STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • *www.cdss.ca.gov*

CDSS
WILL LIGHTBOURNE
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July 25, 2014

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

[ ] State Law Change
[ ] Federal Law or Regulation Change
[ ] Court Order
[ ] Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
[X] Initiated by CDSS

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-43-14

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENTS TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE GROUP HOME PLACEMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN GROUP HOME CARE OVER ONE YEAR IN DURATION AND PLANS FOR TRANSITIONING INTO A FAMILY-BASED SETTING

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (W&IC) SECTIONS 361.2, 11467(C)(2), 16010.8, AND , 16501.1(C)(1); ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 74 (CHAPTER 21, STATUTES OF 2013); ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL)13-73 AND ACL 13-86

This All County Information Notice (ACIN) is being issued to inform counties that the dissemination of lists identifying those children placed in group home care for one year or longer will be available in July 2014 and to clarify instructions for assessing the placement of children and youth in group home care over one year in duration and the plan for appropriately transitioning children and youth into a family-based setting (e.g. foster family home, foster family agency certified home, kinship/guardianship, relative/non-relative extended family member, etc.)

A number of changes are being made related to the procedures described in ACL 13-86 for (1) sending notice to the counties that a new list of children and youth is ready for review, (2) the timeframe within which these reviews should occur, and (3) what minimum information needs to be input into the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) for these assessments.

Changes to the Notification Procedure

For the June 2014 data extraction, each county welfare director and chief probation officer should receive email notice by July 31, 2014. The email will explain how to access the Department's extranet site for each county's list of children and youth to be reviewed. Note that the website and logon procedures have not changed and each county's login from the October 2013 list distribution should still work. If an email notice

is not received by a county by July 31, 2014, that county should contact the Department using the information contained at the bottom of this ACIN .

Input of Evaluation Data and Timeframe to Complete

As of August 1, 2014, all counties are presumed to have notice and receipt of the July 2014 list of children and youth in group home care over one year in duration. Counties that have not received the list should contact the Department prior to August 15, 2014, to be sent an email of the list of children and youth to be reviewed by that county.

Counties will have until November 1, 2014 to input group home placement assessments and appropriate transition plans into the CWS/CMS case management system as a "Client Evaluation" as explained in ACL 13-86.

The Department will conduct a follow-up sampling of cases to determine the extent to which counties have reassessed the continued suitability of the group home placement or developed transition plans for placement in a less restrictive placement setting consistent with the intent of W&IC section 16010.8; which requires CDSS to report to the legislature on the outcomes of the assessment of each youth in group care for longer than one year and the outcomes of transitions or plans to transition each child or youth to family settings. The Department's review of information will be limited to those sections identified in ACL 13-86. Information entered into other sections of the CWS/CMS system or probation database will not be considered as meeting these requirements for the reporting purposes.

Counties are reminded that at a minimum, each assessment must contain two key pieces of information. First, the assessment should determine if group home care continues to be appropriate as evidenced by the continued placement needs of the child or youth. Second, where the assessment has determined that group home care is no longer appropriate, a transition plan should be created for moving the child or youth into a family-based setting and the estimated time it will take for that transition to occur. Note that Extended Foster Care or an Independent Living Plan are not considered "transition plans" for the purpose of ACL 13-86.

If you have any questions regarding this ACIN, please contact the Department's Foster Care Audits and Rates Branch at (916) 651-9152, questions can be directed to ccr@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

CHERYL TREADWELL, Chief
Foster Care Audits and Rates Branch