

County of Santa Clara
Social Services Agency



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DATE: March 23, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: Robert Menicocci, Social Services Agency Director *RM*

SUBJECT: **Off-Agenda Report Relating to Childcare Options for Children in Out-of-Home Placement**

On January 14, 2020, the County of Santa Clara (County) Social Services Agency (SSA), Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) presented information to the Board of Supervisors (Board) (Item No. 12) regarding changes to the closure of the Receiving, Assessment, and Intake Center (RAIC). During this meeting, the Board expressed interest in receiving additional information pertaining to childcare options available to resource parents.

Child Care Options

Childcare enables caregivers with children in out-of-home placement to continue to work, go to school, or tend to resource parenting responsibilities that fall outside of normal parenting duties, such as attending Child and Family Team meetings. The current resources available to meet these child care needs include the California Alternative Payment Program, Emergency Child Care Bridge Program, Title IV-E, and Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Services.

California Alternative Payment Program

The California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP) is available in the community through GoKids, Choices for Children, and the Community Child Care Council for Santa Clara County. These agencies provide subsidized childcare for children who have had involvement with childcare once they return home to their parents, or while they are in out-of-home placement. The demand is great for these services, and childcare slots often reach maximum capacity. DFCS uses available resources to assist resource families with their childcare needs until there is an opening in a CAPP program. These resources include: Emergency Child Care Bridge Program, Title IV-E funding, and Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Services.

Emergency Child Care Bridge Program

The Emergency Child Care Bridge Program (ECCBP) is an optional service offered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The ECCBP facilitates and funds emergency childcare for six months, or until another source of funding is available. While a six month extension is allowed, the program does not fund childcare for more than twelve months. Biological parents are not eligible to receive services under the ECCBP unless the biological parent is under the jurisdiction of juvenile court, meaning the biological parent is still a foster youth receiving services from DFCS. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, 46 California counties participated in the program.

The ECCBP consists of three components, which are identified below.

Emergency Child Care Voucher/Payment: Eligible families receive a time-limited childcare voucher, or payment, to help pay for childcare costs for foster children ranging from birth through age 12, for children with exceptional needs up to age 21, and for severely disabled children up to age 21.

Child Care Navigator: A child care navigator assists eligible families with finding a childcare provider; securing a subsidized child care placement, if eligible; completing childcare program applications; and developing a plan for long-term child care that is appropriate to the child's age and needs. This service is provided through the County's local resource and referral agency.

Trauma-Informed Care Training and Coaching: Childcare providers serving children in the ECCBP are given access to trauma-informed care training. This training includes, but is not limited to, infant and toddler development, and research-based trauma-informed best care practices. Childcare providers are also eligible to access coaching that assists them in applying training curriculum, and in learning strategies for working with children in foster care. This service is provided through the County's local resource and referral agency.

Title IV-E and Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Services Child Care (FPRRS)

Once a resource parent or relative caregiver is approved through the resource family approval process, Title IV-E funds are then utilized to support childcare for children who are federally eligible to receive subsidized childcare. The County General Fund provides the county portion of childcare, which is paid through Title IV-E funds. For children who are not federally eligible, subsidized childcare is available through FPRRS.

Child Care for Biological Parents

Through the Linkages collaboration between DFCS and the Department of Employment and Benefits Services (DEBS), families involved in both systems can access childcare. This cross-departmental collaboration supports childcare, as well as, any other supports needed for families involved in reunification or who have had their children returned to their care. For fiscal year 2018/2019, there were 181 cases served through the Linkages collaboration. In addition, as noted above, the California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP) is available to the community through GoKids, Choices for Children, and the Community Child Care Council for Santa Clara County. These agencies provide subsidized childcare, for children who have had involvement with childcare, once they return home to their parents. Social workers encourage parents, relatives, and caregivers to utilize these childcare services that are available to them.

c: Chief Board Aides
Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board