

Children with HIV/AIDS in OOHC Tip Sheet

Children in Out of Home Care:

- All HIV infected children are referred for placement consideration, regardless of placement type.
- All referrals are to be labeled with: "Child has serious health care needs." Only the program for which the child has been approved for admission is entitled to receive HIV information.
- No child may be denied acceptance to foster care, group home, or residential treatment facility solely on the basis of HIV infection.
- All HIV infected children to be placed in OOHC are placed in a special needs or medically complex foster home, group home or residential setting with the following considerations:
 - Other children placed in a foster home are safe from harm and infection by:
 - Placing the child in a home with no other children; or
 - Ensuring that children with uncontrolled behaviors due to emotional illness or to age are placed in a setting that assures that other children in the home are not put at risk.
 - The ability of the HIV infected child in a facility setting to manage his aggressive or sexual behaviors;
 - The maturity and ability of other clients in a facility to protect themselves from infection and manage their own aggressive or sexual behaviors;
 - The ability of the placement to provide for a child whose immune system has been severely impaired to minimize exposure to childhood diseases and infections from other children.

(The factors listed above may not preclude placement acceptance, but are to be taken into consideration with the operating agency's program, structure and supervision capabilities)

Children Eligible for Adoptive Placement:

- All HIV infected children are accepted for adoptive placement consideration.
- A child with known HIV infection may not be placed into an adoptive placement until the adoptive parents have been informed of the child's condition or family history.
- The adoption preparation process is to include HIV/AIDS education and may be referred to medical sources for additional information.

The SSW completes the following steps for a child in out of home care with HIV/AIDS:

- If not already completed, follows procedures in SOP C7.7.2 DCBS Medically Complex to determine medically complex classification;
- Discloses on an as needed basis the HIV status and specific health care needs of the child once a placement has agreed to accept a child based on referral information;
- Regularly monitors the placement to confirm its ability to protect the HIV infected child from opportunistic infections, its capacity to provide or arrange for intensive medical services as needed by the child and to ensure protection of any additional committed children in the same OOHC placement;
- Has the adoptive parent's sign a statement indicating their awareness and understanding of the child's condition at the adoption.