

# *Governor's Office for Children*



## Interagency Placement Committee

*Locally Coordinated Interagency Case Management*



# *Transforming the State Coordinating Council to the Interagency Placement Committee*

- The State Coordinating Council (SCC) was established in the 1980s to promote interagency collaboration and development of quality educational, treatment, and residential services in Maryland, so that children with intensive needs could be served in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their individual needs.
- The formation of the SCC was in response to persistently high numbers of youth placed out of state, at that time over 800 youth were placed in expensive facilities outside of the State of Maryland.
- The SCC was comprised of representatives from the child-serving agencies and met throughout the year to review recommendations for out-of-state placements and discuss needs and gaps in services in-state.



## *Transforming the State Coordinating Council to the Interagency Placement Committee (cont'd)*

- Between the efforts of the SCC, the Local Management Boards, the agencies and the Governor's Office for Children, the number of out-of-State placements has decreased to approximately 200.
- Over the past 10 years the SCC responsibilities decreased and it became no longer responsible for reviewing or approving individual placements.
- Prior to the establishment of Local Care Teams in 2011, Local Coordinating Councils (LCCs) functioned as interagency planning groups in each jurisdiction. They were established at the same time as the State Coordinating Council. LCCs were revised in 2011 by House Bill 840 and their funding was discontinued.
- Beginning on January 1, 2018, the Local Management Boards will again serve as the administrative home for the Local Care Teams.



# ***Establishment of the Interagency Placement Committee***

***Effective January 1, 2018***

Maryland's Children's Cabinet has established the Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) to serve as the State Coordinating Council.

To promote accountability, the Children's Cabinet Implementation Team will oversee the IPC on behalf of the Children's Cabinet.



# *Role of the Interagency Placement Committee*

*The Interagency Placement Committee is charged with:*

- Reviewing recommendations for out-of-state placements
- Coordinating the monitoring of out-of-state placements
- Providing training to the Local Care Teams
- Identifying in-state placement needs

Coordination with local representatives is a priority to ensure that all options are exhausted before an out-of-state placement is recommended



# *Out of State Placement Recommendations*

*The Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) will provide a final review for recommendations of placements outside of Maryland.*

- a. The triggering event for interagency review is a Local Lead Agency (LLA) determination that an out-of-state placement is necessary.
- b. The LLA will have applied to all appropriate in-state providers and referred the case to the Local Care Team to determine if other local resources are available.
- c. If neither of these actions results in an in-state placement or sufficient in-state services and the LLA determines that the youth is in need of an out-of-state placement, then the process for interagency review will begin.



# *Out of State Placement Recommendations (cont'd)*

- d. The exception is a Juvenile Services case with a court order for an out-of-state placement. If there is a Juvenile Services court order for out-of-state placement, then the case bypasses the interagency process and the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services will make the final placement decision, whether in- or out-of-state.
- e. This process is recommended for local school systems (LSS) but not required.

# Referrals

- LLA will apply to appropriate out-of-state placement providers and will make a referral to the “Interagency Placement Committee.” This part of the process remains the same as it currently operates.
- If the case requires an expedited process, the LLA will note this on the referral. The Governor’s Office for Children will convene a conference call or in-person meeting if possible to take place within 48 hours of receipt of the referral (or the next business day if the referral is made over the weekend).
- If the case does not need to be expedited, then the Office for Children will place the case on the next meeting agenda for discussion by the Interagency Out-of-State Placement Committee.



# *Interagency Placement Committee Meetings*

- The committee will schedule standing monthly meetings.
- The Committee will review all cases referred to it.
- Determinations regarding placement will be made immediately during committee meetings or conference calls as appropriate.



# *Interagency Placement Committee Meeting Outcomes*

- Two possible outcomes may be determined for each case.
  - The first is that the Committee may determine that out-of-state placement is appropriate.
  - The second is the Committee may recommend an alternative to out-of-state placement. If an alternative is proposed, then the Committee will make specific referrals on behalf of the LLA.
- The Local Representative will be notified of the review process and meeting/call times and will be included to the extent that it is practical to do so.

# *Approvals*

The final decision about Out-of-state placements rests with the Secretary (or their designee) of the Local Lead Agency (LLA).



# *Monitoring Out of State Placements*

- The Department of Human Services, Department of Juvenile Services, Maryland State Department of Education, and Maryland Department of Health (the agencies) will request licensing reports for each contracted program from the licensing agency for the state in which the facility is located.
- These reports will be shared with the Interagency Placement Committee.

# *Monitoring Out of State Placements (cont'd)*

- The agencies will share official monitoring reports with the Interagency Placement Committee following a monitoring visit.
- All final reports will be stored at the Interagency Placement Committee and a monthly summary report will be shared with the agencies.
- In situations where there are safety concerns, notification will be sent to the Interagency Placement Committee via email within 24 hours of an agency becoming aware of the problem(s).



# *Coordination of Monitoring Out of State Placements*

The purpose of the locally coordinated policy on Out-of-State placement monitoring is to

- 1) ensure that every placing and monitoring agency receives information gathered by other agencies on monitoring visits;
- 2) that safety concerns are communicated to all agencies in a timely fashion; and
- 3) to create a process for notifying the Children's Cabinet when a placement is discontinued.



# Performance Measures for Local Care Teams

*Effective January 1, 2018*

*Local Care Teams are required to annually report to the Children's Cabinet, through the Interagency Placement Committee, the effectiveness of the coordinated interagency case planning in the jurisdiction, including a set of required performance measures.*



# Local Care Team Performance Measures

- **What/How Much We Do:**
  - Number of new cases referred to the Local Care Team
  - Number of cases reviewed by the Local Care Team
  - Number of Local Care Team trainings provided
- **How Well We Do It:**
  - Percentage of mandated Local Care Team representatives that attend at least 75% of Local Care Team meetings.
  - Percentage of all Local Care Team reviews (new, follow-up, and annual reviews) where the youth's parents (or legal guardians) attended.
- **Is Anyone Better Off?**
  - Percentage of new cases referred for in-state residential placement that are alternatively served through community-based services.
  - Percentage of new cases referred for out-of-state placement that are alternatively served through in-State community-based services or in-State residential placements.



# *Provision of Training to the Local Care Teams*

The Interagency Placement Committee will support the Local Care Teams by providing training to build capacity toward local/regional problem solving functions; promote accountability and outcomes; and, serve a systems management and governance function at the local/regional level.



# *Identification of In-State Placement Needs*

## The Committee will:

- review recommendations for out-of-state placements for purposes of identifying the complex needs and gaps in services for children and families in Maryland.
- Support the agencies work with the entire range of in-state providers to develop additional in-state capacity to address behavioral health and developmental disabilities, as well as specialized programs and services such as treatment for youth with inappropriate sexual behavior, services for trafficking victims, transgender supports, or treatments for youth engaging in fire setting.



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