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**Prevention Contract Correspondence Transmittal, 23-01**

<b>PCCT Number: 23-01</b>	<b>Date of Issue: 8/23/23</b>
<b>Issuance: Division of Prevention and Community Well-Being, Amanda Body, Director- <i>AB</i></b>	
<b>Key Words/Phrases: Prevention Services Referral Changes, Target Child, Adding a New Child</b>	

The purpose of this Prevention Contract Correspondence Transmittal (PCCT) is to provide updated guidance to contracted providers regarding defining and documentation of target child(ren) and adding new child(ren) to prevention services. As of August 5, 2023, the Prevention Services Referral was updated, including the removal of identification of a target child, and to allow DCBS staff to add new children to existing prevention services referrals.

The Family Preservation and Reunification Program currently uses the designation of target child to identify the child(ren) in the home between the ages of 0-17, who has been identified by DCBS as being at risk of entering DCBS custody or who has been placed out of the home and will be transitioning back into the care of a parent in the near future. This designation has been removed due to it being synonymous with how candidates for foster care are defined under IVE prevention services.

Candidate for Foster Care is defined as meeting one of the following criteria:

1. A victim of substantiated maltreatment in which existing safety and risk factors can be mitigated by provision of in-home services;
2. A child for whom maltreatment has not been substantiated, however, moderate to severe risk factors for maltreatment are present and services are necessary to prevent maltreatment and subsequent entry into foster care;
3. A child who has recently been reunified for whom services to the family will mitigate identified risks, preventing further maltreatment and re-entry into care; and
4. A plan to return the child home exists.

Children identified meeting the above criteria should be identified as a candidate for foster care on the Prevention Services Referral. If children in the home do not meet the criteria for a candidate for foster care, child(ren) should be entered as an "Other" individual in the home. Providers should serve all DCBS children identified as a candidate for foster care, and candidates should be entered in the in-home database as a target child if they are identified as candidates for foster care.

Data will continue to be collected with the new definition next to the data field as follows:

Current Datafield	Agency/Service	Language replacing "Target Child" below - data collection remains the same					
	Region Total						
Number of Families Accepted		<i>Cases accepted for services</i>					
Number of Families Services Complete							
Number of Families Services Incomplete							
<b>Total Number of Children in Home</b>		<i>Total # of Candidates for FC in #families accepted (at risk and other children)</i>					
<b>Number of Children at Risk of Placement</b>		<i>Total # of Candidates for FC at risk of placement</i>					
<b>Number of Children in Home/Reunified at Closure</b>		<i>How many Candidates for FC at risk remained home at close</i>					
<b>Percent of Children in Home at Closure</b>		<i>#Kids at home at close divided by #kids at risk of placement = % remaining at home</i>					

All prevention programs are affected by the change allowing DCBS staff to add new child(ren) to existing prevention service referrals. In the event a new child needs to be added to a prevention services case, such as following the birth of a new child into a family, DCBS staff may now add the additional child(ren) to the Prevention Services Referral, eliminating the need for multiple referrals. Once added to the Prevention Services Referral, foster care candidacy will begin for children added, including evidence-based practice (EBP) start and end dates based upon the EBPs the family is currently receiving.

On behalf of the Division of Prevention and Community Well-Being, we want to thank our providers for their support and interventions for the families we are serving. If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact Lena Morehead at [lena.morehead@ky.gov](mailto:lena.morehead@ky.gov) or Jennifer Thornhill at [jennifer.thornhill@ky.gov](mailto:jennifer.thornhill@ky.gov).