





NC Department of Health and Human Services

Update to Benchmarks

December 2, 2021

Agenda:

- FFPSA Update
  - Prevention Plan submitted
  - Bridge Funding
- Foster Home Rate Increase
- Law Changes of Interest
- Practice Model Update
  - Interrater Reliability Testing for new Intake tool
  - Safety Circle to engage relatives
- Update on Vaccination for minors

FFPSA Implementation Status

- **Prevention Plan: Submitted to ACF November 9, 2021**

  - ✓ Use of EBPs on Clearing House required
  - ✓ EBPs on Clearing House are clinical in nature and more expensive to deliver
  - ✓ The use of clinical EBP should reduce the number of children coming into care
  - ✓ EBPs also critical to reduction in the use of congregate care
  - ✓ Federal IV-E claiming will be reimbursed at 50 percent

- **Effective October 1, 2021: Federal IV-E reimbursement for <u>new</u> placements in congregate care limited to 14 days**
- **Exceptions to the Congregate Care:**

  - ✓ Extended Foster Care 18-21
  - ✓ Pregnant and Parenting Teens
  - ✓ Children who were placed before October 1, provided they do not change placement

Bridge Funding

- **Sufficient funding in the budget**
- **Due to limited number of youth impacted counties were held harmless in October prior to budget approval.**
- **No change for counties in reporting except to identify those who qualify as a pregnant and parenting youth**
  - **Legacy counties payments for the 14 days of the allowed funding, will process on a delay.**
  - **NCFAST counties will calculate and process automatically**
- **This state fiscal year counties are held harmless.**
- **Next state fiscal year the state and counties split the cost of the loss of IV-E revenue.**

Rate Increases: Foster Care and Adoption Assistance

Effective January 1, 2022

Rate increases by age:

- **Birth to 5: From $475 to $514**
- **6-12 : From $581 to $654**
- **13-20 : From $634 to $698**

Law Changes/Policy of Interest

- **Dissemination of CPS and Permanency Planning Policy and review in Children's Services Committee next week**
- **Changes are primarily changes to practice as much of new law restates federal expectations**
- **Begin planning for a statewide CPS Hotline**
- **Will cover Foster Parent Bill of Rights in January**

Practice Model Update

- **Begin Interrater Reliability of new Intake Tool in December**
- **Work led by Evident Change**
- **Safety Design Team provided feedback on initial development**
- **Will implement use of Safety Circles to engage relatives in response to need to focus on prioritization of relatives**

COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance

Dear County Director (DCDL) Letters issued 5/25/2021, Updates on 9/16/2021 and 11/8/2021

- The purpose of this document is to ensure that child welfare workers are provided guidance regarding the COVID-19 vaccine as it pertains to vaccine eligible youth in foster care.
- Provides information from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control on the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine available to persons five and older.
- Provides links to vaccination checklists, how to locate the vaccine, and documentation requirements if the vaccination is administered;
- Provides Local Departments of Social Services guidance on;
  - State Statute;
  - Parental consent;
  - Minor's decisional capacity to consent;
  - Communication with the minor's healthcare provider to ensure that the vaccination is safe for the minor based on the individual health status;
  - Disallows blanket vaccination consents for children/youth in congregate care;
  - Seeking court intervention regarding issues of consent if necessary.
- Provides information on legislation passed in 2021 regarding parental consent and the use of vaccinations that are approved under US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) emergency use authorization (EUA).
- Provides guidance to Private Child Placing Agencies to ensure they are aware of and are following state statutes and child welfare policy as it relates to the COVID-19 vaccination.