



B.J. Walker Commissioner

Georgia Department of Human Services • Division of Family and Children Services • Mark A. Washington, Assistant Commissioner
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Family Preservation Providers and DFCS Staff

FROM: Mark A. Washington, Assistant Commissioner *MAW*
Division of Family and Children Services

SUBJECT: OPUOM - Home Based Services Unit: In-Home Services Standards Setting Work Group and SafeCare® Services Reimbursement for Family Preservation Providers

DATE: December 2, 2009

Our Home Based Services Unit within the DFCS Office of Provider Utilization and Outcomes Management along with a cross-section of community-based Family Preservation Providers from across the State will begin a workgroup commencing November 16, 2009. This workgroup is designed to serve two primary purposes: assessment, analysis and standards setting of home based services and monitoring of home based services. From this workgroup we plan to improve our family intervention work that is currently being performed and develop a consistent statewide framework that supports outcome-focused evidence-based models of home-based preventive services that are needed for children and families.

We seek to answer in our assessment of home based services the following questions:

1. What should home based services look like?
2. What are the evidence-based approaches and models that we can utilize to support our statewide practice?
3. How will these approaches be measured for performance and funded?

We seek to answer in our monitoring of home based services the following questions:

1. What outcomes should we monitor for?
2. How do we determine if the work is the right work and/or how do we monitor if the work is good/bad?

The workgroup will deliver recommendations for Leadership review and subsequent implementation by March 1, 2010.

SafeCare® and DHS

In March 2009, the DHS Division of Family and Children Services initiated a statewide implementation of training in SafeCare® services for Georgia home-based service providers. SafeCare® is an evidence based

model we will be using as part of the service continuum for families with children between the ages of 0-5, and at risk for mild to moderate abuse and neglect.

The training of Family Preservation Providers commenced on May 11, 2009 and continues to grow across the state of Georgia. Once trained and certified providers are prepared to “roll out” SafeCare® to families upon receiving an appropriate referral from local DFCS offices.

How to Bill for SafeCare® Services?

Providers will receive payment reimbursement of SafeCare® services through UAS Code 518 under Wraparound, Homestead, and/or Family Preservation Services for in-home parenting or intensive in-home parenting (see Pg. 3 Provider Rate). SafeCare is intended to provide Family Preservation Providers with a model that is supported by the Department and proven to be effective when implemented properly through high fidelity. Although some providers have received information on a special payment rate for performing SafeCare® services from Catalyst for Care (CFC), at this time we are only adjusting our work practices, not the payment for the work being conducted. The billing protocol has not changed.

What are the Next Steps?

DFCS is committed to strategies and practices that support safe and thriving children in Georgia living in forever families. We are also committed to meeting the standards of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). These goals will be met through high performing, measurable and accountable services within the family preservation provider community.

For specific questions regarding SafeCare® process, training, or the Home Based workgroup please contact Director of Home Based Services Unit, Nia Cantey via nicantey@dhr.state.ga.us or 404-463-0960.