



Quarterly Update

SUMMER 2016

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL UPDATE

Children's Residential Licensing Program Mission:

The Children's Residential Licensing Program licenses and monitors Adoption Agencies, Foster Family Agencies and Certified Family Homes, Group Homes, Foster Family Homes, Runaway Youth Shelters, Small Family Homes, and Transitional Housing in an effort to ensure that they provide a safe and healthy environment for children who are in residential care.

A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

Welcome to our Summer 2016 Children's Residential Care Quarterly Update! The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) continues to make progress in the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) effort. Under the Resource Family Approval (RFA) program, foster family agencies will approve resource families, instead of certifying foster homes. The following foster family agencies have been selected to early implement the RFA Program by August 2016: Aldea, Aspiranet, Bienvenidos, Family Network Care, and Lilliput. Statewide implementation of the RFA program is set for January 1, 2017.

I would like to thank stakeholders for engaging in the various workgroups and providing us with their expertise as we all work collaboratively toward better outcomes for children serving the most vulnerable people of California through our mission to promote the health, safety, and quality of life of each person in community care. The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) is committed to continuing to strengthen and enhance our programs including offering guidance, education and valuable resources to providers. For additional information on CCR, please visit: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ccr/>.

Changes to the Children's Residential Program Management Personnel

Thomas Stahl

On behalf of the CDSS, we would like to offer Thomas Stahl well-deserved congratulations upon his upcoming retirement! Tom's last day with CCLD was June 30, 2016. Tom has been a part of the CCLD for numerous years and has contributed a great deal to the Division, as well as to other parts of the CDSS. For the past three years Tom has provided tremendous support, guidance and leadership to CCLD staff and community providers as the Regional Manager of the Northern California Children's Residential Regional Office.

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Prior to his current role, he was instrumental as Chief of the Policy Development Bureau, as well as leading staff in various parts of the Division as a Staff Services Manager I since 1996. While we celebrate Tom and wish him well in all endeavors that await him beyond retirement, we would also like to acknowledge how much he will be missed. Once again, CONGRATULATIONS Mr. Thomas Stahl and thank you for your dedication and service to so many!

Dona Watters

Dona Watters, Licensing Program Manager of the Chico Local Unit of the Children's Residential Program, will be retiring on July 30, 2016. The following is an account of Ms. Watters' career with CCL in her own words:

"Working as a Licensing Program Analyst and then a Licensing Program Manager for the Children's Residential Program has been the most rewarding career I could have ever imagined. I have enjoyed every day of being a part of this program in the Chico and

Sacramento offices, covering such a huge territory. I have a unit of LPAs who work together as a team and are always understanding of the importance of knowing when to prioritize when the time presents. The licensees are intelligent professionals who care about the children and although they do not always agree with us, they have worked with CCL to solve the issues. I am looking forward to traveling with my husband Paul in the states, seeing our daughter graduate from college (soon, I hope), and visiting Ireland. Paul and I will be working our small vineyard, now in the 6th year of production. We make wine like the "old days"—only no feet! There is so much to come with the reforms, but I remain ever confident that the incoming analysts and managers are more than capable of seeing CCL into the future. I have no plans as yet to come back."

On behalf of the California Department of Social Services, we would like to wish Ms. Watters well in her retirement.

New System Progress – Meet "CALs"

Did you know that CCLD is planning a new state-of-the-art innovative technology application to replace the Field Automation System (FAS) and the Licensing Information System (LIS)? Child Welfare Digital Services (CWDS) is overseeing the replacement of the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS).

In CWS-New System (CWS-NS), CWDS will be adding all of the licensing functionality needed by the Children's Residential Program, which will include all the functions that CCLD currently relies on from FAS and LIS.

By this fall, the software development team will begin work on developing the set of features in CWS-NS called the "Certification, Approval, and Licensing Services" (CALs). As early as summer 2017, the first features of CALs may

be in testing, or even in use by some Counties or CCLD field staff chosen as testers of the digital service. The projection for complete replacement of FAS and LIS for the Children's Residential Program (CRP) is December 2018, but any features that offer improvement to the use of the current systems will be delivered as soon as they are proven ready. The Adult and Senior Care Program, and Child Care Program will receive CALs shortly after CRP.

In the meantime, expect to start hearing more about CALs development. If you have questions or feedback about CALs, please send them to the CALs Team via Phoebe DeMund, at Phoebe.DeMund@dss.ca.gov. You can also follow the CWDS [website](#), [Twitter feed](#) or [LinkedIn account](#) for more information about CWS-NS and CALs progress.

- CWDS website:
<https://cwscms.osi.ca.gov/New-System>
- CWDS Twitter Feed:
https://twitter.com/CA_CWDS
- CWDS LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/> search “Child Welfare Digital Services”

Fresno Children’s Residential Regional Office Relocation

The CDSS Community Care Licensing Division is pleased to announce the relocation of our Fresno Children’s Residential Regional Office to its new location at 1314 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA, 93710. The move is scheduled to take place on July 5, 2016.

For your convenience, the main office line (559) 243-8080 and fax number (559) 243-8088 will remain the same. The cell phone numbers of the Licensing Program Analysts (LPAs) will also remain the same. This relocation is a step toward furthering the commitment of CDSS in upholding the

Department’s mission to serve, aid and protect needy and vulnerable children and adults in ways that strengthen and preserve families, encourage personal responsibility and foster independence.

We look forward to the opportunity this provides to augment our services to the public and look forward to seeing you at our new location. Any questions regarding the relocation can be directed to Susie Fanning, Licensing Program Manager or Melanie Linares, Licensing Program Manager at (559) 243-8080.

Swimming Pool Safety

With the approach of warmer summer weather and the use of swimming pools as a common means of finding both recreation and relief from the heat, caregivers are encouraged to review the applicable Title 22 regulations concerning pool safety. The primary focus of this article is on-the-premise swimming pool use in foster family homes, group homes, small family homes, and crisis nurseries.

“Swimming pool” includes in-ground and aboveground structures and includes, but is not limited to, hot tubs, spas, portable spas, and non-portable wading pools.

Pool Inaccessibility

With the exception of foster family homes, all children’s residential facilities serving children or clients who have physical handicaps, mental disorders, or developmental disabilities shall ensure the inaccessibility of pools, including swimming pools (in-ground and aboveground), fixed in-place wading pools, hot tubs, spas, fish

ponds or similar bodies of water through the use of a pool cover or by surrounding the pool with a fence. However, in foster family homes, a caregiver who accepts a child under 10 years of age or a child who is developmentally, mentally, or physically disabled shall ensure that swimming pools, fixed-in-place wading pools, hot tubs, spas, or similar bodies of water are inaccessible.

Means of Keeping the Pool Inaccessible

The following are the two ways to help keep the swimming pool inaccessible.

Fence: A wall or other barrier that isolates a swimming pool from access to the home. This fence must have the following specifications:

- It shall be five-feet (60 inches) high
- It shall not obscure the pool from view
- Its gate shall swing away from the pool, self-close, and have a self-latching device located no more than six inches from the top of the gate

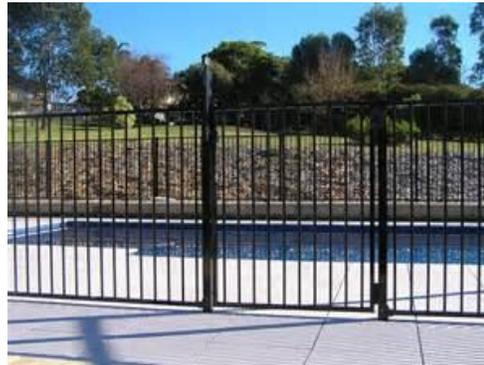
In cases where the above-ground pool structure is used as the fence or where the fence is mounted on top of the pool structure, the pool shall be made inaccessible (when not in use) by removing or making the ladder inaccessible, or by erecting a barricade to prevent access to the decking.

Pool Cover: An “approved safety pool cover” means a manually or power-operated safety pool cover that meets all of the performance standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), in compliance with standard F1346-91. Such a cover shall be: (1) strong enough to completely support the weight of an adult; and (2) shall be placed on the pool and locked while the pool is not in use.

Unique to Foster Family Homes and Certified Family Homes:

Exit alarms are required in foster family homes if it is determined by the licensing or approval agency that it is not possible for the licensee to put up a fence or install a pool cover.

A typical case is where a licensee resides in an



apartment complex and with a swimming pool common to all tenants and over whose management the licensee exercises no direct or exclusive control.

Care and Supervision

In foster family homes, an adult who has the ability to swim shall provide supervision at all times when a child is using a pool or a body of water. An adult other than a client shall be present at all times while clients are using a pool or other body of water from which rescue requires the rescuer's ability to swim.

Adults who supervise while clients are using a pool or other body of water from which rescue requires the rescuer's ability to swim, shall have a valid water safety certificate (GLR Section 80065(e)).

First Aid and CPR Training

In foster family homes, the caregiver shall complete and maintain current training in First Aid and CPR. Training shall be obtained from an agency offering such training including, but not limited to, the American Red Cross, and shall be appropriate to the child's age and needs.

Summer Heat Safety Tips

With family vacation trips and recreational excursions on the rise for the summer, caregivers seeking to provide age and developmentally appropriate enrichment activities for the children and youth in placement also have the duty to ensure their continued health and safety.

In the context of outdoor activities, such as hiking, competitive sports, picnicking, and trips to the beach, the avoidance of heat exhaustion and dehydration is a matter that should be considered—not just during the summer months but year-round whenever hot weather

approaches. Many activities can be enjoyed, provided sensible safety precautions are taken. In planning recreational outdoor activities for the summer, caregivers are advised to be aware of the heat-related dangers. In many parts of the state, summer temperatures can well exceed 110 degrees. Looking up the current or projected heat conditions can be an important part of proper planning and preparation for the outing.

Although heat-related illnesses can affect anyone, those most at risk are in fact children (particularly infants); those with pre-existing

physical or mental health issues; individuals taking certain medications; overweight individuals; and the elderly. A key intervention technique that licensees already have at their disposal is to frequently check on the children during the outings and to observe for any signs of heat-exhaustion or other telltale signs of heat-related illness.

Heat-related illnesses result when heat conditions exceed the body's ability to adequately cool itself in response. Heat-related illnesses exist in a continuum starting with heat cramps, elevating up to heat exhaustion, and, in the most serious case, resulting in heat stroke.

Heat cramps are muscle pains or spasms typically felt in the legs, arms, shoulders, and abdomen brought on by strenuous physical activity in hot weather in conjunction with heavy sweating. The depletion of the body's salt and essential minerals through the excess sweating is linked to the experiencing of the cramps. Heat cramps can serve as the initial warning signs to more serious complications that can result if ignored or left untreated, such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Heat exhaustion results from prolonged exposure to heat coupled with progressive dehydration. Beyond muscle cramps, symptoms may include: heavy sweating; paleness; fatigue; cool clammy skin; low blood-pressure when standing up; thirst; rapid heartbeat; nausea or vomiting; dizziness or fainting; intense headache; and fever.

Heat stroke is the most serious of the heat-related illnesses that can result in death or permanent bodily harm if emergency medical treatment is not provided. Heat stroke is marked by the complete failure of the body's sweating mechanism, at which point the body is no longer able to regulate its temperature (cool down). Symptoms may include: extremely

high body temperature (above 103 degrees); red, hot, and dry skin (no sweating); rapid, strong pulse; throbbing headache; dizziness; nausea; confusion; and unconsciousness.

The [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov), recommends immediate, on-site treatment of heat-related illnesses beginning with two basic steps: (1) immediately removing the affected person from the source of heat (i.e., discontinuing any physical activities and quickly getting the person out of direct sunlight); and (2) helping lower the person's body temperature (i.e., resting the person in a shaded area or an air-conditioned room (if available); gently applying cold water to the person by means of a damp towel, sponge, or mist-spray; and rehydrating the person with cool liquids free of alcohol, caffeine, or high levels of sugar).



If heat stroke is suspected, seek immediate medical assistance by calling 911 or taking the individual to the nearest emergency room for care.

Proper planning and preparation, combined with good situational awareness and the frequent monitoring of the children and youth during outdoor activities can help reduce the chances of heat-related illnesses. Basic tips to avoid heat-related complications on hot days include: remaining indoors as much as possible; visiting places where air-conditioning is available, such as malls; seeking shaded areas if outside; limiting outdoor physical activities to morning and evening; cutting down the duration and intensity of physical activities during the midday hours when the sun is strongest; drinking enough liquids to avoid feeling thirsty, and wearing light-weight, light-colored, and loose-fitting clothing.

Additionally, it is NEVER permissible to leave children unattended in a closed, parked vehicle regardless of the outside temperature, due to the immediate health and safety risk inherent

to such a practice, foreseeable in the form of death or serious bodily harm. The temperature inside a closed vehicle parked out in the hot sun can easily reach 140 degrees within minutes. For additional information:

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) About Extreme Heat](#)
[Keep Your Cool in Hot Weather](#)
[Prevent Child Heatstroke in Cars](#)
[Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness](#)

2016 Fire Season Advisory

Despite a relatively wet winter season, the U.S. Forest Service has recently warned of a difficult wildfire season ahead for this year in California. In light of this, licensees are reminded to take due fire-prevention measures with respect to their own facilities and to adequately plan for fire-related emergencies as indicated in their respective Emergency Disaster Plans ([LIC 610B](#) for foster family homes and [LIC 610C](#) for other children's residential facilities).

The [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection](#) offers helpful fire safety and emergency planning tips and related information online.

In addition to other reporting requirements particular to their facility type, licensees are required to report any fires or explosions occurring in or on their facility premises or

nearby wildfires either affecting the safe operation of their facilities or forcing a relocation to CCL within the agency's next working day, and during its normal business hours, followed by a written report to be submitted within seven days of the occurrence of the fire incident. Licensees of group homes, transitional housing placement programs, small family homes, and crisis nurseries are also required to immediately report any fires or explosions occurring in or on their facility premises to the local fire authority or, in areas without organized fire services, to the [State Fire Marshal](#) within 24 hours.

CCL tracks fires that may pose a danger to our facilities on a seven day a week, 24-hour basis. By notifying us if you have to relocate, we can assist you to ensure that your residents and children are safe and get the services they need.

Healthy Sexual Development Workgroup and Technical Support Guide

Beginning February 2016, CCLD and Children and Family Services Division (CFSD) have come together to form a work group to develop strategies that will support the healthy sexual development of youth in foster care, inform the regulation development process and facilitate the implementation of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16521.5, which addresses access to age-appropriate pregnancy prevention information for youth in foster care. A pregnancy prevention plan as well as a technical support guide for providers will be developed with input provided by stakeholders.

The pregnancy prevention plan is intended to inform County Welfare on their responsibilities to foster youth related to pregnancy prevention. The technical support guide is intended to advise foster caregivers of key issues relating to the healthy sexual development of youth in foster care and pregnancy prevention. The next meeting will be held July 26, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at CDSS 744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you would like to be added to the participant list, please provide your name and contact information to CFSSexualDevelopmentWorkgroup@dss.ca.gov

Use of Cell Phones by Foster Youth

The nationwide rate of cell phone and electronics usage among teens has increased significantly, and uncertainty about policies surrounding this issue in Children's Residential Facilities has respectively grown as well. Licensees have requested further clarification of licensing regulations regarding current cell phone policies.

Licensees have been advised that they may outline cell phone or electronic communication device usage policies within their general house rules (for example: between the hours of 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., or after any/all homework is completed). Please note this policy is not intended to be in conflict or restrict

phone calls afforded to children in foster care via their personal rights. Licensees may also outline conditions of cell phone or electronic communication device usage, specific to each youth, in the youth's Needs and Services Plan. If the youth's particular use of the cell phone or electronic communication device violates the conditions of their Needs and Services Plan, it is then permissible to confiscate the youth's cell phone or electronic communication device as a disciplinary measure or in situations in which the usage has caused an immediate threat to the youth's health and safety. Licensees may not, however, impose blanket prohibitions on telephone or electronic communication device access and usage.

IMPORTANT INFO AND PHONE NUMBERS

Centralized Complaint Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
Foster Care Rates	916-651-9152
Caregiver Background Check Bureau (CBCB)	1-888-422-5669
Foster Care Ombudsman	1-877-846-1602
CCL Public Inquiry and Response	916-651-8848
Technical Support Program	916-654-1541

Notes and Credits

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) publishes the Children's Residential Program Quarterly Update for the benefit of Licensees, Parents, Clients, Residents, and Stakeholders.

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