

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 18-47

Date: 11/16/18

## REPLACING A CHILD/YOUTH/NONMINOR DEPENDENT FROM A SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM INTO A LESS RESTRICTIVE PLACEMENT

This FYI serves to remind staff of the process for replacing a child/youth/Nonminor Dependent (NMD) from a Short-Term Residential Program (STRTP) into a less restrictive environment (i.e., stepping down). This includes replacing a child/youth/NMD from a STRTP into a group home (which is considered a [placement step-down](#)).

### **Background**

Under Continuum of Care Reform, STRTPs were established in place of group home care and provide more intensive care and supervision, [core services](#) and supports, treatment, and short-term 24-hour care and supervision of children/youth/NMDs than previously required in group home settings. STRTPs are intended to serve children/youth/NMDs who are in need of a level of care and supervision that cannot be met in a family-like setting and who are not in need of inpatient services, such as a psychiatric hospital or Community Treatment Facility.

Each child/youth/NMD considered for placement in a STRTP undergoes a screening through the Interagency Placement Committee (IPC). The IPC is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team serves to support children/youth/NMDs with significant behavioral, emotional, medical and/or developmental needs through a screening process whereby a child/youth/NMD's treatment and placement needs are determined. The IPC screening process includes a review of available assessments/evaluations, treatment information, and other relevant information regarding the child/youth/NMD's history and current services and needs.

Prior to an IPC screening, the Child and Family Team (CFT) must confer regarding placement of a child/youth/NMD in an STRTP

### **Placement Step-Down**

When consideration is given towards replacing a child/youth/NMD from a STRTP into a less restrictive environment, careful consideration shall be given to the child/youth/NMD's treatment needs and goals. In that each STRTP-placed child/youth/NMD received an IPC screening with an outcome reflecting the need for placement in a STRTP in order to receive intensive services and supports (as noted above), placement into a less restrictive environment must be evaluated to determine the appropriateness of the placement step-down.

As with any replacement, CFTs may be utilized to determine the child/youth/NMD's transition/step-down case plan. Staff are reminded that consultation with relevant/pertinent team members, including but not



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limited to, STRTP staff and mental health providers, is a key part of this process.

When a child/youth/NMD AWOLs from a STRTP and returns, placement shall be made into a STRTP since it was already determined that the child/youth/NMD was in need of this higher level of care. Placement into a group home is considered a step-down and shall only be given consideration if it is determined through the relevant/pertinent team members that the child/youth/NMD is no longer in need of the intensive services and supports provided through a STRTP.



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