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Qualified Settings

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
FFPSA Qualified Settings and Program Requirements
FFPSA Qualified Setting Types

- Enhanced Family Foster Home
- Independent Living
- Maternity
- Safe House
- At-Risk of Sex Trafficking
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program
QRTP
Credential & Program Requirements
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

A therapeutic group home with a QRTP credential.

Population Served: Youth, age 17 and under, who have serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances

Exclusionary Criteria

• Emergency placements
• Secure shelter for the child
• Acute psychiatric crisis: referred to a crisis stabilization unit
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Program Requirements

- Accreditation
- Trauma Informed Treatment Model
- Availability of Clinical Services
- Family Engagement
- Background Screening Requirements
- Discharge and Aftercare Support
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Accreditation

- Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
- The Joint Commission, formerly known as Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)
- Council on Accreditation (COA)
- Any other not-for-profit accrediting agency approved by the Children’s Bureau
  - Send request to regional licensing team
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Nursing Staff

• Registered or licensed nursing staff and licensed clinical staff on-site according to treatment model.
• Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
• May be contracted providers.
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Utilize Trauma-Informed Treatment Model

- Responsible for the development of service and treatment plans
- Policy/Documentation
- Optional Resource: The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Basic Service Requirements

Treatment options

- Substance abuse and mental health screening and treatment, if applicable
- Family, group, or individual therapy
- Behavioral management
- Psychiatric services
- Specialized intervention services
- Social & rehabilitative services
- Psycho-educational services
- Support groups
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Family Engagement Requirements
- Treatment program
- Inclusion in family therapy
- Outreach to family members, including siblings

Family Engagement Documentation Requirements
- Family integration into the treatment process and post-discharge
- Maintaining sibling connections
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Background Screening Requirements

All Direct Care Staff and adult household members:

- NCIC/FCIC
- Juvenile Justice
- Florida Abuse and Neglect History
- Out of State Abuse History

Children of staff ages 12 to 17:

- Juvenile Justice
Developed with input from the child, the child’s parent or guardian, foster parents, caregiver, Department, and guardian ad litem.

The child’s diagnosis shall be considered during discharge planning and development.

Copy shall be provided to the child’s welfare professional.
**Qualified Residential Treatment Program**

**Aftercare**

- 6 months aftercare supports

- Developed at least one month prior to discharge.

- Align to meet the needs of a child with intent placement in the most appropriate, least restrictive setting.

**Aftercare Support Eligibility**

Not required for youth who discharge to another QRTP setting or Statewide In-Patient Psychiatric Program (SIPP)
Community service coordination for the youth and their family/caregiver.

Service referrals linked and barriers to access services are eliminated.

Minimum of two (2) contacts per month
- One face-to-face or telehealth contact with youth and family/caregiver.

Provide written progress reports every 30 calendar days to the CWP. Progress reported to the courts at judicial review.
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Contract/Sub-Contract with a Community Provider
- Outlined in policy (contracting)
- Vendor listing (providers)

Aftercare Support Responsibility
- QRTP provides all supports
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Suitability Assessment

Completed prior to placement by a Qualified Evaluator (QE)

Qualified Evaluator:

1. Psychiatrist or Psychologist licensed in Florida

2. Two years' experience working with children or adolescents involved in the child welfare system of care

3. No actual or perceived conflict of interest with placement in a QRTP

4. Completed training pertaining to the population of children in the child welfare system.

When therapeutic placement is recommended:
Always begin with a QRTP credentialed placement
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

**Assessment Components**

- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Trauma Comprehension Assessment Tool
- Review of Prior Treatment Records
- Speak with Relevant Parties
- Recommendation from the Child’s Treating Clinical Professional
- Interview with the Child
- QRTP Recommendation

**Suitability Assessment**
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

The QE shall recommend one of the following placement options:

1. Placement in a specialized therapeutic group home (STGH)
2. Non-residential placement (Placement in a less restrictive setting with wraparound services)
3. Placement in a psychiatric residential treatment center (inpatient)
Reconsiderations

- Missing components to the clinical record
- Child has experienced a decompensation in mental or behavioral health functioning since the assessment

Copy of assessment must be provided to the following parties to allow the opportunity to discuss the findings with the evaluator:

- QRTP
- Department/ CBC/CMO
- GAL
- Court
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

QE does not recommend placement:

Multidisciplinary team shall offer to assist in developing a plan for necessary treatment and support services for the child in the community.

Child must be moved from the program within 30 calendar days of the recommendation.
Court Approval

Courts must consider the QRTP assessment, determination, and documentation made by the QE.

If placement is approved by the initial 60-day court review, the QE must conduct an independent suitability assessment review at least every 90 days.

If the court orders the child to be placed in a QRTP after the QE does not recommend placement, the assigned child welfare professional shall request a reconsideration from the QE.

Child must be moved from the QRTP within 30 days if the court denies the motion to place the child into a QRTP or orders the placement of the child into a less restrictive setting during a review hearing.
Continuing Placement

A child may not be placed in a QRTP for more than:

- 12 consecutive months, or
- 18 nonconsecutive months, or
- 6 consecutive or non-consecutive months (under the age of 13)

Approval of the RMD or designee to exceed timeframes & SAMH clinical team

The Department shall provide a determination within seven (7) business days of the extension request
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Continuing Placement

Elopement or Baker Act

- May be readmitted into the same or newly identified QRTP without an additional assessment
  - So long as the child was not discharged from the QRTP
Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Continuing Placement

Transfer from one QRTP to another

- New assessment is not required
- Must not be a lapse in placement
- CBC must coordinate an MDT
  - Both QRTP providers must participate
  - Discuss the child’s identified needs
  - Sharing of records to allow for adequate continuation of services and treatment.
When a child is placed in a QRTP, the case plan must include the following:

- Documentation outlining the most recent assessment for a QRTP
- Date of the most recent placement in a QRTP
- A copy of the signed QRTP Extended Placement Request approval by the Department
- The treatment or service needs of the child
- A transition plan for the child specifying the following:
  1. Placement setting upon discharge;
  2. Efforts to achieve permanency if child remains in out-of-home care
  3. Discharge criteria
  4. Aftercare support recommendations for the child and caregiver(s).
- Aftercare progress reports shall be uploaded into FSFN and notification provided to the courts on the child’s progress during a judicial review.
Question & Answer Session