



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 6, 2021

TO: NLACRC Consumers, Family Members, and Residential Service Providers

FROM: Jesse Weller, Chief of Program Services

RE: Placement Review & Visitation/Safety Plans due to COVID-19

Placement Review Process:

Out of an abundance of caution for health and safety, North Los Angeles County Regional Center ("NLACRC") continues to monitor all placement requests for the individuals that we serve. Pursuant to W&I Code Section 4639.6, to limit the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19, the Director of the Department of Developmental Services ("DDS") issued a directive to regional centers that the Department had to grant approval prior to any placement into a residential setting licensed by the California Department of Social Services or Department of Public Health. This Directive has sunset thus allowing regional centers to review and approve requests for placements. As we embark at the start of this New Year, we want to redistribute the process for NLACRC Placements & Visitation/Safety Plans as we continue to navigate the pandemic.

NLACRC implemented a Placement Review Team in March 2020 that meets at least daily, Monday-Friday. The Placement Review team consists of a multi-disciplinary team, comprised of Consumer Services, Community Services, Nursing Staff, Behavioral Staff, and our Placement Specialist. This team reviews all placement requests for residential care facilities, intermediate care facilities, enhanced behavioral support homes, adult residential for persons with specialized health needs, specialized residential facilities, family home agencies, and foster family agencies. Please note, NLACRC also reviews and collaborates on DCFS placements for NLACRC consumers, regardless of who is the placing agency of the minor/dependent child.

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform our community that Service Coordinators and/or the Placement Review Team will be following up with residential service providers to explore the health and safety of any placement or visitation/safety plan.

The Placement Review team reviews the requests for placement of consumers who are discharged from a psychiatric or medical hospital, skilled nursing facility, a congregate living setting, or homeless shelter where the request for the consumer is to return to their existing placement. This includes individuals who are returning to their current placement from another setting. The placement review team also reviews placement requests for individuals residing in a family home for an extended duration. This is to ensure that program planning occurs to address the health and safety of the consumer, other residents, and for our service providers.

The Service Coordinator will be collaborating with residential providers and will be completing Placement Request Forms and/or Visitation Safety Plans. The Placement Request Form was designed for NLACRC staff to assess all-important areas as it relates to a new placement or for returning home from a potential at-risk area for COVID-19.

As indicated in the Placement Request Form that is completed by Service Coordinators, a critical component to assessing the request is to consult with the residential service provider to collaborate if a placement request or return to the facility is appropriate (i.e., is provider able to implement safety precautions, social distancing measures, isolation procedures if applicable, etc.) It is also an opportunity to assess if the provider has sufficient PPE/EPG. If Residential Service Providers have health and safety plans developed for their respective homes, please provide a copy to your Service Coordinator and Service Coordinators will include in the request.

Visitation and Safety Plans:

In addition, NLACRC is aware that some of our consumers may arrange a visit or stay with their families or their loved ones for a pre-determined number of days, most often overnight or weekend stays away from their current placement. As such, program planning needs to occur to address health and safety during the overnight visit and/or weekend stay. A visitation and safety plan needs to be developed in collaboration with NLACRC and residential service providers, along with any individuals who are part of the visitation plan to ensure all proactive measures for safety are explored. For requests related to visitation /safety plans, the Service Coordinator and their Supervisor will review and support or not support the plans due to health and safety. These requests do not need to come to the Placement Review Team.

However, if NLACRC staff are informed, if there is a complex matter or a situation that may evolve from a visitation/safety plan into a placement consultation, consultation will be sought.

If you have any questions please contact your assigned Service Coordinator and/or their respective Supervisor.

If you are a Residential Service Provider and need clarification on the Placement Review Process, you may contact Emmanuel Gutierrez, Consumer Services Manager, at 818/756-6242.

We look forward to continuing the collaboration with all of you to ensure the health and safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Jesse Weller
Chief of Program Services

CC: Emmanuel Gutierrez, Consumer Services Manager