

1605 THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE	
Chapter: Out-of-Home Placement	Section: Finding a Placement
	New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual Policy Directive: 02-07 Effective Date: February 19, 2002 Scheduled Review Date:
	Approved: DCYF Director
Related Statute(s): RSA 169-B , RSA 169-C , RSA 169-D Related Admin Rule(s): He-C 6350.20 Related Federal Regulation(s):	Related Form(s): Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

Purpose

To establish the policy and procedure for the placing of children in therapeutic foster homes that are under contract with DCYF and are licensed and supervised by child placing agencies.

Policy

- I. Therapeutic foster care is out-of-home care and treatment for children provided by a contracted agency in which foster parents and clinical support staff provide intensive services to children and their families according to the goals in the structured treatment plan. Treatment and care are provided in the least restrictive community-based setting that allows for normalized environment and experiences for children.
- II. DCYF contracts with the licensed child placing agencies and provides access to this type of placement to all district offices in NH.
- III. Characteristics of children served in therapeutic foster care include but are not limited to:
 - A. Children and youth who currently exhibit chronic mental, emotional, physical or behavioral problems that require intensive supervision and consistent programmatic structure;
 - B. Latency age children that present post-traumatic stress symptoms;
 - C. Children and youth with mental health diagnosis who are taking psychotropic medications;
 - D. Children and youth transitioning out of residential facilities who continue to need high levels of supervision and treatment to be successful in a community setting; and
 - E. Children and youth whose needs could not be met in general foster care but do not need to be in a residential facility.
- IV. Characteristics of children who must not be referred to therapeutic foster care are:
 - A. Children and youth who have behaviors that present a serious threat to themselves or others and who cannot function in a family setting; or
 - B. Children and youth who are not able to participate in an approved educational program within a reasonable commuting distance of the foster home.

- V. Children and youth served in therapeutic foster care range in age from birth to 18 years.
- VI. Children referred to therapeutic foster care are determined by an order of the court to be abused or neglected, CHINS, or delinquent.
- VII. Children and youth must be referred to the contract agency that serves the catchment area covered by the District Office.
- VIII. A referral is determined to be complete when all the information required for the referral packet is received by the contract agency.
- IX. The therapeutic foster care agency must make a decision regarding acceptance of the child into the program within 10 working days of receiving the completed referral.
- X. Therapeutic foster care is an all-inclusive type of placement, and the CPSW or JPPO must not authorize additional funding for any community-based services without prior written permission from the Child Protection Administrator at State Office or the Juvenile Justice Administrator.
- XI. A treatment plan must be developed and implemented by the treatment team after the first 30 days of the child's placement. The referral packet may include, but is not limited to:
 - A. The Application for Therapeutic Foster Care;
 - B. The Case Plan;
 - C. Evaluations;
 - D. Placement History; and
 - E. Medical Records.
- XII. The treatment team includes but is not limited to:
 - A. The CPSW or JPPO;
 - B. The contractor;
 - C. The child's family; and
 - D. The child, if age appropriate.
- XIII. Discharge planning and termination of the placement must be an agreed upon decision of the treatment team
- XIV. Emergency discharge and removal of the child or youth from the therapeutic foster home must be only for an Involuntary Emergency Admission (IEA) and hospitalization. The child must return to the contract agency upon discharge unless a joint decision is made that another type of placement is required.
- XV. See also the Certification for Payment Standards for Residential Facilities in He-C 6350.20 on the NH Bridges' Help screens for additional requirements for therapeutic foster homes.

PROCEDURES:

- I. The CPSW or JPPO must:
 - A. Contact the therapeutic foster care agency that is currently under contract with DCYF and which serves the catchment area in which the District Office is located;
 - B. Complete the therapeutic foster care referral packet and submit the completed packet to the agency;
 - C. File the decision regarding admission of the child referred to the therapeutic foster care agency;
 - D. If the referral is denied, seek admission into another contracted therapeutic foster agency that serves another catchment area; and
 - E. When the child is admitted to the therapeutic foster care program, ensure that the Service Authorization is completed on NH Bridges and that it is forwarded to the agency with a copy of the DCYF Case Plan.

- II. Responsibilities of the CPSW or JPPO who has a child being served in therapeutic foster care include but are not limited to:
 - A. Attendance and participation in quarterly treatment planning meetings;
 - B. Monitoring monthly progress reports from the agency;
 - C. Maintaining contact and visits with the child according to the schedule required by DCYF policy, ITEM 715(a);
 - D. Ensure that the involved school districts are notified if a change of placement occurs;
 - E. Collaborating with the therapeutic foster care agency to develop and implement a permanent plan for the child; and
 - F. Complete survey tools, as requested, regarding the delivery of service and performance of the therapeutic foster care agency during the annual monitoring visits.