

Caregiver Supports Project

Tribal Overview: Consideration of Changes and Impacts
Consultation Presentation

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Welcome

Caregiver Supports Project:

Implement a continuum of placement resources that enable safe, stable, and supported placements for children and youth in foster care.

What this means:

All caregivers: unlicensed relative/kinship caregivers and licensed foster homes will have the ability to receive equal support services, based on the child's needs, through phased project implementation.

Consultation Focus:

Phase 1 implementation; impacts and considerations for Tribal partners.

If needed, an additional Consultation with Tribes can occur for Phase 2 implementation.



Presentation Overview

Two Phased Approach to Project Implementation:

- **Phase 1**: Foster Care Payments are Changing (Consultation Focus)
 - Changes to Rate Assessments: Levels, Format and Process
 - Rate changes and direct payments to foster parents with CPAs
 - Tribes given the option to conduct rate assessments on TPO children placed in licensed foster homes: impacts & considerations
- **Phase 2**: Support Services Available to All Caregivers (2024-2026)
 - Support services available to all caregivers; unlicensed relative/kinship placements and licensed foster homes
 - Rate assessments will be conducted on **all TPO children** to determine level of support available to the caregiver
 - Tribes will be given the option to conduct rate assessments on all TPO children and provide support services to all placement families through a contract with DCYF



Key Terms to Remember

- TPO-Tribal Payment Only
 - Children under the care/custody of a tribal court who are open for payment of services through DCYF
- CPA-Child Placing Agency
 - Tribes who have a Child Placing Agency license through DCYF to conduct foster care licensing certification by following Washington Administrative Codes for licensing
- IGA-Intergovernmental Agreements
 - Tribes that have established Intergovernmental Agreements with DCYF to conduct their own licensing following the federal standards of foster care licensing
- PET-Placement Entry Tool
 - Form that is submitted to TPO every time a child is placed in a new placement, so the placement is updated in FamLink, and services can be paid for by DCYF
- CIPR-Child Information and Placement Referral
 - Form that is submitted to TPO/Placement desk when a Tribe requests placement assistance from DCYF
- Caregiver Support Resource Level
 - Rate Assessments referred to as Caregiver Support Resource Levels, with project implementation

Two Phase Implementation Process

Effective July 1, 2023: Licensing incentive to CPAs for new foster homes licensed increased from \$206.26 to \$1000

Phase 1: Level payment change for all licensed caregivers

- Implementation to occur on January 1, 2024

Changes to current process:

- Tribal CPA licensed foster homes will be paid directly by DCYF
 - CPAs will no longer be paid monthly foster care payments to disperse to their foster homes
- Current 4-level rate assessment system replaced by 7-level resource level continuum
 - Elimination of Exceptional Cost Plans (ECPs)
- Rate assessments will be called “caregiver support resource level” and will be based on the documented needs and services of the child to support the caregiver



Phase 1: Changes to Rate Assessments

- Rate assessments (R/A) will be conducted using a specified “tool” based on a child’s diagnosis, medication and services the child is engaged in
 - Rate assessments will be verified through health care records data
 - Change from current practice of having a conversation with the foster parent
- Required to be conducted within 7 days of placement, verified after placement and not completed again until 6 months after initial assessment
 - Change from current practice of rate assessment completed with every move of the child
 - Foster parents/Tribe can request an updated rate assessment if/when circumstances change (new diagnosis, new medication prescription, engagement in new services-SUD/MH)
- Tribes will continue to be given the option to conduct own rate assessments on TPO children placed in licensed foster homes using specified tool
 - Considerations: impact to Tribal structure/staffing/budgets in order to conduct own R/A
 - Timelines for completion, access to medical records if Tribe is verifying data (optional)



Rate Assessment Tool

- Tribes who want to conduct rate assessments on TPO children placed in licensed foster homes (Phase 1) will be provided training on how to use the tool.
 - Two group training sessions will be held for Tribes to attend:
 - Wednesday, December 13th 1:00-2:30pm
 - Monday, December 18th 9:00-10:30am
 - All Tribes who have TPO children are encouraged to attend the training.
- A Tribe can request to complete rate assessments on tribal jurisdiction children or request DCYF to complete them, at any time.
 - Tribes can notify DCYF of their request to complete rate assessments.
- Review Rate Assessment Tool/Caregiver Support Resource Level Tool



Rate Assessment Tool

- Drop down menus to enter diagnosis, services, and prescription medications for the child within past 24 months.
- Automatically enters the recommended level (1-7) based on selections on the menus.
- Tab that provides guidance on common psychotropic medications and definitions.
- Same form is used for the 6-month review/validation.

DCYF Caregiver Support Resource Level Tool

Youth name	
Case ID #	
Person ID #	
Date of Review	
Type of review	
Case Worker	
Staff completing	

1	Tool Recommended Level
	Health History recommended level
	Final Level

Age
Is youth 12 and older?

Information Sources

Youth
Parents/Guardian(s)
Reports/Discharge paperwork
Caregivers, if applicable
Agency staff, if applicable
School
Medical/Treatment providers
Other:

Acute Mental Health
Suicide attempts or self harm
Crisis mental health services
Inpatient MH hospitalization
Polypharmacy
Antipsychotic or antimania medications

Mental Health Prescription
Psychotropic
Anti-Anxiety
Antidepressants
ADHD medications

Mental Health Diagnosis
Psychotic
Bi-Polar/Mania
Depression
Anxiety
ADHD
Impulse control disorders (ODD, Conduct, Antisocial)
Trauma

Chronic Physical Health
Diabetes type 1
Diabetes type 2
Severe asthma
gastrostomy tube
Dialysis
CSF Shunt
organ transplant
Leukemia
tracheostomy/ventilator
Muscular Dystrophy
cystic fibrosis
paraplegia
quadriplegia
lymphoma
leukemia
brain tumor
Cancer
chronic pulmonary conditions
atrial septal defect
Other:

Developmental Disability
Autism or other pervasive
Learning disability
Motor or Tic (down syndrome)
DDA services

Other factors- See guide for parameters
SAY determined/adjudicated SO/Supervision plan
Substance Use/disorder
Running away behavior

Phase 1 – Caregiver Support Level Payments for Licensed Caregivers

Implementation January 1, 2024

	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6	LEVEL 7
New Support Levels	Basic Maintenance Foster Care	Support Needs: Adolescent Low Needs	Support Needs: Chronic Physical Health	Support Needs: Developmental Disability	Support Needs: Developmental Disability & Chronic Physical Health	Support Needs: Moderate Mental Health	Support Needs: Complex Mental Health
Rates for Caregiver Support Levels Based on Age							
Age: 0-5	\$722	N/A	\$1,407	\$1,749.50	\$2,092	\$2,434.50	\$2,777
Age: 6-11	\$846	N/A	\$1,531	\$1,873.50	\$2,216	\$2,558.50	\$2,901
Age: 12+	\$860	\$1,202.50	\$1,545	\$1,887.50	\$2,230	\$2,572.50	\$2,915



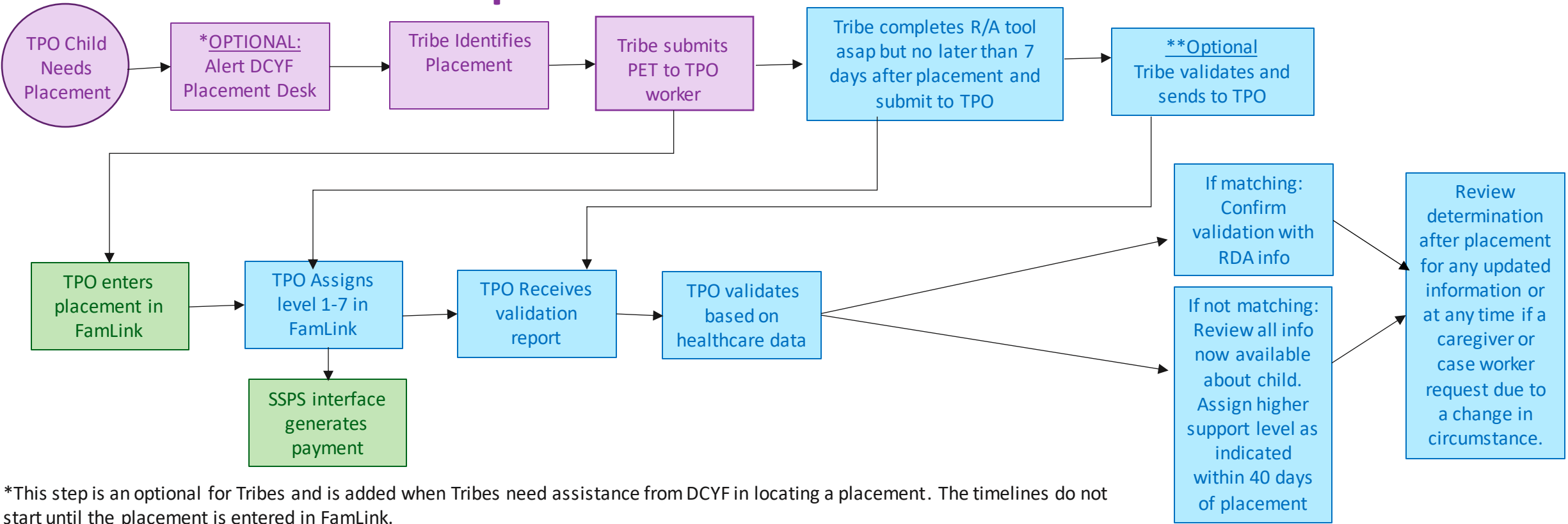
RESOURCE DETERMINATION PROCESS

(formally known as Rate Assessments)

Tribal Specific

RESPONSIBLE POSITION KEY

Purple = Tribal Caseworker/Current Process
 Green = DCYF Fiscal
 Blue = New Process



*This step is an optional for Tribes and is added when Tribes need assistance from DCYF in locating a placement. The timelines do not start until the placement is entered in FamLink.
 **Tribes can choose to have DCYF validate data.

Phase 1: Transition Plan

- FamLink is set for a “hard switchover” to the new 7 levels on January 1, 2024.
 - Foster parents will receive the new 7 level reimbursement beginning in February 2024.
- DCYF is currently working on obtaining healthcare data to transition all children in licensed foster homes (including Tribal jurisdiction) from the 4-level system to the new 7 levels prior to January 1, 2024.
 - Tribal jurisdiction children’s health history information are covered through the existing Data Share Agreement between the Health Care Authority and DCYF which authorizes the sharing of ProviderOne information for rate assessment purposes.
- If a Tribe chooses not to complete rate assessments, the DCYF level will remain as entered from the above work, with DCYF completing 6-month reviews.
 - At any time, a Tribe can choose to review/complete rate assessments and 6-month reviews.
 - Letters will be sent to the Foster Parent and the Tribe stating the level the child receives prior to January 1, 2024.

Phase 1: Transition Plan

- If a Tribe does not provide guidance on completing rate assessments prior to January 1, 2024:
 - DCYF will complete rate assessments for Tribal jurisdiction children (to prevent payment delays) until the Tribe notifies DCYF that they would like to complete their own rate assessments, which can be done at any time.
 - Tribes can choose to review rate assessments completed by DCYF and DCYF can update levels as needed.
 - Tribes will need to understand how children are leveled into the new 7 levels to determine if DCYF rate assessments are not missing information.
 - If a Tribe has reason to believe the DCYF rate assessment is missing information, the Tribe can contact DCYF to provide information to appropriately level the child.
 - After the initial rate assessment, payments cannot be backdated; the new payment rate will begin the date the new rate assessment is entered.



Phase 1: Summary of Changes

Implementation January 1, 2024

- Effective July 1, 2023: Licensing incentive to CPAs for new foster homes licensed increase from \$206.26 to \$1000
- Tribal CPA licensed foster homes will be paid directly by DCYF.
- Current 4-level rate assessment system replaced by 7-level resource level continuum.
- Rate assessments will be based on the documented needs of the child using a specified tool.
- Tribes will continue to be given the option to conduct own rate assessments on TPO children placed in licensed foster homes, using specified tool.
- FamLink is set for a “hard switchover” to the new 7 levels on January 1, 2024; DCYF will transition children using healthcare data to level them into one of the new 7 levels.



Transition Considerations

- Due to the transition timeframe, are there concerns with DCYF completing the transition rate assessment on TPO children prior to January 1, 2024, to prevent payment delays to foster parents?
- Would Tribes like to be notified to review the new levels for all TPO children in licensed foster homes?
 - Would Tribes like to be notified only for the TPO children who are going down in level/payment?
- If Tribes want to complete the transition rate assessment for TPO children, the Tribe will need to provide the completed rate assessment by 1/12/24.

Phase 1: Tribal Considerations of Impacts

- Would Tribes want to complete their own foster care rate assessments on Tribal Payment Only children placed in licensed foster homes?
 - Consider impact to Tribal structure/staffing i.e.: identification of staff who would be responsible for completing the rate assessment (based on diagnosis & services-not just a conversation with the FP) within 7 days of placement-case manager or foster care licensor?
 - Consider if Tribes want to validate R/A's and legal authority to request medical records-case manager/licensor
 - Consider tracking the 6-month review timeframe and need for updated rate assessments (new diagnosis, prescription, etc.)
- If a Tribe chooses not to complete their own foster care rate assessments, Tribes should consider:
 - Providing specific information on the CIPR and/or providing information as to a child's diagnosis, medication prescriptions and services engaged in within the last 24 months when a child is placed in a licensed home so DCYF can complete the rate assessment and level the child accordingly.
 - Ongoing collaboration with TPO/Rate Assessor for children who are initially placed or do not have a ProviderOne number.

Phase 1: Tribal Considerations of Impacts

- Tribes can request to review DCYF rate assessments at any time to determine if the DCYF determined level is not missing information as to the child.
 - Tribes will need to be trained on the rate assessment tool to determine if the child is appropriately leveled by DCYF.
 - Tribes should consider access to health care records to determine if there is missing information to appropriately level the child.
- How will the change to direct payments from DCYF to foster parents impact Tribal CPA operations? (CPAs will no longer pay foster parents)
 - DCYF is providing training to caregivers. Training information is provided on the Caregiver Supports website: [Caregiver Supports Project | Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#)



Future Considerations & Conversations

- Indian Nation CPA Contracts will be changing to align with Caregiver Supports project implementation.
 - Meetings with Tribal CPAs will occur to review and request feedback on contract changes.
 - Would eliminating Borrowed Beds impact Tribal CPAs and/or tracking of placements?
- Phase 2: Support Services Available to All Caregivers (2024-2026)
 - Support services available to all caregivers; unlicensed relative/kinship placements and licensed foster homes through a phased process across the state.
 - TPO will need to be opened on all Tribal jurisdiction children and rate assessments will be conducted on all TPO children to determine level of support available to the caregiver.
 - Tribes will be given the option to conduct rate assessments on all TPO children and provide support services to all placement families through a contract with DCYF.
 - Consider additional Consultation for Phase 2 implementation.

Thank you!

- Questions and Discussion

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