

Treatment Foster Home License

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What is Treatment Foster Care?

- States have a defined treatment/therapeutic foster care program that includes:
 - Enhanced/intensive case management services
 - Caregivers who are active in the treatment team
 - Clinical services provided by community or agency providers
- Alaska is the only state that does not have a defined treatment foster care program
 - Most states create licenses via regulation not statute
- Behavioral Health Roadmap identified expansion of treatment foster care as an action item for the state



What do we have?

AS 47.32.990 (5) “foster home” means a place where the adult head of household provides 24-hour care on a continuing basis to one or more children who are apart from their parents;

- Foster home license is the only family-like setting in statute.
- Utilized to create settings for children to receive health care services
 - Therapeutic Treatment Home
 - Family Habilitation Homes
- Regardless of service delivery, all foster homes have the same regulatory requirements
 - Foster parent qualifications, training, physical environment
 - Kids can currently stay in a therapeutic treatment home for longer than treatment is necessary

Why do we need a Treatment Foster Home license?

- Alaska has a disconnected way of ensuring treatment foster care is provided effectively
 - OCS oversees traditional foster care license
 - DBH oversees therapeutic treatment home service certification
 - SDS oversees family habilitation home service certification
 - Child Placement Agencies manage these homes
- Acuity in children is increasing – we can ensure better service provision to children with complex needs
- Traditional foster care is not health care

Payment structure

Children in state custody

- Room and board funded through Title IV-E, if eligible
- Services funded by Medicaid

Children in parental custody

- Room and board funded by parents
- Services funded by Medicaid, private insurance (if services are covered), or self-funded by parents

Codifying a treatment foster home license would have zero fiscal impact on the state since the payment structure already exists.

Anticipated effect of Treatment Foster Home license

- Separating the settings to distinguish between traditional and treatment foster care will lead to more services being provided to children in Alaska
- Remove the disconnect and ensure service coordination among agencies
- Align licensure standards with Medicaid requirements
- Increase in the number of treatment foster homes due to streamlining processes
- Increase in positive outcomes for children





Thank you!

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