Probation Service Definition

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS & PROBATION

Service Name	**Agency Supported Foster Care** ☐ **Adult** ☒ **Juvenile**
Category	Out-of-Home Placement/Non-treatment
Setting	Residential
Facility License	Child Placing Agency license as required by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Public Health
Service Description	Agency Based Foster Care is a temporary placement that is provided in a licensed foster home when family or kinship options are not available. The agency is expected to ensure background checks are completed per child placing agency license. The foster home is supported by a licensed agency or through the Department of Health and Human Services. The foster home provides 24-hour care and supervision for youth by a trained foster family. The agency based foster home and agency is responsive to the youth's needs throughout the entire day and night, is prepared to intervene in crisis situations and collaborates with the youth's parent/caregiver to provide effective parenting in order to support sustainable success. Youth in agency based foster care require consistent behavior management, supervision and crisis support to ensure their access to education, treatment services and family/prosocial supports are not disrupted while more long-term plans are developed. Foster families will provide a safe, learning and nurturing environment to help youth facilitate change in their behavior, attitudes, and personal interactions.
Service Expectations	• The agency with the youth, Probation/Problem-Solving Court Officer and other stakeholders identified will develop a written individualized service plan based on services referral information (criminogenic risk, needs and responsivity) relevant collateral documentation/assessments and youth goals. • The initial plan will be developed within 72 hours of placement and must address goals to include: behavioral, treatment/evaluation services, medication compliance, education, transition planning, and criminogenic risk levels. • The written plan shall include approval by the Probation/Problem-Solving Court Officer and/or court to allow youth community access to participate in education, treatment and planned supervised outings, home visits, etc. • A crisis (safety, risk reduction) plan shall be developed and updated as needed throughout the service. The youth, parent/guardian caregiver must be able to demonstrate they have the knowledge and skills to implement the crisis plan. The crisis plan will be shared with the probation/problem solving court officer. • The plan shall include approval by the Probation/Problem-Solving Court Officer and/or court to allow youth community access to participate in education, treatment and planned supervised outings, home visits, etc.

	• Provide a structured living environment to include evidence-based youth developmental principles (physical, psychological, emotional), community engagement/ support, and family engagement. • Participation in family team meetings to provide necessary information on the youth's behavior and progress in agency based foster care as well as assist the family in preparing for the youth's return home or necessary placement. • The agency will document the progress toward the individualized daily program schedule in their reports. Probation/ problem solving court officer will verify with staff to determine if progress is being made. If progress is not indicated, the staff shall provide a rationale as to what changes will be made to initiate a plan to increase progress. • Family engagement shall include regular phone contact and visitation with family members as authorized by Probation/Problem Solving Court Officer and/or the court. Family engagement shall be flexible to meet the non-traditional hours needed by families. Phone contact and visits shall not be tied to behavior management and shall not be removed as a consequence. • Intentional home visits should be planned with the youth, youth's family, foster family, supporting agency, and Probation/Problem-Solving Court Officer and shall be utilized to enhance family functioning and in the achievement of service goals. Home visits shall be in the family home, and the visits shall not be removed as a consequence of behavior. • The agency will ensure 24-hour crisis intervention is available to aid in the stabilization of crisis situations. • Agency based foster home and the supporting agency will ensure that educational needs are being met. Youth shall attend their home school whenever possible • When the foster parent is not available for supervision, the agency will assume responsibility for the youth unless: Pre-planned structure needs are being met through formal and/or informal services. • When the youth are in need of supervision as a result of a change in daily structure (e.g. suspension from school, sickness, etc.) it is the primary responsibility of the foster parent and foster care agency to seek and secure appropriate supervision alternatives. • The agency will ensure respite care is provided to the foster parents as needed and outlined in the Professional Foster Care plan. • If a youth is gone without permission (after they have been in attendance at the facility) and does not return or cannot be located within 2 hours, the provider/agency will contact the assigned Probation/problem Solving Court Officer or if occurring after hours, the on-call/after hours contact identified for that youth. The agency will continue to make efforts to locate and engage with the youth, parent, and probation until the youth is

	located and/or discharged. Such efforts should be clearly documented and included in the documentation to probation including the dates /hours the youth's whereabouts were unknown and the efforts made to locate them. • Provide transportation as necessary to and from dental and medical appointments, school, court, therapy, home visits and routine day-to-day activities. o Transportation costs within a 25-mile radius of the service placement (service delivery location) will be the responsibility of the Provider at no additional cost to Probation. o Trips beyond 25 miles requires prior collaborative planning with the probation officer and parent/guardian(s) to guarantee attendance at court, home visits, and other required obligations. • Discharges will be thoughtful and planned. If the agency based foster family asks for the youth to be removed from the home, the family shall agree to provide care for the youth for at least 14 calendar days. • If the agency based foster family requests a youth to be removed from the home, a family engagement meeting shall be held within (3) three business days to develop a transition plan for the youth. The plan will include needs related to educational, clinical, living, environment and court approval etc. • The agency will collaborate and proactively plan with Probation/Problem-Solving Court Officer for the discharge of youth from service, this will plan will begin upon placement to the foster home. During this process a trauma informed approach will be utilized to prepare the youth for the transition to ensure the most appropriate post-discharge placement is available for the youth prior to discharge. Criteria for discharge will be individualized, determined by the team, and approved by the court. • When the youth's discharge is not planned, the provider shall give Probation/Problem-Solving Court Officer a fourteen (14)-calendar day written notice. During the fourteen (14) days, the agency shall use a trauma informed approach to prepare the youth for the impending discharge and will work collaboratively with probation to determine the most appropriate transition or post discharge placement for the youth. The court must approve all discharges and placement changes. • A fourteen (14)-calendar day written notice is not required when the provider and probation mutually agree that it is in the best interests of the client to move sooner. • Probation/Problem-Solving Court Officer may make an immediate change in placement without court approval only if the juvenile is in a harmful or dangerous situation (e.g. natural disaster). Approval of the court shall be sought within twenty-four hours after making the change in placement or as soon thereafter as possible. The office shall provide all interested parties with a copy of any report filed with the court by the office pursuant to this subsection. Reference NE Revised Statute 43-297.01. Probation/Problem-Solving Court Officer will work collaboratively with facility staff or foster parent(s) to determine if an immediate change in placement is

	necessary. The team will work collaboratively to execute a plan for the youth's immediate placement. The youth's educational, environmental, and emotional needs will all be addressed in this plan. Program plan required ☐ Yes ☒ No
Service Frequency	24 hours/7 days a week
Length of Service	Up to 6 months
Staffing	• Child Placing Agency License as approved by the DHHS - Division of Public Health • Foster home and supporting agency will comply with all staffing requirements of the Residential Child Placing Agency license related to NE statue 71-1901 to 71-1907 • All foster families will have training on evidence-based youth developmental principles (emotional, physiological), trauma informed care, best practice in juvenile justice, and criminogenic risk and needs This service requires Criminogenic Continuing Education Hours ☐ Yes ☒ No
Staff to Client Ratio	Staffing ratios will be provided based on the DHHS-Division of Public Health licensing regulations for foster homes. Foster home and supporting agency will comply with all staffing requirements of the Residential Child Placing Agency license related to NE statute 71-1901 to 71-1907.
Hours of Operation	24 hours/7 days a week
Service Desired Outcomes	• Youth will stabilize and show improved functioning based on successful completion of the individualized plan, including initial goals and reduction of identified criminogenic risk. • Prevention of placement in a more restrictive environment, and a demonstration of improved family functioning between youth and family. • The primary outcome is to enable the youth to move back home as soon as referral goals are met.
Unit and Rate	See rate sheet.