

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance as to Attachment I, for the development of a position to be funded through the managing entity (ME) contract that is to address child welfare clients that are served in common with the community based care (CBC) agencies.¹

This guidance document replaces what has, since 2001 been the statewide Family Intervention Specialist (FIS) program. In recognition of what has changed since 2001, the department intends to redesign /replace the FIS with a regionally designed program that will be tailored to the unique needs of each area. The planning and development should be done in cooperation with the CBC and regional department staff. However, each ME will ultimately be responsible for the implementation and administration of an integration position.

For oversight, the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (OSAMH) in Tallahassee shall approve the transition plan and program development of each ME to meet this contractual requirement.

Program Name

Each ME shall designate this program with a position name. In FSFN, it shall be referred to as the Motivational Support Specialist.

Program Purpose

The purpose of this program is to:

1. Engage and retain child-welfare involved families in behavioral health treatment; and
2. Keep families together by preventing at-risk children from receiving an out-of-home placement.

Core Principles

In cooperation with the CBC, the ME shall ensure each of the following are addressed:

- A clearly targeted population will be identified.
 - To be effective, and to manage expectations, the program must have a defined population. The transformation uses the classification of safe and unsafe child – and it is expected that unsafe children will be the focus.
- Motivational Support Specialists will have the skills and resources needed to motivate and encourage the entire family in ways that support their engagement and retention in treatment.
- The position will enter into FSFN.
- Motivational Support Specialists will have the ability make appropriate referrals for services that support and enhance recovery.

¹ For the purposes of this document, the terms CBC and ME are understood to mean those that bear contractual responsibility for a common geographical area.

- Motivational Support Specialists will provide ancillary support to the CBC case manager and SAMH treatment provider in order to ensure that families are engaged and retained in treatment.
- Where possible, co-location with CBC case managers.
- Data points reported to the department.
- Motivational Support Specialists will work with all relevant stakeholders to identify and resolve all systematic and programmatic barriers to client engagement and retention in treatment in a process of continuous quality improvement.
- Clearly defined “admission” and “discharge” definitions will be provided.

Datapoints

To accurately measure the effectiveness of an integration program, the following datapoints must be measured:

- Number of clients served ;
- The ‘length of stay;’
- The number of parents that successfully complete substance abuse or mental health treatment; The number of at-risk children that avoid an out-of-home placement;
- The number of substance abuse and mental health treatment sessions that are attended and completed; and
- Within 6-months and/or 1 year of CBC case closure:
 - The number of parents still participating in substance abuse or mental health treatment;
 - The number of parents receiving recovery support services; and
 - The number of verified cases of abuse.