

**REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY
PURCHASE OF SERVICE POLICY #3419
Date Approved: 3/04**

RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN

PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of the Regional Center of the East Bay that families should be assisted to maintain their minor child with a developmental disability at home. Accordingly, every effort will be made to coordinate services and supports that allow families to realize this objective. However, when a licensed alternative living arrangement is chosen by the family, efforts will be made to have the child live geographically as close to his family as possible.

Regional Center of the East Bay will make every effort to offer licensed living options that are similar to typical family homes and that are located in typical neighborhoods. Consideration should be given to providing the least disruption in a child's educational program. Licensed home operators shall provide family services and supports that maximize client growth, self-sufficiency and independence, that take place in natural environments, and that make provisions for adequate health care and for the overall physical and emotional well-being of each individual.

SERVICE DEFINITION

Alternative living options for minor children with developmental disabilities are available to parents when, due to the specialized care needs, the family is not able to maintain the child at home. Placement of a minor child outside of the family home is voluntary and facilitated through the IPP/IFSP process by the ID Team.

Placement options are:

Community Care Facilities (CCF) licensed through the State Department of Social Service, Community Care Licensing. CCF's are level 1-4I (see Residential Services for Adults Service Definition for descriptions of the levels of care) paid for through Supplemental Security Income (SSI) with supplemental payment by RCEB.

Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/DDH or ICF/DDN) licensed through the Department of Health Care Licensing and paid through Medi-Cal.

Licensed vendorized Foster Family Agency small family homes paid for through SSI and RCEB.

BOARD POLICY

A minor child may be placed, at parental request, in a licensed living arrangement when the child has specialized care needs that are beyond the capabilities of the family. RCEB will consider

residential placement of a minor child when every possible alternative to assist the family to maintain the child at home has been explored.

Where possible, the child and family should visit the home(s) before making a decision. To ensure that both the child, family and care provider have an opportunity to give careful consideration in such a significant life decision, RCEB may purchase up to three (3) days for a pre-placement visit. If there are 2 or more appropriate residential options, the family will make the choice.

Infants who are at risk for a developmental disability or who show developmental delays but have not been diagnosed with a developmental disability (Status 1), and require long term residential services and supports shall be referred to the Children's Protective Services. Regional Center of the East Bay will provide licensed services and supports only on an exception basis when a temporary residence (*not more than 3 months*) is required in order for the family to organize their home situation to accommodate care for the child. Out of home placement of infants who have a diagnosis of a developmental disability (Status 2) shall follow the general policy for out of home placement of children.

SERVICE COORDINATION GUIDELINES

Case Managers should use the Community Care Residential Placement Checklist for Children as a guide when facilitating the placement of any minor child into a community living arrangement.

Prior to the placement of a minor child into an alternative living arrangement the following should occur:

1. The Planning team meets and the IPP/IFSP identifies the child's needs for care, support and supervision.
2. The case manager ensures that all documentation is updated (CDER, Annual Review, etc.) and that medical and educational information is current.
3. If there are significant behavioral challenges and a Level 4 placement is being considered, consultation with the RCEB Behaviorist must be completed. If there are medical or health concerns, an assessment by the RCEB nurse must be completed.
4. The ACLA (Alternative Community Living Arrangement Assessment/Referral Form) and the MEOIC (Measurements and Evaluations of Individual Consumers) should be completed by the case manager. These, along with current documentation, assessments and evaluations (the referral packet) should be forwarded to the Placement Coordinator.
5. The case manager follows up with the Placement Coordinator regarding appropriate placement options. Upon receiving the names of potential residential providers, the case manager forwards referral packets to the providers and informs family of

appropriate options. In situations where there is more than one appropriate residential option for the child, the family will make the choice.

Once a residential option has been identified as appropriate by the family and care provider, the following occurs:

1. A move in date is agreed upon and arrangements for the actual move are made.
2. If there is a change in school district for the child, the case manager notifies the new school district in writing and forwards a copy of the current IEP. An educational representative is established if needed.
3. Within 5 days of move-in, the Admission Agreement (including the Dangerous Propensities form) is completed with the care provider, family and RCEB.
4. When minors move to a licensed home, as required by law, the Regional Center of the East Bay case manager will notify the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) through completion of the PARENTAL FEE ASSESSMENT Packet. Parents may be assessed a reimbursement or parental fee, on a sliding scale, by DDS.
5. Family must apply for SSI (non-medical board and care facility) or request a rate change from SSI to reflect board and care rate. Those children with a developmental disability eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) will use their SSI to pay for residential services and supports. All funds available for residential placement need to be accessed. In addition, some licensed homes are funded entirely by Medi-Cal. When neither SSI nor Medi-Cal is available, or is insufficient to obtain the appropriate living option, Regional Center of the East Bay will purchase the needed residential services and supports. Trust funds (other than certain special needs trusts) or other specialized funds available for the residential services of a minor child must be used.
6. Case manager completes a POS for the new placement. A POS is also completed to cancel existing home based services or previous residential services if necessary.
7. The case manager updates the Face Sheet.
8. Within 30 days of placement, the IDT develops a new IPP/IFSP.
9. Within 50 days of placement, a new IEP meeting should occur.

AUTHORITY

California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4512 (b).