

Higher Level of Care

Children needing a higher level of care –*Therapeutic Foster Care, Therapeutic Group Care, or Psychiatric Inpatient Hospitalization*– must have a Child Specific Staffing (CSS). This staffing includes all parties having knowledge of the child and/or have a relationship with the child (*child's therapist, parents, DCM, Legal Aid attorney, GAL*). DCM must invite all parties involved to the CSS. The CSS will assess the child's need for a higher level of care and discuss supports to assist the child in their current placement. CSS may be requested by the DCM, child's attorney, Service Coordination staff, Intake and Placement staff, child's placement, or service providers.

- CSS meets weekly & facilitated by CN Senior Behavioral Health Specialist
- Submit the following prior to the CSS Staffing:
 - Behavioral Health Records
 - Biopsychosocial, Brief Behavioral Health Assessment, & Treatment Plan
 - Psychiatric Evaluations
 - Psychological Evaluations
 - Therapeutic Progress Summaries
 - Any other applicable records



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Suitability Assessment: Any child being considered for referral for a suitability assessment must meet one or more of the following situations:

- Comprehensive treatment in least restrictive settings has been ineffective
- Child placed in *Specialized Therapeutic Foster Home* or community-based therapeutic setting for treatment & was not successful
- Child's psychiatric condition is so severe that treatment cannot be safely attempted in the community

If child meets threshold criteria for suitability assessment, DCM will submit supporting clinical documentations:

- Behavioral Health Records & Therapeutic Progress Summaries
- Biopsychosocial, Brief Behavioral Health Assessment, Treatment Plan
- Psychological and/or Psychiatric Evaluations
- Any other applicable records

Outcomes of a suitability assessment may include:

- Non-Residential
- Therapeutic Group Care/Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
- Behavioral Qualified Residential Treatment Program (BQRTP)
- Psychiatric Hospitalization

Important: Children must attend their suitability assessments. If for any reason child cannot attend, Program Officer approval is required. DCF is required to pay \$4,032.98 monthly for missed appointments

