

Guidance 20

Local Review Team

Contract Reference: Sections A-1.1 and C-1.2.11.5

Authority: 2017-2022 Interagency Agreement to Coordinate Services for Children by More than One Agency

Frequency: Ongoing

Description:

The Department of Children and Families is a party to the 2017-2022 *Interagency Agreement to Coordinate Services for Children by More than One Agency*. Other parties are the Agency for Health Care Administration, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, Department of Health, Guardian Ad Litem Program, and Florida's Office of Early Learning. The parties jointly commit to coordinate services and supports for children in Florida; and collaborate to develop necessary local and statewide resources for children being served by multiple agencies – through a Local Review Team (LRT).

Such services require the coordinated flow of information across multiple child-serving agencies to ensure that policy, procedure, service delivery and resource development are provided in a manner that will maximize the likelihood of positive outcomes. The interagency agreement acknowledges that the safety and well-being of children requires a commitment of agencies to work cooperatively at the state, regional, and local levels to implement the agreement. The Interagency Agreement adopts the following principles:

1. Services should be family-centered, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and provided in the least restrictive setting. Residential placement should be provided as a last resort with a transition plan to return the child(ren) to the family if possible;
2. Children and families with multiple needs require the ongoing integrated coordination and collaboration of services from multiple agencies and resources;
3. Each agency is responsible for its own costs incurred while performing their respective duties under the Agreement;
4. To ensure compliance with federal and state requirements related to sharing of confidential or personal information, each agency involved in a case review shall follow its respective agency policies;
5. Agencies should seek to minimize state costs while ensuring appropriate levels of services for children with complex needs;
6. Interagency coordination should occur as early as possible and as often as necessary, to include prevention/early intervention services for children at risk of being served by one or more agencies. These children should be discussed as part of the Local Review Team and Regional Review Team meetings; and
7. To the extent possible, the Parties acknowledged and understand they have a duty to and will cooperate with the Inspector General in any investigation, audit, inspection, review, or hearing pursuant to section 20.055(5), F.S.

Personnel from each agency participate in the LRT. The LRT meets monthly in each local area, defined by reference to the Department's Circuit. In addition to agency participation, the LRT includes a Managing Entity representative. The Managing Entity may designate additional Network Service Providers representatives to participate.

Each LRT is responsible for the resolution of case-specific issues for children who are receiving services from multiple agencies. The LRTs are intended to be a mechanism to resolve case-specific issues that cannot be addressed within the individualized service team(s). LRTs must collaborate to identify and develop local resources for children served by, or at risk of being served by, multiple agencies.

Personnel from each agency also represent their agency on a Regional Review Team (RRT). The RRTs meet monthly in each region. In addition to agency participation, Managing Entities shall participate in RRT meetings

involving their service area. the RRT shall include representation by the Managing Entity, and should include delegated local providers. The Managing Entity may designate additional Network Service Providers representatives to participate in the RRT.

Each RRT is responsible for the resolution of cases referred by the LRTs. The RRTs are intended to create a mechanism for the agencies to regularly engage in dialogue to improve the local system of care and to be a mechanism to resolve cases referred by the LRTs.