Maryland’s Center for Excellence (CfE) in Foster Family Development

Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) Overview for Preproposal Conference

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The Administration for Families and Children (ACF), Health and Human Services Children’s Bureau awarded DHS a four-year grant to create a Center for Excellence in Foster Family Development (CfE), the only one of these grants awarded in the country.

The Maryland Center for Excellence in Foster Family Development is implementing a pilot program for the engagement, development, and support of resource (foster and kin) families.

The goal of the CfE is to promote reunification of children with their families of origin and to minimize congregate care placements by providing resource parents with enhanced support services.

Implemented in 5 local sites (Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County).
CfE Goals and Objectives

1. Improve retention rates and agency relationships with resource families;

2. Increase numbers of resource families prepared to provide enhanced supports to children and their families towards reunification;

3. Develop resource families in the neighborhoods and communities children in foster care most come from and where those children will be placed to prevent additional trauma to children;

4. Comprehensive biological family support services and timely, stable reunifications;

5. Improve permanency stability, family and community connections, and well-being outcomes for children placed with resource families; and

6. Reduce inappropriate use of congregate care.
What is CfE MRSS?

• Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) will use federal funds awarded to the State of Maryland by the ACF, Children’s Bureau.

• Provide crisis stabilization services in the home within one hour after the placement of the child/youth into foster care and stabilization services up to 8 weeks if needed. Stabilization services may or may not be needed if the child/youth returns home as part of the CfE model’s reunification goal.

• Crisis Assessment Tool (CAT) to provide an immediate assessment of the child/youth who is placed in a foster home.

• Serve up to 30 youth per jurisdiction across the contract year. The caseload may be less for the smaller jurisdictions (Frederick and Carroll).

• The CfE will offer MRSS as one of the main supports to resource parents and children/youth participating in the pilot.

• MRSS model does not currently exist in the State of Maryland. The CfE will be the first to pilot this process in Maryland.
## Deliverables and Reporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crisis Assessment Tool (CAT)</td>
<td>Completed at initial assessment</td>
<td>Within 24 hours after service delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis/Safety Care Plan</td>
<td>Completed for initial crisis</td>
<td>Within 72 hours after service delivery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stabilization Plan</td>
<td>Outline of services to be provided during the stabilization period</td>
<td>Within 72 hours prior to the implementation of the service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes Report</td>
<td>Contractor will submit the report upon completion of MRSS services for each youth</td>
<td>Within 5 business days after the service ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>CfE MRSS Quarterly Report Template</td>
<td>Contractor will submit in accordance with Contract guidelines</td>
<td>Quarterly on or before the 15th day of October, January, April, and July</td>
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<tr>
<td>CfE MRSS Evaluation Tracking Tool Template</td>
<td>Client and Family Satisfaction Survey, LDSS Satisfaction Survey</td>
<td>90-days prior to the end of the contract</td>
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MHSS VS MRSS

- **Mental Health Stabilization Services (MHSS)**
  - referrals are made and defined by child welfare
  - funding stream is **state general funds**

- **CfE MRSS is a pilot program**

- **Statewide MRSS is the end goal integrating the same best practice/model as CfE MRSS**
  - MHSS to be replaced by MRSS, **bridging them together in alignment for the future statewide practice** of providing crisis and stabilization services
  - **One model**, streamlining in time
  - MDH/BHA and DHS/SSA **working together to align the process**
Closing Remarks

• Maryland is the only state in the country to receive the CfE grant, model to be used statewide, ultimately best practice for other states to follow
• The caseload is minimum at present
• Opportunity to be at the Frontend of new model
• As a vendor you have a chance to be a part of transformational change in child welfare as the MRSS best practice model will be integrated and implemented statewide.