

**OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT (AGREEMENT) BETWEEN THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES (COUNTY) AND
LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTERS (REGIONAL CENTER)**

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adoption Assistance Program (AAP): A mandatory statewide program that removes or reduces barriers that prevent the adoption of children with special-needs who otherwise would remain in foster care.

Aid for the Adoption of Children (AAC): An adoption assistance program for special-needs children whose assistance agreements were executed prior to October 1, 1982.

Annual Review: Overall review of the client's progress, development, and areas of need over a year's period using a variety of assessment tools for the purpose of Individualized Family Service Plan/Individual Program Plan (IFSP/IPP) development and tracking.

Adult Probation System (APS): Refers to a database system in which case management of adult probationers are tracked as well as reporting probation compliance information to the courts.

Assessment of Developmental Disability: May include collection and review of available historical diagnostic data; provision or procurement of necessary tests and evaluations; and summarization of developmental levels and service needs. (Tests and evaluations may include, but are not limited to, intelligence tests, adaptive functioning tests, neurological and neuropsychological tests, diagnostic tests performed by a physician, and psychiatric tests).

At-Risk of Developmental Disability: Refers to infants and toddlers who are at high risk of having substantial developmental disability due to a combination of biomedical risk factors, the presence of which is diagnosed by qualified clinicians recognized by, or part of, a multidisciplinary team, including parents (See Appendix D).

CAO: Refers to the Chief Administrative Office.

CWS/CMS: Refers to the Child Welfare Service/Case Management System: This is a statewide tool that supports an effective Child Welfare System of services. CWS/CMS allows for a centralized statewide system that provides State or County child welfare workers to share information on child abuse cases. CWS/CMS gives child social workers information to improve casework services.

Calendar Days: Refers to the number of days based on the number of days in a year.

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Child Abuse Hotline (CAH): The Department of Children and Family Services has a centralized hotline (1-800-540-4000) to report allegations of suspected child abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Mandated reporters may also call to consult or request information.

Child Abuse Reporting Act: Pertains to Penal Code Sections 11166(b) and (g) (1), 11167(d) (1) and (2), 11167.5(a), and 11172(a)-(c). Defines mandated reporter and reporting responsibilities, immunities, and liabilities.

Children's Social Worker (CSW): DCFS caseworker responsible for providing protective and social services to abused and neglected children and their families.

Client/Consumer: A person who has a disability that meets the definition of developmental disability set forth in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 4512 (a).

Cognitive: The ability of an individual to solve problems with insight, to adapt to new situations, to think abstractly and to profit from experience (Section 54002, California Code Regulations).

Community Care Licensing (CCL): Community Care Licensing (CCL) was developed to promote the health, safety, and quality of life of each person in community care through the administration of an effective collaborative regulatory enforcement system. This is done by, promoting strategies to increase voluntary compliance; providing technical assistance to and consulting with care providers; working collaboratively with clients, their families, advocates, care providers, placement agencies, related programs and regulatory agencies and others involved in community care; training staff in all aspects of the licensing process; educating the public about CCL and community care options, and promoting continuous improvement and efficiency throughout the Community Care Licensing system.

Community Placement: Facilities used for the placement of clients from their own homes or from State Developmental Centers, including but not limited to, small family homes, group homes, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, and other caregivers.

Court Jurisdiction: Refers to a child that is a ward of the court and the court has jurisdiction over the decisions being made for that child.

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DCFS Countywide Liaison: Refer to the person responsible for ensuring compliance with the Operational Agreement between DCFS and Regional Centers, as well as the initial contact person from the Regional Center.

DCFS Liaison: Refers to the person responsible for working with the Regional Centers within each SPA regarding children with developmental disabilities.

Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS): The public agency, governed under Los Angeles County, which is responsible for the duties to establish, manage, and advocate a system of services, in partnership with parents, relatives, foster parents, and community agencies. DCFS will ensure that children are safe from abuse, neglect, abandonment, and exploitation.

Department of Mental Health (DMH): The public agency, governed under the Los Angeles County, which is responsible for the duties to establish, manage, and advocate a system of comprehensive mental health services. DMH provides mental health services to children and adults through inpatient and outpatient care treatment.

Delinquent Child: Child under jurisdiction of the Court per WIC 600.

Dependent Child: Child under jurisdiction of the Court per WIC 300.

Deputy Probation Officer (DPO): Oversees the supervision of juveniles/adults who have been adjudicated and or found guilty of a crime and have been placed on formal probation.

Developmental Delay: Term used to describe a significant difference between a child's current level of functioning and the expected level of development for his/her chronological age, as measured by qualified professional(s) using appropriate diagnostic instruments and/or procedures, in one or more of the following developmental areas: cognitive; physical and motor; communication; social and emotional; and adaptive.

Developmental Disability: A disability attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, other conditions similar to mental retardation that require treatment similar to that required by mentally retarded individuals, as specified in Section 54000, Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations. (See Appendix D)

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Dual-Agency Children: Those minors eligible for both DCFS and Regional Center services, as well as those over the age of 18 who continue to be dependents of the court.

Group Home Support and Development Unit (GHSD Unit): DCFS staff who evaluate the programs, of residential facilities group homes, small family homes, and Foster Family Agencies (FFAs), to determine their suitability for DCFS use.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP): A plan written by Regional Centers for providing services to eligible children (birth to three years of age) and their families; a multidisciplinary assessment jointly developed with family that includes, services to enhance child's development and family's ability to meet child's needs.

Independent Living Program (ILP): Refers to a program offered to children between the ages of 14 – 18 (and sometimes older) that provides information and linkage to services to assist individuals who were once or still are in foster care. Services may include training, education, transportation and job placement.

Individual Program Plan (IPP): A service plan written by RC for providing services to eligible children (three and up) and adults that results from the interdisciplinary assessment of client needs. The IPP is prepared jointly by the planning team and is typically reviewed annually but not less than once every three years. An IPP review can be requested at any time.

Intermediate Care Facility/Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD): A licensed residential health facility which provides care and support services to people with developmental disabilities whose primary need is for developmental services and who have recurring, but intermittent need for skilled nursing services.

Intermediate Care Facility/Developmentally Disabled-Habilitative (ICF/DD-H): A licensed residential health facility, which has as its primary purpose, provides 24-hour personal care, developmental training, habilitative, and supportive health services in a facility with 15 beds or less to residents with developmental disabilities.

Intermediate Care Facility/Developmentally Disabled-Nursing (ICF/DD-N): A licensed residential health facility which has as its primary purpose provides 24-hour nursing supervision, personal care, and training in habilitative services in a facility with 4 to 15 beds to people who are medically fragile and developmentally disabled, or who demonstrate a significant developmental delay that may lead to a developmental disability if not treated.

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Jail Liaison: A Regional Center staff assigned to the Men County Jail responsible for notifying the Regional Center that provided case management to the client that has been arrested.

Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS): Refers to a database system in which case management of juvenile probationers is tracked as well as reporting probation compliance information to the courts.

Lanterman Act: Officially known as the Lanterman Development Disability Services Act and related law, as defined by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4500 through 4846 and the California Early Intervention Services Act, Title 14 Sections 95000 through 95029.

Los Angeles County Men's Central Jail (MCJ): Refers to the Men's Central Jail where inmates are held until their court hearing appearance.

Multi-Assessment Team (MAT): A DCFS multidisciplinary team of professionals that provides a timely comprehensive medical, developmental, and psychological assessment for children initially entering the Child Welfare System.

Out-of-Home Care Evaluation Unit (OHCEU): DCFS staff within the Foster Care Quality Assurance Section who investigate allegations of abuse and neglect of children in out-of-home care.

Part C: Federal Legislation, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Part C pertains to those Early Intervention Services, birth to three. In California, the Department of Developmental Services is the lead agency responsible to provide these services to eligible individuals and provides these services through the Regional Center system. The State Department of Education provides services for infants and toddlers who have solely low incidence conditions under Part C.

Probation Department (Probation): The public agency, governed under the Los Angeles County, which is responsible for the duties to establish, manage, and advocate a system of services. Probation oversees the supervision of juveniles/adults who have been adjudicated and or found guilty of a crime and have been placed on formal or informal probation.

Probation Liaison: Refers to the persons responsible for ensuring compliance with the Operational Agreement between Probation and the Regional Centers.

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Public Health Nurse (PHN): A Department of Health County staff classification that plays a vital role in assuring that the overall health care needs of DCFS or Probation-supervised children are met. PHNs consult with CSWs, DPOs and primary caregivers and will provide in-service training to DCFS, DMH, and Probation staff, and health care providers.

Regional Center (RC): The Los Angeles County Regional Center is a private non-profit corporation that operates under contract with state government to provide support services to developmentally disabled children and adults.

Regional Center Liaison (RC - Liaison): The Los Angeles County Regional Center Liaison to DCFS, DMH, and Probation employed by one regional center to coordinate services by all regional centers throughout Los Angeles County for dual-agency children.

Resource Utilization Management (RUM): DCFS staff assigned to assist case carrying CSWs to locate appropriate placement and meet other service needs for special needs children.

Service Coordinator (SC): Regional Center staff responsible for providing case management services, including but not limited to monitoring, development, coordination of IFSP/IPP, purchase of services, and ongoing assessment.

Service Planning Area (SPA): One of eight (8) geographic areas designated in the County of Los Angeles in which representatives from public and private organizations and individuals collaborate to plan and coordinate services in a culturally sensitive manner to enhance the quality of life for children and families in that area. Offices of DCFS, DMH, or Probation are located within each of the SPAs.

Staffing: Also known as interdisciplinary staffing review, is a formal review of the client's status that is completed at least annually by a team which may include, but is not limited to the Service Coordinator, physician, psychologist, parents, client (as appropriate), supervisor, and program representative.

State Development Center (SDC): These facilities provide services to individuals who have been determined by regional centers to require programs, training, care, treatment and supervision in a structured health facility setting on a 24-hour basis.

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Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP): The combined federal and state benefit program, which provides income for people with disabilities.

Substantial Handicap: A condition, which results in major impairment of cognitive and/or social functioning as defined by Title 17, California Code of Regulations, Section 54001. -(Appendix E).

Systems of Care (SOC) (AKA Children's System of Care): A service planning and delivery approach which has been developed in collaboration with County Departments of Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Probation and public school districts. It is a strength-based and family-focused service delivery system, which offers an array of services including intensive in-home support.

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 300: State statute that mandates that any child who comes within the description of abuse, neglect and/or abandonment (as defined by WIC 300) is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge that child to be a dependent of the Court.

Welfare Institution Code (WIC) 602: Any person who is under the age of 18 years when he or she violates any law of this state or of the United States or any ordinance of any city or county of this state defining crime other than an ordinance establishing a curfew based solely on age, is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, which may adjudge such person to be a ward of the court.

Working Days: Refers to the number of working days in a week.

Wraparound: A planning and service delivery approach, which allows the family to remain intact. Need to identify type (RFP definition), which was developed in collaboration with DCFS, DMH, Probation, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and community partners.