

Specialized Foster Care at Family & Children's Agency

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How to become a Foster Parent

- Training process
 - TIPS-MAPP
 - TST-FP
- Background Checks
- Homestudy
- Relicensing process & expectations
 - Renewal of background checks
 - Training hours

Foster Parent Training & Expectations

As a foster parent you will receive:

- Extensive training and ongoing support, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Support of experienced, dedicated staff.
- Access to special services for children, including recreational programs, after school programs, and other community based programming based on the need of the child in your care.
- Respite care for additional support.
- Networking, socializing, and support from other foster families.
- Monthly stipend.

Foster Parent Training & Expectations

- Family Support Team
- Child Specific Recruitment
- Matching process
 - How do you know a youth will be a good fit?

Foster Care Programs Offered

- **Medically Complex Foster Care**
 - Children come into care from newborn to 18 years old
 - Special medical training and support is provided to all foster care parents
 - Youth in this level of care are assigned a social worker from FCA who visits with them at least 2x per month.
 - Children in this program may have one or more of the following physical conditions:
 - Complications from premature birth or low birth weight, feeding difficulties, cardiac problems, asthma, burns, life-threatening illness, diabetes, or physical injuries from abuse.

Foster Care Programs Offered

- **Therapeutic Foster Care**
 - Children ages 6 to 18 years at the time of referral
 - Children in this program may be experiencing behavioral or emotional problems
 - They may have had multiple placements, traumatic losses and experiences in their lives. They will need commitment, structure, stability, security, and an opportunity to succeed.
 - Youth in this level of care will be assigned a social worker from FCA who will visit with the youth weekly and provide case management to make sure all needs are being met.

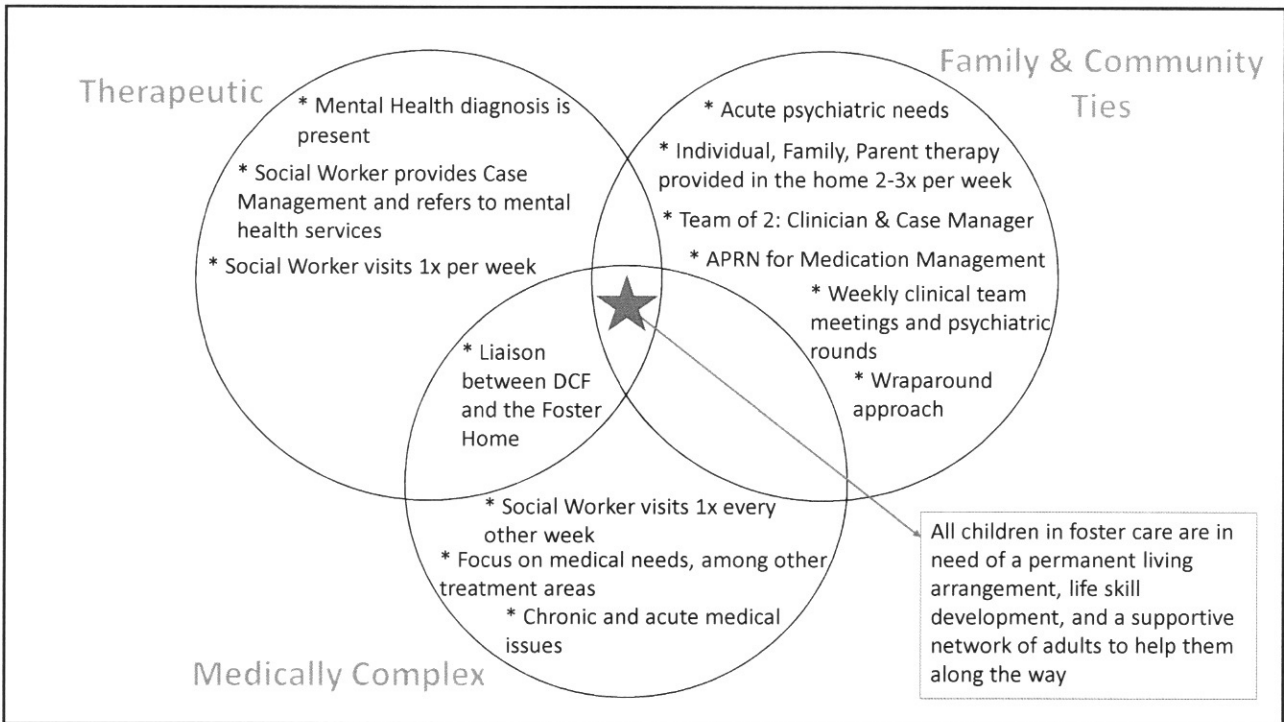
Foster Care Programs Offered

• Family & Community Ties Foster Care

- Children, ages 6 to 18 years, at the time of referral
- Acute psychiatric challenges, including a history of sexualized behaviors, aggression, defiance to authority, running away, self-injurious behaviors, substance abuse, hallucinations, and property destruction
- History of disrupted placements, psychiatric hospitalizations, and residential care
- Training and expectations of Foster Parents exceed therapeutic and medically complex programs
- Youth in this level of care are assigned a Case Manager and a Clinician to provide intensive in-home supports 2-3 times per week.
- Community Support Specialist helps link youth with their community based services.
- APRN provides medication management for youth on psychotropic medications.

What makes Family & Community Ties Different?

- The program provides alternatives to, and transitions from, residential or group home placements.
- Through high quality and intensive clinical services, the program provides support and structure to youth with complex mental health needs, to their foster families and to biological families.
- The program combines a “wrap-around” approach to service delivery which includes intensive in-home therapy, intensive in-home case management, medication management and professional parenting, designed to meet the very special needs of the individual children. This is primarily conducted through home visits 2-3 times per week.
- Foster parents are provided with extensive training hours, with a heavy emphasis on trauma informed treatment.



Finding Success in Foster Care

Permanency

- In our current fiscal year, we have had 72 unique discharges from care, resulting in 35 youth achieving permanency
 - Adoption - 6
 - Transfer of Guardianship - 5
 - Reunification - 16
 - Independent Living - 8

Stability

- Decrease in disruptions
- Decrease in psychiatric hospitalizations

Building a Village

- One of the most important factors in moving toward success is building a village of support for each youth
- This village becomes a team to help meet all of the needs of a child
- The village may include Social Worker, Foster Parent, Therapist, Psychiatrist, Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Mentor, Advocate, Attorney, GAL, Coach, and other supportive adults
- This comprehensive team should be in regular contact to work toward achieving goals outlined on the youth's treatment plan
- DCF remains legal guardian, but often the FCA Team will lead the team as the contracted provider for services

Building a Village

- Recreational and community based supports are another component in maintaining a youth in a foster home
- Wrap funding – what is this and how do we use it?
 - After School programs
 - Therapeutic Mentor
 - Music/art lessons
 - Equine therapy
 - Summer camp

Life Skill Development

- LIST Assessment
 - 21 domains of life skills
 - Essential part of treatment plan
- FCA Life Skills Programming
 - Cooking
 - Carpentry
 - Girls/Boys Group

DCF Relationship

- DCF is legal guardian for most youth in foster care
- FCA works primarily with Region 1: Norwalk and Bridgeport DCF
- Accept referrals statewide when there is a need and we have an appropriate match
- Ongoing collaboration and communication is key to success
- Monthly Report – TFC
- Clinical Team Meetings - FCT