



**CALIFORNIA STATE
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES**



**COUNTY WELFARE
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA**



**COUNTY BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA**



**CHIEF PROBATION
OFFICERS OF
CALIFORNIA**

December 6, 2017

To: CSAC Health and Human Services Policy Committee
County Legislative Coordinators

From: California State Association of Counties
County Welfare Directors Association
California Behavioral Health Directors Association
Chief Probation Officers of California

Continuum of Care Reform – Sample Interagency MOU

Counties, including Child Welfare Services, Mental Health Plans (MHPs), and Probation Departments, are working to implement AB 403, the Continuum of Care Reform of the foster youth congregate care system. This landmark legislation requires counties to increase the use of home-based family care in the community, and allows for congregate care for those who require a higher level of care and services in newly designated Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs. A core concept of the reform requires counties to provide additional services and support to foster children and youth regardless of placement, with an increased emphasis on Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services as medically necessary; all of which support the overall goal of keeping foster children and youth in their community and home settings, where outcomes are typically more positive. The reform is also designed to reduce the number of placements in congregate care settings and shorten the duration of such placements if and when they are required.

CCR requires an unprecedented level of cooperation among the above county agencies. The practice of Child Family Teams, a shared decision-making model, increased communication, and the overall goal to care for our most vulnerable youth unites counties in CCR efforts.

To this end, under the guidance of the CCR State/County Implementation Team, California Department of Social Services' Integrated Services Advisor Richard Knecht has compiled a sample MOU for counties to customize for use in implementing CCR. The sample document has been reviewed by each of the above associations as well as the County Counsels' Association of California.

We have attached this sample Interagency MOU Template for review and use by any county choosing to do so. It is intended to provide background and support to county welfare, mental health plans, probation, including local education systems, and any other divisions or departments to promote partnership in the care of foster and probation youth. This document should be customized by counties to develop the elements of an agreement that meet the needs of their unique foster and probation youth population. We hope counties will use this tool to inform their CCR implementation efforts.

If you have any questions regarding the use of the document, please contact your Association staff. In addition, Richard Knecht, Integrated Services Advisor, Richard.Knecht@dss.ca.gov is also available to assist.

Attachments:
MOU Background
Interagency MOU Recommendations

Interagency Child, Youth and Family Services MOU Template