



Community Based Care: Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties

ITN# FY24/25-003:

- Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care Licensing

Questions and Answers

Children's Home Network

Assessed Need & Existing Capacity

1. The ITN indicates 50 youth were recommended for STFC placement during FY23/24. What was the average, maximum, and minimum daily number of youth with an STFC placement or recommendation?

HFC has an average of 15 youth placed in STFC at any given time. HFC had 50 youth recommended for STFC in FY 23/24, however only 15 were placed leaving the remaining 35 that were placed elsewhere.

2. What percentage of youth with an STFC placement or recommendation during FY23/24 were qualified Level 1, Level 2, and Crisis Level?

Level 1-11 youth, Level 2- 22 youth and crisis level was 17 youth.

3. What is the current licensed and preferred STFC capacity in Circuit 10?

HFC currently has 9 licensed STFC homes with 18 beds as the standard licensing capacity, however there are a couple of homes currently that have a non STFC sibling placed to maintain a sibling connection which raises the current bed capacity to 21. This capacity has not meet HFC's need. Our desire is to have the capacity to place all youth recommended for this level of care with each home having advanced training to meet the variety of needs in our system of care without delay.

4. How many new STFC homes and preferred beds were licensed in FY23/24?

Two STFC homes were licensed in FY 23/24.

5. How many STFC homes and preferred beds closed in FY23/24?

There were four STFC homes closed in FY 23/24.

Recruitment, Licensing, & Training

6. Will HFC allow the selected provider to recruit and license foster homes of all levels as part of a comprehensive strategy for developing new STFC capacity?

The provider may outline this as an option in their response for further discussion and consideration.

7. Will HFC partner with the selected provider to develop STFC capacity from existing licensed Level 2 capacity?

The current level 2 licensed network may be an option for identifying some potential STFC homes and HFC will work with the selected provider to explore this option. All reach out to potential current licensed level 2 caregivers would have to be done in partnership with HFC and the selected provider. HFC prefers to have a recruitment arm with expected targets built into the new STFC contract to increase overall capacity and to better meet the specialized needs of our OHC population.

8. If HFC contracts with a provider for licensing responsibility:

- a. Will HFC maintain any role in licensing STFC homes? If so, what role(s)?

The attestation model is used locally in processing licensing packets to DCF for review and approval. This process requires all licensing packets, including STFC, to be approved by HFC prior to submission to DCF.

- b. Will HFC share inquiries it receives from families interested in serving as STFC homes?

Yes, any inquiries related to interest in STFC licensing would be directed to the selected provider for follow-up.

- c. Will the provider assume re-licensing responsibility for any existing STFC homes?

In the event the current STFC provider is not selected the current provider will submit a transition plan to HFC that includes a reasonable relicensing plan of support and transition for all active licenses.

- d. If so, for how many and with what preferred capacity?

Currently HFC has 9 STFC homes that would require re-licensure in the following 12 month period.

9. What pre-service training curriculum, if any, does HFC require or prefer for use by licensing agencies?

The STFC provider would offer their recommended training curriculum and HFC would be open to hearing more about any approved options suggested by the STFC agency.

10. What STFC training curriculum, if any, does HFC require or prefer for use by STFC providers?

Currently HFC utilizes Passport to Parenting which is approved by DCF, however we are very open to exploring other approved standard pre-service curriculums.

Therapeutic Services

11. What entity currently provides therapeutic services to HFC licensed STFC homes?

Health Connect America, Inc.

12. Does the current STFC clinical services provider maintain continuity in a child's clinical team and interventions as the child transition from the STFC placement to a non-therapeutic home, residential setting, an adoptive home, or their own home?

Not always. There is an option for the current STFC provider to support continuity in maintaining the current therapist assigned if capacity allows for this. If not, the provider may assist in identifying a new therapist. HFC would encourage continuity as a standard practice.

13. What treatment model is currently used by the therapists serving HFC licensed STFC homes?

The current provider, Health Connect America, Inc., provides basic individual therapy and medication management primarily using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

14. Are HFC STFC homes currently supported with targeted case management services?

The provider states they refer to another provider for TCM, however this is not observed by HFC to be a consistent practice. HFC would encourage TCM assignment as a standard practice.

15. What percentage of youth exiting an HFC STFC home in FY23/24 transitioned to a less restrictive placement?

HFC will pull historical data and provide the information on the HFC website by November 1, 2024.

Funding

16. While Medicaid funding will support ongoing operations for the STFC program, will HFC consider providing start-up funding if a provider is selected that is new to Circuit 10?

A budget that includes a detailed explanation of all funds requested would be considered by HFC.