



BHS PROVIDER UPDATES

2017-2

Continuum of Care Reform and Child and Family Team Meetings

BHS providers have been involved in Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings through Pathways to Well-Being since 2013. California's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), set to improve outcomes for children and families, is guided by the principle that all children deserve to live with a committed, nurturing, and permanent family. CCR will increase the scope of information that is included in the CFT meeting and the number of youth receiving CFT meetings.

Beginning in April 2017, BHS providers can expect to receive invitations from CWS for meetings beyond the required CFT meeting for youth identified as Enhanced/Subclass. A CFT meeting will be called by CWS to have the team make recommendations when:

- **A child has been removed from his or her home and a plan is needed for the youth and family.**
- **A child is in out of home care and a change in placement is required or requested.** (*in place of a Team Decision Making Meeting)
- **A child may be returning home.**
- **A permanent plan for a child needs to be made.**
- **A child/youth's mental health needs or placement in a group home should be assessed.**
- **Prior to a court hearing where recommendations about placement or services are being made.**
- **Any family member involved in a child's case requests to meet to talk about the child's placement or the family's service plan.**

CFT meetings will be held for all foster youth in out-of-home care, regardless of whether a youth is identified as Enhanced/Subclass. It is critical that providers remain within their scope and contribute based on their expertise, recognizing that placement related safety issues are the responsibility of partner agencies. Behavioral Health providers continue to be an essential part of the team with the expansion of CFTs under CCR. When being invited to a CFT meeting, the CWS meeting facilitator will reach out to the provider, explain the meeting structure, the purpose of the meeting, who will be attending, and how the provider can participate. It is expected that the provider will participate in the meeting either in-person or through a telephonic option. All previous mandates around the facilitation and timeline of CFT meetings organized by BHS providers for youth identified as Enhanced/Subclass remain in place.

Questions? Contact info for the Pathways to Well-Being team and other important information can be found on the Pathways to Well-Being webpage at <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/bhs/workforce/pathways.html>

Reminder: CFT participation may be a billable activity if it meets medical necessity Medi-Cal requirements