

SPECIALIZED CHILD WELFARE SUBJECT MATTER

Regional Resource Group

21-6 Page 1 of 3

Policy

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) shall have at least one Regional Resource Group (RRG) in each Region.

Composition and Role of the RRG

The RRG shall be composed of DCF subject matter experts whose primary focus shall be to assist and support front line social work staff through the case consultation process:

- in the assessment of children, caretakers, and families, using an anti-racist, equitable and trauma-informed approach and taking into consideration their race, ethnicity, religion, cultural and linguistic needs, sexual orientation, gender identity and racial equity influencers, and any potential barriers associated with inability to obtain services due to immigration status or ability to pay
- in the development and implementation of treatment and service planning for children, caretakers and their families
- by facilitating access and fair opportunities to best-matched services
- by providing trauma-informed, culturally relevant-language appropriate, family-centric consultation and direct services
- by providing administrative functions and staff training.

The RRG shall be an integral part of the Regional Office operations. The RRG shall work in collaboration with the Child Protection Services (CPS) and Foster Care Division (FCD) teams and other divisions (Legal, Grants/Contracts, Systems) to assess need and to inform the case planning process.

The RRG Supervising Clinician shall report to a Behavioral Health Clinical Manager under the direction of the Health Management Administrator. Additional supervisory expectations are outlined in the RRG Practice Guide.

Cross reference: DCF Practice Guide, 21-6, Regional Resource Group

Guidance provided by the RRG staff shall supplement and not supplant the judgment of social work staff.

Consultation with Special Investigation Unit (SIU)

When requested by the SIU, RRG staff shall provide case consultation for investigations.

SPECIALIZED CHILD WELFARE SUBJECT MATTER

Regional Resource Group

21-6 Page 2 of 3

Consultation for Congregate Care Assessment When requested, the RRG shall conduct an assessment to determine whether treatment in a congregate care treatment facility or Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) is appropriate for a child. RRG will collaborate with the CPS team to assess ongoing treatment needs if a child is recommended to receive treatment in a congregate care treatment facility or QRTP.

Consultation with Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART) The RRG will assist in the case consultation of a child determined at-risk for human trafficking. Behavioral Health Clinical Managers or their designees will act in the role of HART Lead for their assigned region.

Cross reference: DCF Policy and Practice Guide, 21-14, Human Trafficking of Children

Consultation regarding Functional Family Therapy Foster Care (FFT-FC) The RRG will assist in the case consultation and determination of evidenced based, culturally relevant and language appropriate therapeutic foster care services utilizing the Trauma Screening Tool in addition to regular consultation practice.

RRG Composition and Areas of Competency The RRG may be composed of, but not limited to:

- a Behavioral Health Clinical Manager
- a Supervising Clinician
- Advanced Clinical Social Workers
- Clinical Nurse Coordinators
- Advanced Nurse Practitioners/Nurse Consultants
- Children's Services Consultants.

RRG staff shall maintain licensure and other professional qualifications in accordance with Department of Administrative Services job specifications and may have special experience and training in:

- child, adolescent and adult mental health
- child and adolescent development
- substance use disorders
- treatment planning
- permanency
- psychosocial assessment
- pharmacology and medicine
- health and medical care
- sexual orientation and gender identity

(Continued on the Next Page)

SPECIALIZED CHILD WELFARE SUBJECT MATTER

Regional Resource Group

21-6 Page 3 of 3

RRG Composition and Areas of Competency (Continued)

- child abuse and neglect and impact of trauma
 - cultural identity and impact of racial (in)equity
 - juvenile justice
 - domestic and intimate partner violence
 - education planning
 - special education
 - behavior management
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Referrals

A request for consultation with the RRG shall be made as soon as the need has been determined during the supervisory process or through a managerial consultation. RRG consultation requests may also be required as defined in "Regional Resource Group Practice Guide: Attachment 1 Criteria for Consults with the Regional Resource Group."

Referrals shall be made by submitting the DCF-2126, "Regional Resource Group Consultation Request," to the appropriate regional RRG mailbox for assignment to the appropriate member of the RRG or for nursing consultations to the RRG Nurse mailbox.

Cross reference: DCF 21-6 Regional Resource Group Practice Guide

Multidisciplinary Conference

A request for a Multidisciplinary Conference (MDC) can be made if a need is determined through the supervisory process, managerial consultation, or as recommended during an RRG consultation. MDC are comprised of the CPS team and a core team from the RRG, which includes Licensed Clinical Social Workers with expertise in child and adult mental health and substance use, nurses, and intimate partner violence specialists. As needed or relevant, the MDC may also include the education specialist, legal, health advocate, or other disciplines as indicated. MDC requests can be made by submitting an MDC referral form (Request for Multi-Disciplinary Case Conference DCF-21-6F), to the Supervising Clinician, Behavioral Health Clinical Manager, or RRG mailbox dependent on region for inclusion of the appropriate disciplines.
