

**Date:** July 24, 2019  
**CYF Memo:** # 05 - 19/20  
**To:** CYF Mental Health and SUD Treatment Providers  
Organizational and Fee for Services (FFS) Providers  
**From:** Yael Koenig, CYF Deputy Director  
**Re:** **Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) Meeting: Effective Fiscal Year 2019-20**

### IPC Overview

Under the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) legislation in California, Assembly Bill 403 and Assembly Bill 1997, reliance on residential care is limited to circumstances when a child requires residentially-based, short-term interventions designed to enable the child's successful transition into a permanent home-based family placement. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS), which governs all Child Welfare Services (CWS) departments in California, requires that all children & youth who are being considered for out-of-home placement in a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), or who are currently in a STRTP or Group Home, are evaluated by an **Interagency Placement Committee (IPC)**. San Diego County CWS began facilitating IPC meetings to ensure that only children and youth with the most acute needs were placed in Residential Care Level 13/14 facilities prior to the development of CCR and the transition to STRTP.

The role of the IPC is to certify that children and youth have treatment needs that can **only be met in an intensive 24-hr care setting** and not in a home-based setting. The IPC bases their decision upon the review of assessments, evaluations, other documentation presented and the discussion of the case by IPC members.

The County of San Diego placing agencies, **CWS** and **Probation**, conduct IPC meetings on a weekly basis. IPC meetings include representatives from CWS, Probation, and BHS Administration, as well as representatives from education and public health. IPC meetings include initial screenings, when a child is being screened for the STRTP level of placement, and IPC extensions, when a child is being screened for continued treatment in a STRTP at minimum every 6 months.

### BHS Providers Role in IPC: Effective Fiscal Year 19-20

- The County of San Diego recognizes that BHS treating providers are essential in contributing information to inform the IPC decision making process when a youth they are serving is being considered for placement in a STRTP. **Beginning in August 2019**, the BHS CCR team, in collaboration with CWS and Probation, **will invite treating BHS providers as applicable for initial IPC screenings, and for IPC extension screenings when a youth has been in STRTP placement for 6 months or longer.**
- When a BHS Provider is invited to an IPC meeting **it is expected that they will attend a portion of the IPC** meeting by conference call, to offer input regarding the child or youth being screened. If they are not able to attend the IPC, a person familiar with the client, such as a clinical supervisor or alternate team member, shall participate on their behalf.

- In an IPC meeting the BHS provider should be prepared to discuss the **current diagnosis** of the child/youth, **mental health services provided** and **impact of those services**, **current treatment plan** and **progress toward goals**, and **ideas or strategies** to meet the child/youth's mental health needs.
- **Input given by the BHS provider will be utilized to assist with the IPC decision-making process**, such as confirming medical necessity is met and evaluating if less restrictive levels of treatment are appropriate to meet a youth's clinical needs. CWS and Probation are responsible for placement decisions regarding youth in their care. However, BHS provider information will be critical to assist the IPC in making informed placement decisions.

**Criteria for Placement**

**The following criteria are used by the IPC to determine if a youth meets criteria for residential placement.** BHS treating providers may be asked for input and general information as it relates to the following items:

The youth must meet at least one of the criteria in **Section 1:**

1. Youth meets the medical necessity criteria for Medi-Cal specialty mental health services (Title 9 of the California Code of Regulations), **OR**  Yes  No
2. Youth is assessed as seriously emotionally disturbed [IEP], as described in subdivision (a) of WIC Section 5600.3, **OR**  Yes  No
3. Youth's individual behavioral or treatment needs can only be met by the level of care provided in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program.  Yes  No

In addition, youth must meet full criterion in **Section 2:**

4. Youth is experiencing emotional or behavioral problems in the home, community and/or treatment setting, **AND**  Yes  No
5. Youth is not sufficiently stable, either emotionally or behaviorally, to be treated outside of a highly structured 24-hour therapeutic environment, **AND**  Yes  No
6. Least restrictive or intensive levels of treatment:
  - a) Have been tried and were unsuccessful, **OR**  Yes  No
  - b) Are not appropriate to meet the youth's needs  Yes  No

For questions, please contact your COR or Seth Williams, BHS Program Manager for CCR at [SethWilliams@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:SethWilliams@sdcounty.ca.gov) or 858-584-3042.

CC: County of San Diego CWS  
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