

**Guidelines for Determining Levels of Care for Foster Care Services
with Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPA)**
*Adopted by the State Executive Council for At-Risk Youth and Families
June 20, 2014*

Procedures for Determining Level of Care

- I. The determination of the appropriate service level is always based on the individual child's specific needs and strengths.
- II. The Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT), or approved Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT), and the licensed child placing agency shall work collaboratively in the assessment, service delivery and decision-making process to determine the appropriate level of care for the child.
- III. Children shall be placed at the Assessment Treatment Level upon initial placement with a LCPA and when a child is moved to a new LCPA.
- IV. The maximum stay at the Assessment Treatment Level shall not exceed sixty days to complete a needs assessment and service plan, per requirements of the Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Licensing Programs. The time frame of the assessment may vary based on the accurate and thorough assessment of the child's strengths and needs.
- V. Following the assessment, the assessment shall be provided by the LCPA to the LDSS with copies to the FAPT/MDT with recommendation of level of care.
- VI. The determination of level of care shall be made collaboratively based on all available information and documentation of the child's needs by FAPT/MDT and the LCPA.
- VII. Determination of the initial level of care and a child's movement between levels of care will be based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to: child's current and past behavior, needs and strengths, number of placements the child has experienced, ratings on the CANS, VEMAT, and any other available assessments, anticipated level of support needed for the foster home, and available documentation such as psychological evaluations and foster parent, school, case manager and provider reports, etc.

Levels of Care Criteria:

Non-treatment Foster Care: Children served at the non-treatment level of foster care may be developmentally on target, demonstrate age appropriate behaviors, able to participate in community activities without restriction, or be the sibling of a child who meets the criteria for ongoing TFC placement in the same foster home. Children shall be served at the Non-treatment Foster Care level if the assessment indicates treatment foster care services are not needed.

Treatment Foster Care Levels 1, 2 and 3 represent ongoing treatment placement levels, with Level 1 representing mild treatment needs, Level 2 moderate treatment needs and Level 3 significant treatment needs.

Level 1 Treatment Foster Care (Mild): A child served at Level 1 ongoing treatment foster care will demonstrate a mild level of social/emotional/behavioral/medical/personal care needs or impairment for normal range of age and development; *such as but not limited to, depression, anxiety, impulsivity, hyperactivity, anger control, adjustment to trauma, oppositional, substance use, eating disorder, physical health condition, developmental delay, or intellectual.* The child's needs require monitoring or the LCPA may need to provide services to lessen the likelihood needs will return.

Level 2 Treatment Foster Care (Moderate): A child served at Level 2 ongoing treatment foster care will demonstrate a moderate level of social/emotional/behavioral/medical/personal care needs or impairment for normal range of age and development; *such as but not limited to, depression, anxiety, impulsivity, hyperactivity, anger control, adjustment to trauma, oppositional, substance use, eating disorder, physical health condition, developmental delay, or intellectual.* The child's needs require that action (interventions, services, supports, etc.) be taken to address, remedy or ameliorate the needs.

Level 3 Treatment Foster Care (Significant): A child served at Level 3 ongoing treatment foster care will demonstrate a significant level of social/emotional/behavioral/medical/personal care needs or impairment for normal range of age and development; *such as but not limited to, depression, anxiety, impulsivity, hyperactivity, anger control, adjustment to trauma, oppositional, substance use, eating disorder, physical health condition, developmental delay, or intellectual.* The child's needs are of such acuity or severity that they require intensive action (interventions, services, supports, etc.) be taken to address, remedy or ameliorate the needs. A child served at this level may be at risk of residential placement.

Flow Chart

