

Integration with Child Welfare

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for the integration of services between the Managing Entity, Community Based Care organizations (CBC), and Network Service Providers. Coordinating efforts between these various entities and their network of subcontractors is essential to the efficient operation of publically funded child welfare and behavioral health services. There is significant overlap of individuals served, and to address this, the following framework shall be implemented.¹

Working Agreement

Any Network Service Provider contracted for a designated Family Intervention Specialist position(s) shall participate in the development of a working agreement between regional CBCs and the Managing Entity to address the needs of common individuals served and provide a framework for communication and resolution of problems.

Family Intervention Specialist (FIS)

The purpose of this program is to:

1. Engage and retain child-welfare involved families in behavioral health treatment; and
2. Keep families together by preventing at-risk children from receiving an out-of-home placement.

Core Principles:

- Family Intervention Specialists will have the skills and resources needed to motivate and encourage the entire family in ways that support their engagement and retention in treatment.
- The position will enter into FSN.
- Family Intervention Specialists will have the ability to make appropriate referrals for services that support and enhance recovery.
- Family Intervention Specialists will provide ancillary support to the Child Welfare worker and SAMH treatment provider in order to ensure that families are engaged and retained in treatment.
- Data points will be reported on a monthly basis in the format provided by the Managing Entity by the 10th of the month.
- Family Intervention Specialists will work with all relevant stakeholders to identify and resolve all systematic and programmatic barriers to client engagement and retention in treatment in a process of continuous quality improvement.

Network Service Providers contracted for designated FIS positions are listed on and will follow the guidelines for implementation as outlined in the “LSF Health Systems Child Welfare Integration Manual” or the latest version thereof which is incorporated herein by reference.

Network Service Providers contracted for a Behavioral Health Consultant (BHC) position must follow the guidelines for implementation as outlined in their specific Attachment.

The Integration with Child Welfare will be administered according to DCF Guidance 19, which can be found at following link using the applicable fiscal year: <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/samh/managing-entities/>.

¹ For the purposes of this document, the terms CBC, and ME are understood to mean those that bear contractual responsibility for a common geographical area.