

Large Sibling Group Model Program / Performance Criteria

OVERVIEW ONLY !

**(Three Or More Siblings)
< New Entrants Only >**

Large Sibling Group Model – Program / Performance Criteria (3 plus siblings and new entrants only) OVERVIEW

Recruitment and Training

- Foster parents must pass extensive background check.
- Foster parents must agree to annual random drug tests.
- Provider must ensure that foster homes and all foster parents complete uniform and DFCS approved training prior to the placement of any children with a foster or pre-adoptive family.
- All foster parents shall also be required to complete annual training, as part of an annual re-approval process.
- All foster parents and providers must immediately (within 24 hours) report changes in household composite.
- Provider must maintain an up-to-date list of foster homes and contact information, as well as the same information on all household members.

24/7 Emergency Placements

- Provider will maintain a minimum of 20 available daily beds for each 100 actual placements.
- A no reject and no eject policy is in effect.
- Siblings will be placed in the same foster home, excepting cases where safety is an issue (split placements must be approved by DFCS).
- No child under the age of 12 shall be placed in a group care facility.
- No child shall be placed 50 miles outside their home community.

Capacity Limits

- No child shall be placed in a foster home if that placement will result in more than three (3) foster children in that foster home, or a total of six (6) children in the home, including the foster family biological and/or adopted children.
- No placement will result in more than 3 children under the age of 3 residing in a foster home.

Note: The only exception to these limits is the placement of a large sibling group in a foster home with no other children in the home that would exceed one of more of these limits.

Reunification and Permanency

- Provider will dedicate a minimum of one "positive permanency" staffer for every 75 placements. Positive permanency is met when one of the following outcomes occur: reunification, adoption, permanent placement with a relative, permanent legal custody, or guardianship.
- The average time of reunification/permanency must be 8 months or less. Should, at any point in time, the average length of time exceed 8 months, the per diem rate will be subject to a 10% reduction for each additional month beyond the 8 month average goal. Example: A 9 month average would result in a 10% per diem reduction; a 10 month average would result in a 20% per diem reduction. Any reduction would only be applied to the agency portion of the per diem. The total per diem is \$73.50 with \$33.00 paid to the foster parent and \$40.50 paid to the agency.
- Provider must conduct diligent searches to assist with locating fit and willing relatives with whom to place children. .
- Diligent search efforts must be documented and tracked. Provider will produce a diligent tracking report on a monthly basis, not later than the 15th of each month. Penalties may apply.

Family Support

- Provider will act as a liaison between the foster home parents and the biological parents.
- The assigned family support staffer will visit each foster home a minimum of once per week, and the biological parents a minimum of once a week (if reunification is the permanency plan).

Supplemental Education / Tutoring

- Provider will coordinate child's enrollment in the proper school system.
- Provider will obtain tutoring services as recommended by the local school system.
- Provider will coordinate education strategies with DHR/DFCS education consultants.
- Provider will document students' educational gains and barriers and generate a monthly report of intervention strategies and outcomes.

Health Services

- All children shall receive a medical screening and a dental screening **within ten days of placement** in compliance with EPSDT standards.
- Every child shall receive and EPSDT/Georgia Health Check Program health screening **within ten days of** receiving a final **discharge** from placement.

- Children's health needs, including dental and mental health needs, between periodic screenings shall be met as provided in EPSDT.

- **The standards below were developed to establish acceptable performance measures for professional foster care programs:**

Safety

- No more than 0.50% of all children shall be the victim of substantiated maltreatment while in the provider's care.

- Agency will submit on-time internal investigations @ 95% of the time.
 - Critical event investigations will be submitted within 10 calendar days @ 100% of the time and will follow submission guidelines as established per DFCS policy.

- Agency will accept all placement referrals on a 24/7 basis without *reject* or *eject* except with the approval of DFCS.

- Provider will instruct foster parents and all other caregivers that **corporal punishment** is not acceptable under any circumstances, and **is never allowed**. This standard is required 100% of the time.

- **Without exception**, provider must place children in homes that are in 100% full approval status

- **Without exception**, provider will not move children without first notifying the custodial county. Penalties are being developed and may apply.

- **Without exception**, provider will undertake sexual offender address checks @ 100% for all foster home sites.

Permanency

- 95% of children will have no more than 2 moves within a 1 year period with all moves to be approved by DFCS.
 - Children moved solely at the discretion of DFCS without cause and without fault on the provider's part will not constitute a move.

- Positive permanency will occur within 14 months @ 80% of the children in the agency's care. Positive permanency is met when one of the following outcomes occur: reunification, adoption, permanent placement with a relative, permanent legal custody, or guardianship.

- Agency will maintain an 80.0% sibling placement rate within the same household.

Well Being

- Agency will maintain a 90% effective rate for children visiting family no less than once every 45 days.
- Agency case workers will visit birthparents @ 80% of each represented/affected family no less than once every 90 days.
- Agency will coordinate and ensure all placements receive proper and timely therapeutic services.

General

- Provider must meet all minimum Kenny A requirements related to provider controllable aspects.
- DHR shall require, and shall take appropriate steps to ensure, that all child-caring institutions or child-placing agencies that provide placements and services to class members meet all applicable terms of the Kenny A. Consent Decree.
- All provisions contained in the Out-Of-Home-Care CPA contract will apply in addition to those provisions contained here-in.

NOTE: After establishment of mutual interest to proceed in a contract for services, **Kenny A.** training is available upon request.

Next Step:

Contact Richard O'Neill via e-mail at raoneill@dhr.ga.gov if you wish to discuss interest in this new Child Placing Agency program. Should enough interest be shown, a general meeting will be arranged to address in a group setting.