



B. J. Walker, Commissioner

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SOCIAL SERVICES MANUAL TRASMITTAL NO. 2006-07

TO: County Departments of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
DFCS Regional Directors
Field Fiscal Services
State Office Staff

FROM: Martha Okafor, Deputy Director
Programs and Policy

RE: Foster Care Services Manual: Revised Section 1016 (FISCAL)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this manual transmittal is to incorporate additional changes and/or additions to Section 1016 (Fiscal), which relate to benefits and services for children in foster care. This material has been coordinated with Field Fiscal Services so that the COSTAR manual contains similar updates.

DISCUSSION:

The following changes are highlighted:

- Clarification of expenditures for:

Code 12 – Non-Assessment Related Expenses – Cost not associated with the Comprehensive Child and Family Assessment (CCFA). Expenses related to Psychological/Psychiatric/Speech/Therapy Services (PPST) may be charged to this entitlement code. Vendors do not have to be approved CCFA/WA providers; however a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the provider

Code 00 - Other –Cost that are associated or not associated with the CCFA, however are not covered under another entitlement code. Vendors do not have to be approved CCFA/Wrap-Around (WA) providers, however a MOU is required.

Code 56 – Transportation – Providers who are specifically providing transportation services only as defined for necessary travel and or escort services to and from facilities or resources. The WA provider may bill at a standard rate of \$15.00 per hour and mileage is reimbursed at \$.445 per mile.

- The following programs have been added effective July 1, 2005: Enhanced Relative Rate (ERR), Enhanced Subsidized Guardianship (ESG), Subsidized Guardianship (SG) and Enhanced Relative Care Subsidy (ERCS). These programs provide financial support to eligible relative caregivers to assist with the basic expenses of caring for a related child.
- Change in the foster care per diem rates effective July 1, 2006.
- Concurrent Per Diem payments are paid up to **ten** calendar days during a month. If a child's absence is a result of a facility closing (CPA or CCI), concurrent payments are not made.
- Before authorizing Unusual Medical and In-Hospital care, supporting documentation that Medicaid will not pay for a medically needed or medically related expense is required.
- Documentation of efforts to utilize diagnostic and treatment services of Medicaid providers including community mental health programs and Promoting Safe and Families Program vendors is required before initiating Wrap-Around services.
- A Sibling group of three or more receive a Sibling Incentive (Sib-I) of \$100.00 for each sibling.
- If a child is not placed in a LOC placement after receiving a level of care, within ninety days of the approval, consultation with the Social Service Treatment Specialist is required to re-determine the child's eligibility for the level.
- Uniformed Accounting System (UAS) codes were created for Illegal Immigrant Per Diems expenses.
- New UAS codes and entitlement codes with detailed descriptions were included for Promoting Safe and Stable Families.

- The CPA and CCI are responsible for respite care within their FFH or facility at no additional cost.
- All children in a DFCS foster homes or placed with a relative caregiver (DFCS has custody of the child) that require supplemental supervision must be referred to Child and Parent Services (CAPS).
- When a child transitions from the custody of DFCS into the custody/guardianship of a relative caregiver and he/she requires supplemental supervision, the SSCM shall advise the relative caregiver to apply for child care services through CAPS.
- A vertical bar in the policy material highlights other miscellaneous revisions.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The increase in the foster care per diem rate and the enhanced relative subsidy rate was effective July 1, 2006. The Sibling Incentive (Sib-I) was also effective July 1, 2006. All other changes are effective upon receipt.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR POLICY MANUAL MAINTENANCE:

1. Remove Section 1016 in its entirety and replace with the revised Section 1016.
2. Make the proper notation on the receipt of Manual Transmittals.