

Policy Title:	Foster Family Group Homes – Policy		
Policy Number:	I-E.4.2.1		Effective Date: 7-01-01

Approved By: *on file*

Date Approved: 7-01-01

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Reference(s):

- II-B.1, Safety Standards for Foster Care, Relative Care, and Adoptive Families

Form(s) that apply:

- None.

Rules:

PURPOSE

The family group home program was developed to meet the needs of children in the custody of the State Office for Services to Children and Families (SOSCF) who, because of emotional and/or behavioral characteristics, require a group living situation more structured than a foster home, but less structured than a group residential program. The purpose of foster family group home placement is to improve the child's functioning at home and in the community, to improve the child's relationship with his/her birth family, and to improve the child's ability to successfully solve the problems of daily living. **This policy specifies the criteria for placement and expectations of SOSCF staff in accordance with OAR's 413-200-210 through 220, Family Group Home Requirements.**

DEFINITIONS

(1) "**Family Group Home**" is a specialized foster home in the local community providing specific services to a group of four to eight children with similar needs. The atmosphere of the home is that of a family setting where at least one parent is employed full time as a provider with a minimum ratio of one adult for every five children in residence. Group home services are time-limited in accordance to goals and objectives outlined in the treatment plan.

(2) "**Family Group Home Provider**" is a certified foster care provider with whom SOSCF has contracted to provide group home service and who has demonstrated special competence to care for young people with serious social and/or behavioral maladaptive

characteristics. If additional persons are hired to work in the group home, they will be approved in writing by the agency. The State Office for Services to Children and Families shall require a criminal record and/or driving check for any employee, volunteer, or other adult having regular contact with children in care.

(3) "**Group Home Worker**" is the service worker assigned to represent the agency and to work with the group home provider.

(4) "**Referring Placement Worker**" is the service worker responsible for the ongoing case management of the child.

POLICY

(1) **Placement Criteria.** Children considered for placement in a foster family group home shall meet one or more of the following conditions:

(a) Exhibit serious behavior problems, developmental delay or emotional disturbances including, but not limited to, sexually reactive behavior, drug and/or alcohol involvement and attachment issues;

(b) Need a gradual readjustment to community living following discharge from a residential facility;

(c) Need the neutrality of a group living situation because of destructive or disturbing experiences and/or attachment issues in their own homes;

(d) Need assistance to emotionally separate from parental figures in preparation for emancipation or adoption upon completion of the group home placement.

(2) Inter-Branch Placements

(a) The branch where the group home is located is responsible for making and authorizing all maintenance payments and approving authorized absences.

(b) The branch placing a youth in another branch's area is responsible for determination of medical eligibility and for entering eligibility into IIS (see IIS Data Entry Guide) prior to placement.

(c) The branch placing the youth is responsible for costs above the family group home rates (e.g., initial clothing, transportation for home visits, etc.).

(3) Staff Roles

(a) The referring placement worker is responsible for referring the youth for foster family group home placement, preparing the youth and family for the placement, and making arrangements for the placement (i.e., Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment, Medichex Screening, placement wardrobe, arranging family visits, etc.). Per OAR 413-200-220(2), **shelter or emergency placements will not be allowed.** The placement worker is responsible for ongoing case management, including narratives and other required case recordings (e.g., 96- 272 reviews).

(b) The group home worker coordinates the placement of youth in the home, provides social services to the residents of the home, coordinates and participates in periodic group meetings and provides progress information on the placement to the referring placement worker. The group home worker is also responsible for approving any additional staff/respite personnel.

(4) Treatment Planning

(a) The group home worker, placement worker, provider, and child will develop a time limited, prioritized, goal oriented, individualized treatment plan for each child **within 30 days** of placement in the family group home. Goals should be stated in behavioral terms and identify treatment services to be provided as well as time limits for achievement. Outcome measures will be developed and assessed periodically. (OAR 413-200-220(4)(b))

(b) Treatment and aftercare plans shall be reviewed by the provider, group home and placement workers and child at least every three months following development of the plan. Where possible, reviews should be scheduled to coincide with PL 96-272 reporting requirements. (OAR 413-200-220(5))

(c) The placement worker is responsible for the development of aftercare resources. Occasionally it is recognized that the best aftercare plan may be transitioning a child to regular foster care status within the group home. This may occur if:

(A) The child has completed the family group home program;

(B) The group home serves no more than one such foster child at a time;
and

(C) The program is certified for ADP beyond the group home contract.
(OAR 413-200-220(6))

(d) When the child has successfully completed the program, a termination date will be determined by the provider, group home worker and placement worker. If a child needs to be moved before the child has completed the treatment program, the provider, the group home worker and the placement worker shall agree when and to where the child shall be moved. If an agreement cannot be reached, the agency shall decide when to move a child and where.

(5) Respite. The group home worker will monitor that the provider develops and implements a written respite care plan that allows the providers to take time away from their contracted child care responsibilities for at least 48 hours per month. (OAR 413-200-220(9))

(6) Spending Plan. The group home worker will monitor that the provider prepares an annual plan of expenditures at the beginning of each contract year to demonstrate income sufficient to ensure the stability of the family and provide the contracted services. (OAR 413-200-220(10))

(7) Training Plan. The branch office where the group home is located will ensure that the group home provider attends at least 30 hours of professional training annually. This curriculum will include specific training to facilitate cultural competency. (OAR 413-200-220(12))

(8) Program Reviews. The Central Office Foster Care Unit will coordinate periodic program evaluations. This includes writing the report and selecting review team members. (May delegate to the branch office.) The team will meet with the provider to discuss problem areas or achievements to be acknowledged. The review will include a tour of the facility, information gathering per the review format, a team meeting to discuss findings, and a final meeting with the provider to review comments, achievements and recommendations. The purpose of the review will be to compare program accomplishments with current standards.

Procedure(s) that apply:

- None referenced

Contact(s):

- **Name:** CAF Reception; **Phone:** 503-945-5600

Policy History

- 1-2-96