

A RURAL COUNTY FOSTER CARE SHORT STORY
RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL
EMERGENCY CAREGIVER FUNDING *EXPERIENCE*

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SISKIYOU COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Fun Siskiyou County facts:

- ▶ More cattle than people? Yep.
- ▶ 5th largest Co. by area-Pop < 45,000



Placement unit facts:

- ▶ 2012: 20+ youth in group homes
- ▶ June 2019: 3 STRTP +1 Pend; 1 in RFA; 1 AWOL; 1-In Custody pend THPP; 1 NMD

BASIC CASE INFORMATION

- 15 y.o. 602 ward on for felony car theft. Mom has a home in September 2018, and then she doesn't. Mom abandons the ward, refuses to cooperate with probation, and multiple warrants materialize. Ward AWOL and caught trying to steal items from a car.
- Meanwhile, a Non Related Extended Family Member (NREFM) has been attending the hearings all along...
- Probation advises NREFM about the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process and they agree to apply. A quick referral to our amazing RFA Social Workers at Siskiyou County Health and Human Services gets the process rolling but...it... does...take...a...while...
- Desperate for our first approved Resource Family, we pour on the Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Services (FPRRS) funds to get the family ready.

DILEMMA: HOW CAN WE REDUCE TIME IN DETENTION PENDING RELEASE TO APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CARE?

- Our Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) approved a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP). On September 28, 2018, the Court ordered FC* + 60 days in custody with early release option if an STRTP or RFA is located.
- With deadlines looming (December 2018) for group homes to transition into STRTPs, IPC was no longer considering any group homes for placement. The limited number of local Resource Families and very few STRTPs anywhere caused an emergent and ongoing barrier for timely placement, which meant our youth were facing longer times in juvenile hall.
(*Foster Care)
- CPS placements/300 wards filled the available Resource Families in Siskiyou County, and commonality of need assessments (WIC 16514) by the IPC prevented this 602 ward from being placed with any 300 wards or CPS kids.
- The youth's maximum release was set in early November 2018. One of the well established goals is to limit the time a youth waits in detention pending appropriate placement, and since we had the NREFM in the RFA process, research was needed to determine if there was a way we could expedite his release and secure funding for the Resource Family.

A BRAVE NEW FUNDING WORLD WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED

- PAC* e-mail (4-9-18) from San Diego Co. SPO Delona King alerted me to RFA Directive Section 4-08 re: Compelling Reason to Place a youth with an RFA applicant prior to approval.
- A CDSS/RFA website search revealed: **ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 18-75** (6-29-18)
Subject? **FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY CAREGIVERS (EC) WITH PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN AND/OR NON MINOR DEPENDENTS (NMDS) PRIOR TO RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL (RFA).**
Go Figure 😊
- The discovery of ACL 18-75 prompted a call to our HHSA RFA SWs [We have a *Special Agreement*] and the *crickets chirped in mid-day*, but we slowly started to figure it all out together.
- **ENTER COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) NO. 18/19-03** (7-31-18), **THE COMPANION CFL TO ACL 18-75, WHICH IS VERY COMPLEX AND TIME SENSITIVE.**

(*Probation Advisory Committee)

KEY PHRASES + ALL IMPORTANT FORMS

1. PLACED ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS

2. *PLACED FOR COMPELLING REASON*

- “...PAYMENTS SHALL BE BASED ON THE DATE OF THE EMERGENCY OR COMPELLING REASON PLACEMENT.”
- ESTABLISH “COMPELLING REASONS” per WIC section 16519.5(e) + RFA Written Directives Section 4-08(b)(1)(B) = BEST INTEREST to maintain family-like connection; WIC 16519 Re: “Safety, permanency and well-being are crucial...”; “Shall consider” primary CFT recommendation [WIC 727(a)(4)]“; In county vs. Out of County, etc.

1. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE(EA) APPLICATION

2. FOSTER PARENTS AGREEMENT-SOC 156

- Establish EA Program ELIGIBILITY
SUBMIT:
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FOR PROBATION
[CHHSA/CDSS FORM EA 1 (8-99) PROBATION]
- SUBMIT:
AGENCY- FOSTER PARENTS AGREEMENT
Child Placed by Agency in Foster Home
[CHHSA/CDSS FROM SOC 156]

RFA / EC PLACEMENT EFFECTED

- On October 12, 2018, a CFT* meeting was held. It was determined the NREFM was doing well in the RFA process and the ward was doing well in juvenile hall. With no guarantees given re: Time table for EC funding, the NREFM agreed to plan for what a transition would entail.
- We signal our intentions to the RFA SW to establish the NREFM as an Emergency Caregiver and transition the ward to the NREFM as soon as possible, hoping the EC (Basic Level) funding would soon follow.
(*Child and Family Team)
- On October 17, 2018, the RFA SW instructed us to complete a “home environment assessment”, and once fingerprints and the CLETS & CACI* were clear, we had the green light to place the ward prior to final RFA.
- On October 19, 2019, the ward was placed with the NREFM! EC funding approved on/about November 15, 2018. Check issued on November 20, 2018- pro-rated to October 19, 2018.
- Final RFA came through on January 8, 2019.
(*California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System & Child Abuse Central Index)

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE

(IT TAKES A SUPER VILLAGE OF MYRIAD EXPERTS)

- Navigating ACLs, ACINs, and CFLs is a bit daunting so, per CDSS, questions can go to:
- For CFLs go to fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov.
- Policy or program questions related to RFA should be directed to RFA@dss.ca.gov.
- Send general program or policy questions related to Emergency Caregiver Funding to ECFunding@dss.ca.gov.
- Latest **FAQs** for EC funding prior to RFA: ACL NO. 19-24 (3-13-19)
- RFA PROGRAM WRITTEN DIRECTIVES by CDSS.
- CDSS WEBSITE

SPECIAL THANKS TO SUPER VILLAGE PEOPLE

- Emily Morlet, Placement DPO
- Stacey Jackson, Placement SPO
- Suzanne Hogue, HHSA RFA SW
- Emily Tuholski, HHSA Eligibility Supervisor
- Joy Pragg, Legal Secretary (Juvenile Probation Unit)
- Corey Watson, HHSA RFA SW
- Angie Zufelt, HHSA CPS/RFA Supervisor
- Dee DeLeon, Probation/BHS Clinician II
- Probation Advisory Committee, et al.
- Geneva R. + Steve R. and family: They bravely worked through the RFA gauntlet and are asking for more. *Go Figure* 😊
- Siskiyou County Community Stakeholders
- Siskiyou County Superior Juvenile Court Judge Karen Dixon
- Siskiyou County DDA Mike DeArton
- Siskiyou County DPD John Nosco
- Siskiyou County IPC members