

**March 21, 2017**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Item #9e**

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Continuum of Care**  
**Reform & Resource**  
**Family Approval**

## **Continuum of Care Reform (aka Foster Care Reform)**

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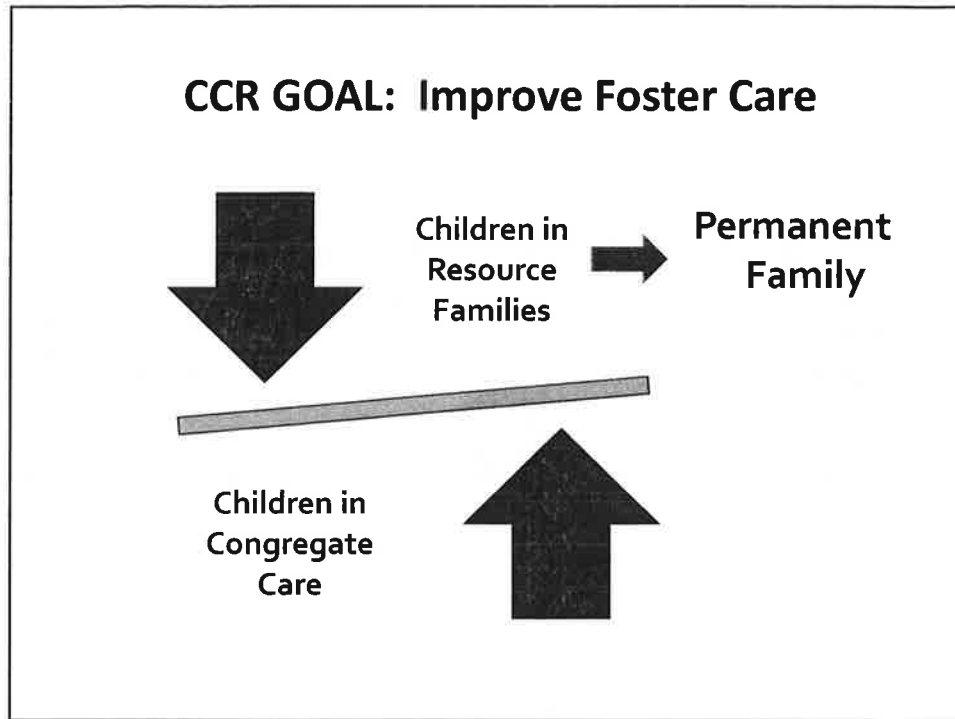
Mono County Departments of Social Services; Probation; Behavioral Health  
March 2017

### **Goals for Today**


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- Continuum of Care Reform Overview
- Increasing Capacity for Home-Based Care
- Group Homes to STRTPs
- Challenges/Strengths
- Assistance needed



**CCR BACKGROUND**



**Context for Change:**

- Proportion of children in Group Homes has remained fairly constant despite efforts to reduce it.
- Poor outcomes for children placed in group homes for long periods of time.

**Legislative mandate:**

- Reform Group Homes with stakeholder input
- Legislative report with recommendations
- CCR Legislation: AB 403 (2015) & AB 1997 (2016)

### Continuum of Care Reform:



*A comprehensive framework that supports children, youth and families across placement settings (from relatives to congregate care) in achieving permanency.*

#### Includes:

- Increased engagement with children, youth and families
- Increased capacity for home-based family care
- Limited use of congregate care (Group Homes)
- Systemic and infrastructure changes: rates, training, accreditation, accountability & performance, mental health service



### Vision



- All children live with a committed, permanent and nurturing family
- Individualized and coordinated services and supports across all systems
  - Children shouldn't need to change placements to receive services
- When needed, congregate care is a short-term, high quality, intensive intervention that is just one part of a continuum of care available for children/youth



## Key Strategies

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- ❖ **Child and Family Teams (CFTs)** drive case planning, placement decisions and care coordination.
- ❖ **Home-Based Family Care:** Retention and recruitment of committed families.
- ❖ **Increased services and supports,** including mental health.
- ❖ **New licensing requirements:** Ensure providers have an identified ability to meet the varied needs of children.
- ❖ **Collaboration** between providers, child welfare, probation and mental health to provide integrated services.

**Launch date:**  
**January 1, 2017**

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Includes children/youth in  
Child Welfare and Probation

# CHILD AND FAMILY TEAMS

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## CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM (CFT)

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- **Who:** The **child and family members**, professionals, and other people identified by the family who are invested in the child and family's success.
- **What:** The CFT's role is to help the family members define and reach their goals and develop a child and family-centered case plan.
- **Why:** CFT convened for purpose of identifying supports and services needed to achieve permanency and to enable youth to be in the least restrictive family setting that promotes normal childhood experiences

*WIC § 706.6 & 16501.1*

## INCREASING CAPACITY FOR HOME-BASED CARE

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## Increasing Capacity

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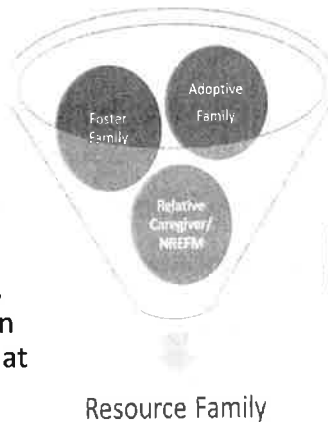
- Streamlined home-based family approval process (**Resource Family Approval**)
- Updated and expanded **training requirements** across provider and caregiver categories
- New caregiver **rates**
- Additional **funding for support, retention, recruitment and training** of resource families (\$17.2 million General Funds; \$30k Mono )

## Resource Family Approval (RFA)



## Resource Family Approval

- Streamlines the relative approval, foster care licensing, and adoption processes into a **single process** that occurs up front.



Statewide implementation  
on January 1, 2017





## Core Elements of RFA

- **One standard** – relatives and recruited families treated the same
- **One process** – approved for any child in foster care, approved in any county, and approved for guardianships & adoptions
- **Comprehensive assessment** required, includes:
  - Home Environment Assessment
  - Permanency Assessment
- Pre- and post-approval **training** required for all families
- Procedures for **expedited placements**



WIC § 16519.6



## Increased services and supports

- Individualized and coordinated services
- Intensive Services Foster Care
- Menu of Caregiver Supports could include:
  - Aides to provide transportation
  - Respite-only Families (could be unmatched families)
  - Higher foster care rate paid to family
  - Mentor assigned to family



## **RFA Implementation Plan**

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- Joint plan: Child Welfare and Probation
- Submitted to state staff in 2016
- Received and included their feedback
- Living document: provides protocol for RFA, changes as we learn

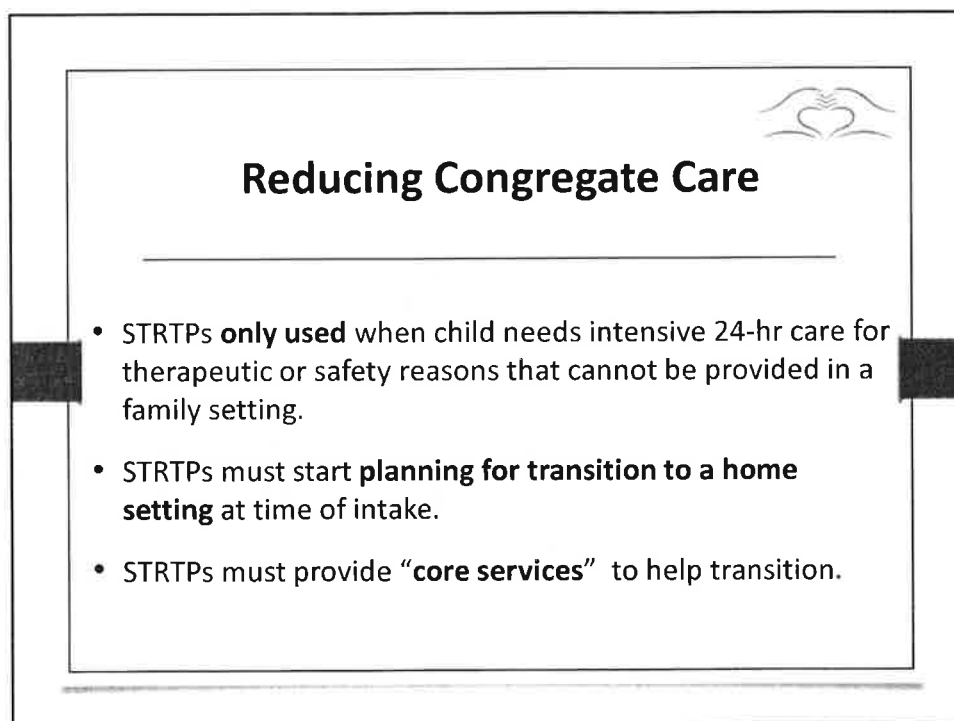
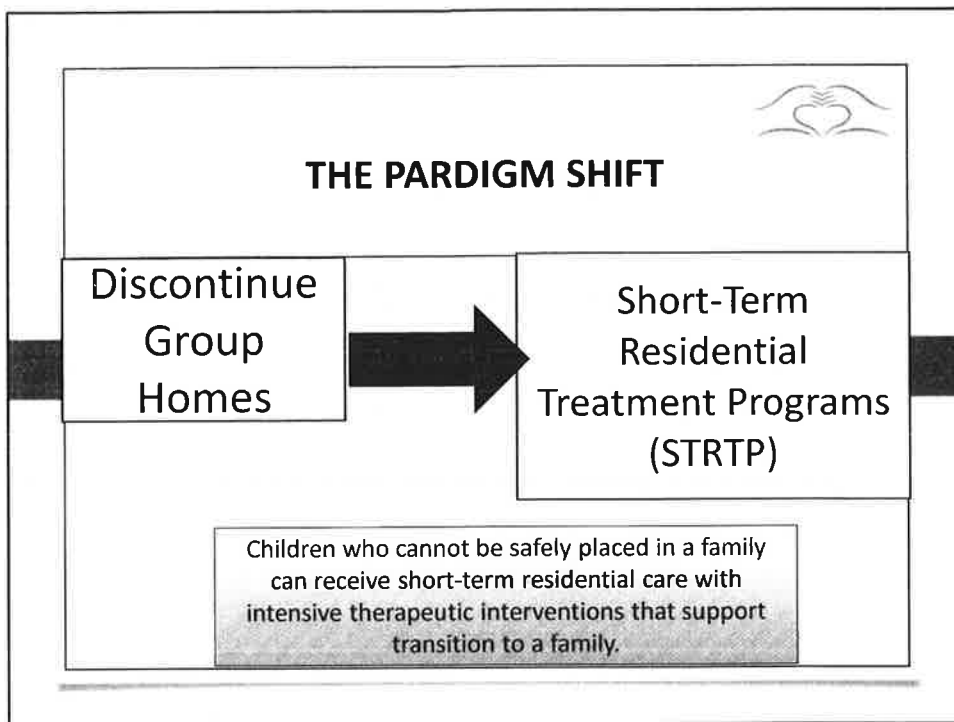
## **STRTPs**

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**Short-term Residential Treatment Programs**  
(aka Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs)

Old term: Group Homes

Currently none in Mono/Inyo



## Child Welfare

- Average # of SCAN investigations: 11/month
- Children in foster care: 6
  - On-track for permanency (adoption): 5
- Voluntary Family Maintenance / Other: 5

## Probation

- Youth on formal Probation: 4
- Youth in Diversion Program: 6
- Youth in Wrap Program: 2

March 2017



## Overall Challenges

- Recruiting, Training, and Retaining:
  - Adequate number of Resource Families
- Intensive Services (including mental health)
  - Staffing appropriately/timely
- Responsibility for RFA shifts to County staff
  - New workload requirements for Child Welfare/Probation
  - Orientation/Training; Home Inspections; Psychosocial Assessments; Child Placement Assessments

## Strengths



- Successful Child and Family Teaming practice already in-place
- Not accustomed to relying on group home placements
- Active cross-agency and cross-county collaboration
- Small number of families in care allows for individualized support for child/youth, caregivers, families
- Justice system leadership is accessible and receptive
- Strong community-based services (Wraparound; Wild Iris; First 5 Home Visiting; education partners; hospital)

## Assistance Needed



- Identify and refer Resource Family candidates
  - ✓ Emergency Care and Respite Care only
  - ✓ Short-term
  - ✓ Long-term up to Adoption



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*There's a critical need for Resource Families throughout Mono County. Currently, there are only three Resource Family Homes in the county. We are in need of more homes to help children remain in their communities and not be placed in out of County homes, far from all they know and love.*

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**Mono County  
Resource Family  
Approval (RFA)  
Program**

**YOU can make a difference  
in the life of a child in your  
community...**

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## What is a Resource Family?

- All children need and deserve a safe, loving, nurturing, accepting and consistent place to live where they can thrive and mature. Becoming a Resource Family caregiver provides a home for a child to do just that.
- A Resource Family is an individual, couple or family who wants to provide care to a related or unrelated child who is under the care of a county child welfare or probation agency.
- A Resource Family has successfully met approval standards which include building and ground inspection, risk assessment, background clearances, training and a permanency assessment as established in the Resource Family Written Directives.
- Resource Families support connecting children to safe caring relationships that can last a lifetime by focusing on families. Supportive and loving long-term relationships lead to stable permanent placements and improved permanency outcome for children, youth and young adults.

## How Do I Become a Resource Family?

Mono County Social Services staff will work with you to become a Resource Family. This new process is unified, family friendly, child centered streamlined application process. It will eliminate duplication and increase approval standards of all families that want to foster, adopt or provide legal guardianship to a child. The following is a partial list of requirements:

- Criminal record check/Live Scan
- Informational Meeting, Orientation and Pre-Approval Training
- Home environment assessment
- Permanency Assessment
- CPR/First Aid Certification
- Health and TB Screening
- In-home visits with all adults and children, youth and young adults
- Reference checks
- Verification and completed application forms

Upon approval, a Resource Family is considered to be approved for providing foster care, becoming a guardian or adopting a child without going through additional processes. Approval does not guarantee the placement of a child.



## Who Can Be A Resource Family?

Resource Families are individuals, married couples or a families. You may or may not have children of your own. You don't have to own your own home and you may live in an apartment/condo. Resource Families come from all ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds.

To be a Resource Family, you will need to:

- Live in Mono County
- Be at least 18 years old
- Have an income that covers the needs of your own family
- Have adequate bedroom space to accommodate all family members, including foster children
- Your home, inside and out must be safe and in good condition.

**Please give us a call or email:**

**Mono County Social Services**

760-924-1770 [mpreis@mono.ca.gov](mailto:mpreis@mono.ca.gov)

**Mono County Probation Department**

760-932-1730 [jsosa@mono.ca.gov](mailto:jsosa@mono.ca.gov)

**Visit us on the web:**

<http://monocounty.ca.gov/>