



Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

Practice Matters :

Caregiver Resources & Matching

October 30, 2014

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Foster Care Services Director

Where will they live while in foster care ?

- Least Intrusive
- Least Restrictive
- Most Appropriate
- Proximity
- Siblings
- School Location
- Permanency Plan
- MEPA / ICWA
- Partnership Parenting
- PBP Grade



State Level Current Concerns

DFCS

- **Increased Requests for**
 - Placement Assistance
 - CCI Waivers for Children 10 and Under
 - State-funded PRTF / Crisis Beds
 - Reports of Hoteling / Overnights in DFCS Offices
 - Frenetic Approach to MATCHING
 - Unrealistic Expectations
- **Resource Development**
 - Understaffed
 - Low Priority
 - Over-reliance on providers

Providers

- Intake Barriers
 - Front Door Staff
 - Availability
 - “Cherry Picking”
 - Lack of Immediacy
 - Not Meeting Expectations



What would it take to create “no reject/
no eject” placements?

What would it take to address meet the
immediacy issues in placement
matching? (We need a placement
now, not tomorrow.)

What does MWO really mean today? (If
you are an MWO provider, why are you
rejecting MWO youth).



Highlights for the MWO Provider Meeting



Discussion Points from MWO Providers

Need for foster homes with only 1 child in them

Ability to Take Right Now/ Emergency Placements

Lack of Information from the DFCS Staff Making the Referral

Lack of Responsiveness and Professionalism from DFCS Staff

RBWO Specialty Providers—Establishing Qualifications / Guidelines

Risk Averse- Concern about citations / fines

Youth Who Run

Sexually Aggressive Youth

Youth with High Levels of Aggression

DFCS Placement Matchers

Relationships

- Host conversations with your provider community
- Attend Practice Matters/Provider Leadership Meetings
- Build relationships with key people in the organization
- Communicate with the provider leadership organizations

Reputation

- Follow-up and follow-through
- Return calls and emails
- Check up the next day; see your children and the caregiver
- Make sure your providers can get paid; update SHINES appropriately and immediately





Highlights for the Supervisor's Summit



Key Concerns

- Refusal to accept DJJ youth or those with high aggression.
- MWO providers discharging children for the behaviors that they accepted at placement
- Urban Legends Practices: providers not clear on RCC Rules or RBWO Standards
- Providers unwilling to accept sibling groups
- Providers not accepting youth that meet their written admissions criteria
- CPAs inability to manage crisis issues involving foster homes
- Providers “claim” beds are full
- Not admitting 24/7/365 as per contract
- Providers unable to meet children’s specialized needs
- Provider’s unwilling to give children second chances





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Small-Group Discussions

