



Family, Youth & Children's Services Division

Accepting Applications to provide Therapeutic Services to Child Welfare Families

A. Introduction

The Sonoma County Human Services Department Family, Youth & Children's Services Division (FY&C) is accepting applications from individuals and organizations with the experience, qualifications, and capacity to provide therapeutic services to individuals, couples, families, and in groups, for parents, children and families who are involved in the child welfare system. Services include psychotherapy, psychological evaluations, neuropsychological evaluations, domestic violence services, and batterer intervention services.

The FY&C Division offers child protection and family stabilization services to residents of Sonoma County, referred to as 'child welfare' in this document. Most families and children that are involved with child welfare services are able to access therapeutic services through other means, including Beacon and private insurance. However, FY&C does contract and pay for therapy services for families if the therapeutic service is a part of the child welfare case plan and there is no other means available to pay for the therapy.

FY&C is seeking therapists with knowledge and experience with families who are involved with the child welfare system and **who have been trained in using evidence-based, short-term, solution-focused treatment models to address the child protection issues** that the referred families face.

FY&C is particularly interested in expanding psychotherapy options in the following priority Practice Areas:

1. Group Therapy options
2. Bilingual/Bicultural Spanish Speaking therapy providers
3. Attachment Therapy for foster children, parents and those going through the adoption process
4. Evidence-Based therapeutic practices for child welfare families
5. Therapy services for families in outlying areas of the County
6. Therapy services for youth on the autism spectrum

The FY&C Division intends to create a pool of approximately 50 to 100 therapeutic providers in an effort to offer an array of therapy modalities, language and locations to meet the needs of child welfare families.

Applications will be accepted on an on-going basis. However, for contracts that will start date on July 1, 2022, applications must be received no later than May 1, 2022 in order to allow adequate processing time. Applications received **after May 1, 2022** will be processed and contracts developed on a flow basis.

Child Welfare social workers may begin referring families to a therapy provider only after an application is received and a contract signed by both the applicant and the County. Submitting an application does not guarantee a contract with the County. Applicants who contract with County are not guaranteed a minimum number of referrals from FY&C social workers.

B. Qualifications

All applicants must be appropriately licensed or certified at the time of application. Interns must be supervised by appropriately licensed individuals. Those providing Psychological Evaluations must be a qualified Psychologist or Psychiatrist. Those applying to provide Domestic Violence Services or Batterer Intervention Services should be certified in those areas. All contracted providers will be required to maintain County-required insurance.

C. Session Rates

Compensation is on a per-session, fee-for-service basis. FY&C defines a session as a minimum of 45 minutes. Time and expense for documentation, phone calls, etc., are considered as part of the per session charge.

Please see **Attachment 1** for the rates that are effective as of July 1, 2021. The FY&C Division reviews the rates on an annual basis during the County budget process and may authorize increases as appropriate.

Please note that no co-payment can be charged or collected from the client or family when services are paid for by FY&C.

D. Questions & Answers

Questions regarding the application and contracting process can be directed to fyctherapyinfo@schsd.org.

E. How to Submit an Application

All materials and forms needed to apply to be a contracted therapy provider are only available electronically from fyctherapyinfo@schsd.org or can be downloaded from the [FY&C website](#).

The Application Packet is comprised of the **4** items listed below. All items must be submitted before a contract is initiated.

1. Complete and sign the appropriate Application (Form A for individuals or Form B for agencies). Include a written response to the questions on separate page(s).
2. For individuals, include a resume(s) detailing your professional qualifications. For agencies, include a summary of staff qualifications, oversight structure and experience.

3. Include a copy of your therapy license or certification, as applicable. For agencies, include a copy of the supervising clinician's license.
4. Include a copy of your current insurance certificate.

F. Contracting and Insurance Requirements

A sample contract has been included as **Attachment 2**. Applicants must be willing to abide and accept the terms of the sample contract. All contracted providers will be required to maintain insurance as required by the County of Sonoma. Securing and providing proof of insurance will be a condition of entering into a contract. Insurance requirements are included in the sample contract for both individuals and organizations.

G. Service Descriptions

Child Welfare Social Workers will refer child welfare families to a specific contracted therapist who will provide therapeutic services based on information contained in the referral and as indicated by the child welfare case plan and assessed treatment goals. Specific services descriptions are as follows:

1. Psychotherapy

FY&C contracts for clinical counseling and therapy services for child welfare families referred by a FY&C social worker. Treatment models include individual, couples, family and group therapy. Contracted therapists will provide therapy and counseling services using evidence-based, short term, solution-focused treatment models to address the child protection issues as communicated via the referral form.

Contracted therapy providers are required to contact the FY&C social worker every month via phone, message or email to provide an update on referred clients and their progress in the attainment of goals. Every six months, contracted providers will either attend the client's scheduled case conference meeting or provide written feedback, via a provided feedback form, to the FY&C social worker describing the client's progress towards their child welfare therapy goals.

2. Psychological Evaluation

FY&C contracts for psychological evaluation services for children, youth and parents involved in the child welfare system. Contracted providers will assess/evaluate referred individuals, using validated assessment and testing models, draw clinical conclusions, make diagnoses (if appropriate), and prepare a thorough written assessment report to the referring FY&C social worker within 14 days of the final meeting with the referred individual.

3. Neuropsychological Evaluation

FY&C contracts for neuropsychological evaluation/assessment services for children, youth and parents involved with child welfare. Contracted providers will assess/evaluate referred individuals, using validated assessment and testing models, draw clinical conclusions, make diagnoses (if appropriate), and prepare a

thorough written assessment report to the referring FY&C social worker within 14 days of the final meeting with the referred individual.

4. Domestic Violence Services

FY&C contracts for domestic violence services for adult victims of domestic violence/battery and children witnesses. Contracted providers will provide initial assessment and individual and/or group treatment services to referred victims and/or child witnesses of domestic violence. Providers should demonstrate validity of evidence-based models of service provision. Services shall be short-term and solution-focused to address child protection and safety issues.

Contracted providers are required to contact the FY&C social worker every month via phone, message or email to provide an update on referred clients and their progress in the attainment of goals. Every six months, contracted providers will either attend the client's scheduled case conference meeting or provide written feedback, via a provided feedback form, to the FY&C social worker describing the client's progress towards their child welfare goals.

5. Batterer Intervention Services

FY&C contracts for batterer intervention and domestic violence treatment services for perpetrators whose families are involved in the child welfare system. The contracted provider is required to provide an initial assessment and individual and/or group treatment services to referred perpetrators of domestic or relational battery. Providers should demonstrate validity of evidence-based models of service provision. Services shall be short-term and solution-focused to address the child protection and safety issues.

Contracted providers are required to contact the FY&C social worker every month via phone, message or email to provide an update on referred clients and their progress in the attainment of goals. Every six months, contracted providers will either attend the client's scheduled case conference meeting or provide written feedback, via a provided feedback form, to the FY&C social worker describing the client's progress towards their child welfare goals.

6. Therapeutic Services at Redwood Children's Center for Child Sexual Abuse Victims

The Redwood Children's Center (RCC) is an accredited Child Advocacy Center that provides trauma-informed support to minor victims of sexual assault, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, severe physical abuse and minors who witness violent crimes. RCC Social Workers refer clients to therapeutic services as part of the support provided after clients have been interviewed and to those who identify as victims of abuse. RCC uses evidence-based screening tools and only refers clients for evidence-based interventions that specifically address the trauma of abuse and meet the criteria of accreditation standards. Rates paid for these referrals may differ from the rates published within this document.