

## BON VOYAGE DANIELLE!

A goodbye to our beloved colleague and friend

FosterHope Sacramento bid a fond farewell to our amazing Program Manager Danielle Zappia this February. Danielle was a constant source of energy and fun around the office for 9 years, and will be dearly missed by all of us. A festive going-away party was held in her honor on February 6<sup>th</sup>, where Danielle could share hugs with families and

staff, as she said her goodbyes. We loved being a part of Danielle's "West Coast Journey", as well as having Chris and Joseph in the FosterHope family. They made it to North Carolina and settling into their new life in the East! We wish Danielle all the best on her new adventure!



## A MESSAGE EXECUTIVE RFA Program

It's 2017 means we are of the *CCR Reform*. We have submitted our new program statement to the counties and state, and have received positive feedback from our analyst at Community Care Licensing (CCL). Most of our families and staff have received the mandated training on the reform with the final group being scheduled for March. We have staff that has been trained on the new certification process and we have applied and been approved for the higher level of finger print clearances and our Medi-Cal provider number. Being that we are already nationally accredited, we are ahead of the curve in the program reform. At this point we are refining some of our processes and awaiting the final approval from the state for implementation. As an agency, we are headed in the right direction. So, the big pressing question that remains is the *rates* and when will they change?

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR Reform

which  
in full swing

Let's give a  
warm welcome  
to our newly  
certified and  
returning  
parents!

Monica Harris

Tera Lefebve &

Keith Bolden

Amy Loera

Teresa Smittick

Felicia Taylor &

Richard Cobb

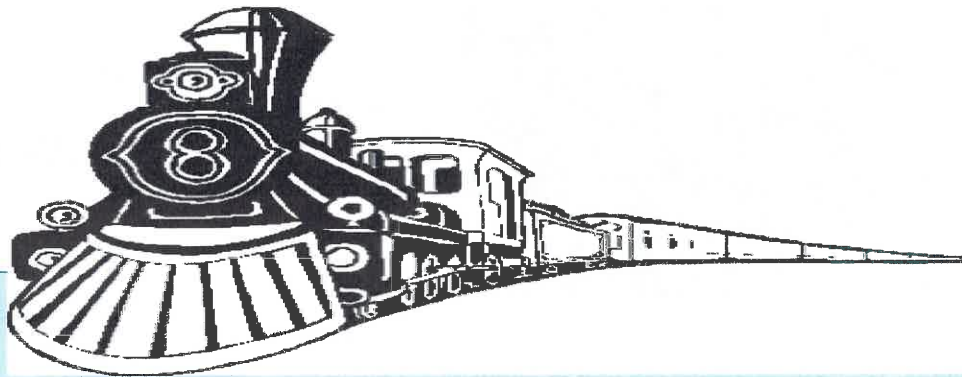


The state has postponed the level of care (LOC) rate change from the start of implementation all the way out to December 1st of 2017. The good news is there is an evaluation template that has been created and they are beginning the testing process within the test counties of the reform.

According to the most recent state report, when the new rates do go into effect ALL youth currently in care will continue to be paid the current rate until a "trigger" event occurs. This could be a placement change, a request for evaluation due to a change in service needs or even the belief that the placement should be paid at a higher rate, due to a high level of needs and services. Once the level of care (LOC) has been established the new rates will be back-paid to the time of request for evaluation.

Any new youth who comes into care on or after December 1st, 2017 will need to be evaluated to determine the level of care (LOC) and corresponding rate to be paid. If this evaluation has not taken place prior to placement, the placement will be paid at the level 1 care rate until the evaluation is completed. Once that occurs and if the rate will be higher than level 1, the rates will be back-paid to the date of placement.

The difficulty, of course, is operating under two different rate systems for some time. This is in part a reason for the delay in implementation as the state was not prepared to manage a new rate system. However, this delay also buys our software developer some time to ensure our internal systems are up to date, as the process is just now being defined. I would love to quote you rates, but as all things change regularly in this reform process, they could be completely outdated by the time the rates are implemented. So for now, everything will remain status quo with updates given as they are solidified through the state and passed on to us. I am presently participating in the California Alliance Executive Winter Conference, yet another way to stay informed and up to date.



### ALL ABOARD THE POLAR EXPRESS!!

All aboard the Polar Express!! That was our theme for this year's annual FosterHope Christmas Party, and boy was it fun. All attendees appeared to enjoy the pajama option dress code, as spirits were high and the stress level was low. This year was especially fun watching all the families mingling and enjoying the Polar Express station. We had many games families participated in, as well as having a great raffle and a visit from Santa! Next, we enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Plates; a catering company that supports the employment training of Saint John's clients. We would like to make some special congratulations to all winners, including our wonderful foster parents, fabulous foster youth, helpful volunteers and delightful catering staff. Finally; a special thanks to everyone involved that helped make this party successful once again! THANK YOU!!!

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