



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
Department for Community Based Services  
Division of Protection and Permanency**

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**Contract Correspondence Transmittal (CCT)**

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<b>Attachments/Forms:</b>	

The intent of this correspondence is to provide guidance and information for private child caring (PCC) and private child placing (PCP) agencies surrounding challenges meeting the treatment needs of children and youth across the continuum of care. Staffing shortages, youth with high levels of medical and mental health acuity, and limited resources have contributed to unprecedented challenges surrounding placement stability and placement capacity.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services (CHFS, DCBS), is currently working to address both short and long-term solutions for these challenges. In the short-term, sitter services have been approved to support supervision of children/youth who are in unlicensed settings as they await placement. If a child is without a placement, DCBS staff should submit placement referrals as often as the child/youth’s behaviors and needs can be assessed. Although agencies may initially reject a child/youth, home environments and milieus change as children/youth transition out, which would allow an agency to later accept. It is urgent that agencies assess youth that may be able to step down to a less restrictive level of care, therefore, allowing youth that need more intensive services to be placed in a more appropriate setting.

DCBS is also partnering with stakeholders to develop strategies for long-term sustainable change. Several workgroups are underway to address the challenges in placements across the continuum. In addition, Aetna SKY is a valued partner in placement preservation for our youth that are in jeopardy of disruption, and, if possible, they should be involved in any preservation/disruption meetings.

To support placement stability in the near term, DCBS may consider an enhanced rate for individual children/youth on a case-by-case basis. An enhanced rate may be considered for children/youth who are:

- Currently without a placement and in an office or hospital. DCBS must obtain information from the provider or foster home regarding service provision and supervision plan, in writing, to consider an enhanced rate.
- At risk of disruption AND are currently receiving therapeutic services at a rate above the minimum required in the private child-placing/private child-caring (PCP/PCC) agreement.

A written request outlining the service provision and supervision plan should be submitted to DCBS through the child's worker.

As this is a challenging time for DCBS, providers, and stakeholders statewide, DCBS values the dedication to the youth and families that we serve. We ask for your continued collaboration as we address challenges that are present in child welfare systems across the United States.

If you have further questions, please contact Holly Davis at [hollyc.davis@ky.gov](mailto:hollyc.davis@ky.gov) or Sherry Postlewaite at [Sherry.Postlewaite@ky.gov](mailto:Sherry.Postlewaite@ky.gov).

Please forward this communication to relevant agency staff.