

# County of Santa Clara

Social Services Agency

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DATE: October 30, 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 on State Licensing for the County's Scattered Sites and the Welcoming Center**

At the January 14, 2020 Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting, Supervisor Ellenberg asked for information relating to challenges to obtaining State license necessary to secure housing to support high needs children in the County of Santa Clara's (County) placement and receiving for children in care. (Item no. 12).

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and Community Care Licensing (CCL) Division have licensing and oversight authority over facilities that provide out-of-home care for children and non-minor dependents, including locations such as the County's scattered sites and Welcoming Center. The Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) has been working closely in partnership with CCL to ensure DFCS's proposed plan complies with regulations.

As CDSS and CCL are working with Santa Clara County to build a potentially new Continuum of Care model, one of the challenges is needing to adjust plans as we go. One example was the fairly recent decision to require a licensure of The Welcoming Center. While CDSS and CCL are very open to partnering with Santa Clara County, we do expect additional modifications or requirements from the State based on their own analysis as the program is developed. These changes may impact future policy and procedure development and will be factored into program planning.

## Scattered Sites

As part of the County's updated Continuum of Care (CoC) services, DFCS developed nine scattered sites where children can reside while placement options are identified. The scattered sites are available to children with higher needs and for whom placement may take longer than 24 hours to secure. The scattered sites are also able to accommodate and meet the needs of sibling sets while a resource parent or family members are identified who can welcome s into their home. Since March of this year, the sites also serve children who may have tested positive for COVID-19 or who otherwise need to quarantine due to the novel coronavirus.

DFCS is partnering with CDSS and CCL to develop a licensure option for the scattered sites. CDSS and CCL are aware these sites are only temporary resources while the County's continuum of care is in development. When the planning is completed DFCS will continue to work with CDSS CCL to determine if a potential option is available to temporarily license the scattered sites. DFCS, CDSS, and CCL continue to meet to finalize licensing options and next steps on a regular basis.

### Welcoming Center

The Welcoming Center, once fully established, will provide receiving services for children newly entering care or who have experienced a placement disruption while DFCS identifies permanent placement options for those children.

The County's proposed continuum of care, which includes a Welcoming Center, is a new model and one in which CDSS and CCL have expressed interest in exploring further. Specifically, CDSS and CCL want to monitor program outcomes for this model as well as licensure implications. CDSS and CCL have determined that the Welcoming Center will require a facility licensure. State representatives expressed that a path to licensure may be expedited, with an estimated time period of under 30 days, based on prior experiences with Seneca and the agencies are actively engaged in helping develop possible solutions. Seneca is currently drafting a program statement for licensure, which may fall under the shelter license umbrella, and will present back to CDSS and CCL within the next three weeks.

c: Chief Board Aides  
Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer  
James R. Williams, County Counsel  
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