring Tool
- LOCP Process
- Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC)
- Static Placements
- Special Care Increment (SCI)
- Next Steps

TOPICS NOT DISCUSSED

- **The adequacy of the foster care rates**
  - The rates are set by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

- **The timeframes for implementation**
  - The timeframes for full LOCP rate implementation were set by CDSS.

- **State prescription and county process**
  - The Level of Care Protocol is a requirement for every county in California.
  - Each county has their own local implementation process for accomplishing the Level of Care Protocol.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Level of Care Tool Design:

- Created by CDSS through a workgroup process with stakeholder input.
- Not an assessment tool but is informed by standard domains found in many assessment tools.
- Meant to standardize home-based foster care (HBFC) rate structure.
- Aligns with the goals of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) and meets legislative mandates.
- Standardizes expectations of resource parents and considers the individualized care and supervision needs of the child/NMD in the 5 domains.
- Shifts from a behavioral deficit process to a strengths-based approach in determining the care, supervision, intensity, and resources being provided by a resource family.

Level of Care Protocol:

- Consists of 5 Levels:
  - Basic
  - Level 2
  - Level 3
  - Level 4
  - ISFC

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Level of Care Protocol (LOCP) Implementation:

- Partially implemented in March 2018 for Foster Family Agency (FFA) resource families only.
- A study was conducted on the LOCP results and the tools have undergone changes over time.
- **As of <u>April 1, 2021</u>, the LOCP is fully implemented for County resource families.**
  - ➢ **This includes kinship guardians and non-related legal guardians established through the Juvenile Court on or after January 1, 2017.**

The LOCP and Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings:

- LOCP is <u>not</u> intended for use <u>during</u> a CFT meeting.
- CFT meetings are information-gathering opportunities to help further inform the LOCP.
- The LOCP is informed through multiple sources of information including, but not limited to:
  - o The voice of the family, parent/child/youth/NMD, medical reports, therapeutic plans, mental health assessments, academic assessments and other assessment tools, and the resource family.

RESOURCE PARENT REPORT TOOL

RESOURCE PARENTS REPORT TOOL: ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF CHILD   DATE OF REPORT:

Resource Parent

Thank you for taking the time to help us understand the needs of the child placed in your home. The information you share about the child's needs is an important factor in the assessment of services and supports for the child. If there are two Resource Parents caring for the child, please include the activities you both do in support of the child. The questions below reflect activities consistent with parental expectations and skills and may account for efforts applied to meet any needs beyond what is appropriate for the child's age. Please complete this questionnaire in the manner that describes the care you are currently providing to the child. If you need more information on what development looks like for children you can find more resources at: https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/index.html

CHILD'S NAME:		CURRENT AGE:	GENDER IDENTITY:	DATE OF PLACEMENT IN HOME:
RESOURCE PARENT NAME:			EMAIL ADDRESS:	
ADDRESS:		CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
HOME PHONE:		CELL PHONE:	CASE CARRYING WORKER:	

1a. **The child may need assistance with basic self-care task. Please check the boxes below if you are helping the child with any of these Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). (Check ALL boxes that apply)** ☐ Feeding ☐ Toileting ☐ Putting on clothes ☐ Bathing ☐ Grooming ☐ Menstrual Care ☐ Mobility (walking, standing, transferring to/ from wheelchair) ☐ Use of upper extremities (hands, arms, fingers)

1b. **How are you helping the child with these ADLs? (Check ALL boxes that apply)** ☐ Supervision of activities ☐ Verbal cueing as needed ☐ Child needs some assistance ☐ Child is not able to complete without help from an adult

1c. **How many ADLs do you assist the child with daily?** ☐ At least 1 ☐ At least 2 ☐ At least 3 ☐ At least 6

CAREGIVER COMMENTS:

SOCIAL WORKER COMMENTS:

✓ Completed and signed by the resource parent

✓ Contains the resource parent's report of their routine parental actions in caring for the child/NMD that are beyond what is developmentally appropriate for the age of the child

✓ Best Practice – to be filled out after the child has been in the home for 3-5 weeks

PLEASE NOTE...

A separate Resource Parent Report Tool is needed for each child.

LOCP MATRIX

The Level of Care Matrix (SOC 501)

- Consists of descriptions of parenting interventions in each of the 5 domains:
    1. Physical Domain
    2. Behavioral/Emotional Domain
    3. Educational Domain
    4. Health Domain
    5. Permanency/Family Services Domain
- The lowest intensity level for each domain outlines basic expectations of care.
- The intensity levels on the LOCP Matrix are selected through the identification of parenting interventions being provided by the resource parent that are <u>beyond what is developmentally appropriate for the child's age</u> in each domain.

LOCP SCORING TOOL

Level of Care (LOC) Digital Scoring Form

Child/Youth Info			Prior LOC (if applicable)		Case Carrying Worker(including Worker Code)		Resource Parent Info		FFA Information	
Name		**DOB**	**Level**		**Name**		**Name(s)**		**Agency Name**	
Social Security Number			**Level End Date**		**Email**		**Choose One**		**Start Date (If applicable)**	

Instructions: (Section A–E)

- **Section A:** If the child/youth requires a 60-day Static Rate based on the Static Criteria, complete Section A (Click on "Choose One" and select "Yes," then check at least one criteria).
- **Section B:** Enter score from each domain, then click enter to total the score.
- **Section C:** The level of care rate will populate in Section C.
- **Section D:** Check which resources were used to inform the decision.
- **Section E:** Instructions for SW/PO and Foster Care Eligibility staff.

A. **Does the child require immediate placement based on Static Criteria?** → Choose One | Static Extension
Check which criteria apply then skip Section B.

- ☐ Adjudicated violent offenses, significant property damage, and/or sex offenders/perpetrators
- ☐ Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
- ☐ Habitual Runaway
- ☐ Fire Setting
- ☐ Eating Disorder
- ☐ Severe Mental Health Issues – Including Suicidal Ideation and/or Self Harm
- ☐ Substance Use/Abuse
- ☐ Psychiatric Hospitalization(s)
- ☐ Animal Cruelty
- ☐ Aggressive and Assaultive
- ☐ Gang Activity
- ☐ COVID-19
- ☐ Habitual Truancy
- ☐ Special Health Care Needs
- ☐ IPC
- ☐ Medically Fragile
- ☐ Three or more placements due to the child's behavior

B.

Core Domain	Score
Physical	
Behavioral/Emotional	
Educational	
Health	
Permanency/Family Services	
TOTAL SCORE	**0**

C.

Level of Care Rate
Basic
Leveling-Up Guide
If child total score is 21 or less, but scores 5 or more in any of the core domains, child will be moved up a level not to exceed LOC 4.
If child scores a 7 in Behavioral/Emotional or Health Domains, child will be moved to ISFC.

- ☐ County RFA Home: Does not qualify for ISFC. Max Rate is LOC Level 4
- ☐ FFA Home: Does not qualify for ISFC. Max Rate is LOC Level 4
- ☐ FFA ISFC Admin Rate Only

D. **Resources Used to Inform the Decision: (Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)
- ☐ Interagency Placement Committee (IPC)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Specialized Care Increment (SCI)
- ☐ Case Plan
- ☐ Child and Family Team (CFT)
- ☐ Medical Records
- ☐ Education Records
- ☐ Mental Health Records
- ☐ Treatment Outcome Package (TOP)
- ☐ Court Orders
- ☐ Resource Parent Report Tool

E. **SW/PO Instructions:** Provide original score sheet to Foster Care Eligibility Staff. Retain a copy of this form and all supporting documents in the child's case file.
Foster Care Eligibility Staff Instructions: Provide copy of Notice of Action (NOA) to the Resource Parent.

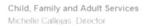|		Date:		
Social Worker Signature		Date:		**Basic-LOC 2 Approv**	**Placement Date (for NEW Placement):**
Supervisor Signature		Date:		**LOC 3-LOC 4 Appro** **OR**
Manager Signature		Date:		**ISFC/Static Approva** **Redetermination Effective Dat**
Static Extension Manager Sig		Date:		

LOCP PROCESS – NEW PLACEMENT

- The resource parent should fill out and sign the Resource Parent Report Tool after the child has been in the home for at least 3 weeks.
  - ➢ CFT meetings are opportunities for additional information-gathering during the LOCP process.
- During a home-visit, the assigned social worker will go through the responses on the Resource Parent Report Tool with the resource parent and asks clarifying questions as needed.
  - ➢ The social worker will also speak to the child and with others who reside in the home (if necessary) to obtain adequate information to complete the LOCP.
- The social worker will review other sources of information to inform the LOCP such as educational reports, therapeutic plans, medical reports, etc.
- The social worker will fill out the matrix and the scoring tool based on all the information gathered from the various sources.
- The social worker will obtain all necessary approvals for the LOCP.
- The scoring tool is forwarded for processing and the resource parent will receive a copy of the matrix and scoring tool.
- DHA issues a Notice of Action and administers the foster care rate that corresponds with the level identified on the scoring tool.

LOCP PROCESS - REDETERMINATIONS

- If a child/NMD's needs have changed enough to warrant the provision of additional resources, a resource parent can submit a written request (CS 80) for a redetermination to DCFAS-LOCRequest@saccounty.net

- The resource parent will receive a response message from the inbox confirming receipt of the request and providing further instructions with a copy of the Resource Parent Report Tool to be completed before the social worker's next visit to the home.

- During the home visit, the assigned social worker will go through the responses on the Resource Parent Report Tool with the resource parent and asks clarifying questions as needed.
  - ➢ The social worker will also speak to the child and with others who reside in the home (if necessary) to obtain adequate information to complete the LOCP.

- The social worker will review other sources of information to inform the LOCP such as educational reports, therapeutic plans, medical reports, etc.

- The social worker will fill out the matrix and the scoring tool based on all the information gathered from the various sources.

- The social worker will obtain all necessary approvals for the LOCP.

- The scoring tool is forwarded for processing and the resource parent will receive a copy of the matrix and scoring tool.

- DHA issues a Notice of Action and administers the foster care rate that corresponds with the level identified on the scoring tool.

Note: A redetermination does <u>not</u> guarantee a change in the foster care rate.

Child, Family and Adult Services
Michelle Callejas, Director

County of Sacramento

Divisions
Child Protective Services
Senior and Adult Services
Department Administration

Level of Care (LOC) Redetermination Request

| Form Date: | Name of Requesting Party: |
| | Requesting Party's Role (Resource Parent, FFA Social Worker, Etc.): |

Assigned County Social Worker (*if known*):

| Child's Name: | Child's Birthdate: |

| Child's Placement Date: | Child's Current Level of Care (*if known*): **Select One** |

| ☐ County Home   ☐ FFA | Foster Family Agency (FFA) Name: |

Resource Family Name:

Resource Family Phone Number:

Resource Family Address:

Reason(s) a new Level of Care Protocol Redetermination is needed*:

Information to Support the above Request for a Level of Care (LOC) Redetermination:

*Please note – a Level of Care redetermination does not guarantee a change in foster care rate.

CS 80 – Revised. 5/3/21

INTENSIVE SERVICES FOSTER CARE

- Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) is the highest level on the LOCP.
- ISFC is a program that requires approval through CDSS and has two components:
  - A foster care reimbursement rate, and
  - A plan of intensive supportive services to assist the resource parent in meeting the needs of the child/NMD in the home.
- ISFC is <u>not</u> available through the Sacramento County Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program.
- ISFC <u>is</u> available through several local Foster Family Agencies (FFAs).
- In order for a Sacramento County resource parent to receive ISFC level support for a child, they must transfer their RFA approval to an FFA that has an ISFC program and receive additional training.
- Sacramento County resource families will receive further guidance about the RFA transfer process, should the result of an LOCP for a child in the home be ISFC.
- Resource families who decide to maintain their RFA approval through Sacramento County will receive Level 4 foster care reimbursement.

STATIC PLACEMENTS

- STATIC is a temporary elevated rate that can be applied during the first 60 days of a placement while the LOCP is being completed.

- STATIC may be applied when a placement need is urgent and additional resources are necessary due to a higher level of supervision need related to one or more of the following indicators:

Adjudicated Violent Offenders, Significant Property Damage, and/or Sex Offenders/Perpetrators	Eating Disorder	Medically Fragile	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)	Severe Mental Health Issues – Including Suicidal Ideation and/or Self Harm
Aggressive and Assaultive	Fire Setting	Special Health Care Needs (SHCN)	Contraction of Pandemic Viruses, such as Covid-19	Substance Use/Abuse
Animal Cruelty	Gang Activity	Psychiatric Hospitalization(s)	Habitual Runaway	Habitual Truancy

- STATIC requires manager approval.
- STATIC rate is applied when assessed as necessary, not only because an indicator is present.
- Sacramento County resource families are able to receive STATIC rate.
- STATIC decisions are made and discussions are held before a placement is made.
- STATIC rate is not applied retroactively.

LOCP TIMEFRAMES AND EFFECTIVE DATES

Type of LOCP	Timeframe	Rate Effective Date
New placement with an approved resource parent	LOCP is completed within 60 days of placement	Rate is effective back to placement date
New placement with an approved resource parent when STATIC rate was applied	LOCP is completed within 60 days of placement	Rate is effective after the STATIC rate period
New placement with a non-RFA-approved resource parent	LOCP is completed within 60 days of RFA approval	Rate is effective back to date of RFA approval
Redetermination request from a resource family	LOCP is completed within 60 days of the date the request was received by the inbox	Rate is effective back to date the redetermination request was received by the inbox
Note: Each LOCP is specific to the resource parent and child. Rates established through the LOCP do not carry-over from placement to placement. If a placement lasts less than 60 days, the LOCP will not be done.		

REIMBURSEMENT RATES

Basic	LOC 2	LOC 3	LOC 4	ISFC
$1,037	$1,153	$1,271	$1,387	Resource Family Portion $2,706 Administrative Portion $3,682

Static
$2,706

Foster Care rates change every July. This table represents rates during FY 20/21.

SPECIAL CARE INCREMENT (SCI)

- No new special care increment requests will be processed as of April 1, 2021.

- Any current special care increments will remain in place at this time.

- If additional resources are needed to meet the needs of a child/NMD after April 1, 2021, the redetermination request (CS 80) process should be utilized.

- The LOCP will be done for any child/NMD placed in your home on or after April 1, 2021.
  - ➤ If you are currently going through the RFA process for a child placed in your home, regardless of the placement date, the LOCP will apply after you have received RFA approval.
- If a child was placed in your home before April 1, 2021, and the needs of the child require additional resources, you can request a redetermination by submitting a completed CS 80 to DCFAS-LOCRequest@saccounty.net
  - ➤ A redetermination does not guarantee a change in the foster care reimbursement rate.
- If you are currently receiving a Special Care Increment (SCI) for a child placed in your home, the increment will remain in place at this time.

FINAL THOUGHTS…

- The day-to-day care of a resource parent is the primary intervention a child will receive during their time in the child welfare system.

- Thank you for all the ways you make a difference for children and families.

For questions related to LOCP for a child/NMD in your home, please contact the assigned social worker.

➤ If you are unsure which social worker is assigned, call (916) 875-5437.

For questions related to the status of your resource family approval, please contact your RFA social worker.

➤ If you are unsure about who your assigned RFA social worker is, call (916) 875-5543.

For specific questions about this training, please contact Program Planner Genny Maze at mazeg@saccounty.net