



THE COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION'S Quarterly Update

FALL 2019

CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL UPDATE

Children's Residential Licensing Program Mission:

To protect and improve the lives of all youth who reside in a community care facility through the administration of a transparent licensing system that is collaborative, fair, and supportive of families.

A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

Welcome to the Fall 2019 Children's Residential Program Quarterly Update. It's a time of transition as leaves change color and children head back to school. Here at CDSS, transition includes the appointment of a new Director, Kim Johnson. She has worked on children's issues throughout her career in both the public and non-profit sectors and I look forward to working with her as we continue to implement the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), and Resource Family Approval (RFA) initiatives.

In July, several powerful earthquakes centered in Ridgecrest in Kern County rocked Central and Southern California and were felt as far as Las Vegas and Sacramento. This Quarterly Update includes information on earthquake preparedness to help caregivers guard against unpredictable but inevitable temblors.

A Provider Information Notice (PIN) sent to all licensed community care providers focused on emergency preparedness. [PIN 19-07-CCLD](#) provides information to help care providers prepare for extreme heat, public safety power shutoffs and wildfire emergencies. In many parts of California, heat danger can persist well into Fall and the worst fires in state history have occurred during the Fall months. These include the Camp Fire (Butte County) in November of last year, the Tubbs Fire (Sonoma County) in October 2017, and the Thomas Fire (Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties) in December 2017. While the PIN notes that wildfires may no longer be a seasonal concern, but a year-round risk, history warns us to be especially vigilant in the Fall.

We have integrated trauma informed care (TIC) as a fundamental component of CCR. Children's Residential Program (CRP) recognizes the importance of developing a trauma-informed organizational culture such that CRP staff are equipped to facilitate the implementation of TIC across the range of CRP facilities. In 2018, CRP partnered with Richard Knecht and Rebecca Buchmiller of the Children and Family Services Division to provide TIC training to Licensing Program Analysts (LPAs) statewide. Beginning in October 2019, CRP will be contracting with RADY Children's Hospital to work with CRP leadership and staff to develop a trauma-informed organizational culture through training and regional in-person technical assistance.

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Earthquake Preparedness

According to the [United States Geological Survey](#), there are hundreds of earthquakes in California each year. Many of them are too small to be felt; however, some can cause damage, so it is best to be prepared. Most hazards in an earthquake are caused by loose objects in and around homes and buildings. The [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#), [Homeland Security](#), and the [California Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Office](#) provide helpful information and links on how to prepare for earthquakes, along with our [Disaster Resources website](#), which has information and

links on how to reassure and protect our children in care.



A New Way to Subscribe for Updates

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) regularly sends important information to providers and stakeholders by way of Provider Information Notices (PIN), Quarterly Update Newsletters and other communications. Have you registered to receive these updates? Anyone can subscribe to be on the distribution list to receive information from any of the licensing programs (Adult and Senior Care, Child Care Advocate Program, and Children's Residential Program).

To sign up, go directly to [CCLD website](#) and click on [Receive Important Updates](#). There, you can register to receive updates by inputting your email address and making the selection of program(s) from which you are interested in obtaining information. You may also refer to [PIN 19-09-CCLD](#) for more information.

Healthy Habits – Scrubbing Up

Regular handwashing can help prevent illness and the spread of germs. Many diseases and conditions are spread by people simply not washing their hands regularly with soap and clean running water. Hands should always be washed before handling, preparing or eating food, when serving meals to children and after using the restroom, handling garbage or dirty dishes and coughing or sneezing.

Handwashing is simple and involves five effective steps: wet, lather, scrub, rinse, dry. Handwashing is a win for everyone except germs and can keep us all from getting sick.

Additional information may be found at: [Mayo Clinic](#)



Using a Staff Training Hours Tally Sheet

An important part of ensuring the health and safety of children and youth is making sure caregivers and facility staff are current with their initial and ongoing training requirements. Although there isn't a required method of recording this information in Title 22 Regulations or Interim Licensing Standards, it is a requirement that the information be made available for the licensing and/or approving agencies to verify or inspect.

A best practices method that can both assist the licensee or approved Resource Family to easily stay on top of the training hours and also help the evaluator quickly identify the status of staff trainings is to develop a training hours tally. This can come in the form of a printed log or an electronic spreadsheet. A tally sheet should contain information clearly identifying the trainings received, in addition to tallying up the training hours total.

Though a convenient tool for providing an "at a glance" tracking of where the training hours stand, tally sheets do not take the place of documents

that verify that the trainings actually took place, such as certificates of completion, sign-in sheets, receipts, etc. Maintaining documents verifying the trainings received is a requirement.

The following is a list of sections in Title 22 Regulations and Interim Licensing Standards relating to this subject:

Group Homes & STRTPs:

[Title 22 Section 80066\(a\)\(6\) & \(c\) – Personnel Records](#)
[STRTP Interim Licensing Standards Section 87066\(b\)\(4\) – Personnel Records](#)

Foster Family Homes:

[Title 22 Section 89244\(c\) – Inspection and Evaluation Authority of the Licensing Agency](#)
[Title 22 Section 89405 – Training Requirements](#)

Resource Family Homes:

[FFA Interim Licensing Standards Section 88372 – Annual and Other Training](#)

Where Your Drinking Water Comes From

Public water utility companies are required to regularly test water for contaminants to meet safe drinking water standards. Each year, the water company must prepare a “Consumer Confidence Report” to explain its water quality to customers. You can find this report online or ask your water company for a copy to see the water test results and any possible recommendations.

Keep in mind...

Some pipes and fixtures may contain lead, copper, or other chemicals that contaminate drinking water as it travels through the pipes in the house to the faucet. Consider replacing drinking water faucets older than 2010, as they might be a potential source of lead.

If you get your drinking water from a private well...

The water needs to be tested for contaminants to make sure it is safe to drink. Places and activities near homes or facilities, such as farming, or industrial practices, can contaminate private well water. Water can be contaminated even if it looks, smells, and tastes good. For guidance on what to test for, how often to test, and how to treat well water if needed, read about recommended [best practices for well owners](#).



New Inspection Process Updates

CCLD continues to develop comprehensive inspection tools for the Children’s Residential Program in preparation of the pilot scheduled to launch this fall. The preparation activities include finalizing the inspection tools, creating pilot manuals, updating necessary forms, developing training materials and conducting staff training. The Licensing Program Analysts (LPA) who will participate in the pilot have been selected and Approximately two weeks before the pilot is scheduled to begin, the Department will identify the list of eligible facilities to participate (i.e. those that are due for annual inspections during the pilot period).

LPAs, and in some instances, their managers, will conduct the inspections in these facilities using the pilot tools. The inspections in which a manager accompanies the LPA are for “inter-rater reliability” purposes and will be used by the Department to determine the consistency of the pilot tools. These tandem visits will be randomly performed on 20% of the pilot inspections.

The Department issued a notice to providers about the upcoming pilot via [PIN 19-06-CRP](#). The Children’s Residential pilot will last three months. We encourage all participants to complete the post-inspection surveys in order

to help the Department improve the new inspection tools and provide helpful feedback. The Department will share the findings from the pilot once available.



Management Information

Dara Campos, newly promoted Licensing Program Manager in the Sacramento Regional Office effective 8/5/19.



Are you interested in becoming part of the Community Care Licensing team?

Please apply at: [CalCareers](#)

- Information on how to apply for a State job can be found at the [Cal Career website](#).

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

Please remember to check for new [Provider Information Notices \(PINS\)](#).

Program Administrator:

Jean Chen

Assistant Program Administrators:

Angela Carmack – North

Lenora Scott – South