

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 19-25

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MULTIDISCIPLINARY ASSESSMENT TEAM/CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETING (MAT/CFT)

In recognition of the parallel nature of the Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) Summary of Findings (SOF) and Child and Family Team (CFT) processes, the DCFS Outcomes Driven Advisory Team (ODAT) approved countywide roll-out of an integrated MAT/CFT model that supports Core Practice Model best practice standards and reduces redundant meetings for our families.

Most newly detained children in out-of-home care are eligible for a MAT assessment. In the MAT/CFT integrated model, MAT Assessors are invited to participate in all four steps of the DCFS CFT process. The MAT Assessors use a streamlined format for their Summary of Findings (SOF) report, which highlights strengths, worries and needs, and facilitates greater engagement with the family. The content of the SOF is reviewed at the CFT meeting within the context of the CFT agenda and is integrated into the child's CFT meeting notes. These notes are incorporated into the case plan and reviewed by the CFT as the family's action plan moves forward, and again at the next CFT meeting to evaluate the child's progress. Over 600 families have already experienced a MAT/CFT during the MAT/CFT pilot and parent participation improved from 44% (pre-pilot) to 81%. Other benefits from the pilot include positive family feedback about having a single meeting for the MAT and CFT processes, improved coordination of care and information sharing across multiple systems, improved engagement and teaming among families and professionals, enhanced quality of MAT Assessments and case plans, as well as ensured follow-up on MAT recommendations.

The countywide roll-out of MAT/CFTs will be structured with our DMH partners to simultaneously prepare regional staff and service providers for the integrated process. The BCRS/DMH team will contact Regional Administrators in each office to engage and prepare regional teams, answer questions, and schedule training to support office readiness.

For more information, please contact Shano Palovich Rodgers at palovs@dcfs.lacounty.gov.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

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