PRFC-related Terms and Acronyms

Child’s Parents - May refer to a child’s biological or adopted parent(s) or another legal guardian such as a grandparent or relative who has legal custody of the child.

CMHC or Community Mental Health Center - Local provider of comprehensive mental health services such as outpatient, home-based, school and community-based programs to individuals and families.

Co-parenting – Co-parenting is a partnership between PRFC providers and a child’s parents working together to care for the child. There is regular communication and sharing of information between parents. A PRFC provider offers support to the child’s parents through modeling, suggestions, coaching and mentoring. A child’s parents share ideas and information about daily routines and strategies they use.

CPA or Child Placing Agency – An organization that recruits, trains, and supports the family foster home in which PRFC is provided. Resource homes providing PRFC are required to be licensed by the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). CPAs sponsor licensed homes. Some CMHCs create and operate their own CPA program; others subcontract with an existing CPA in order to provide CMHC services in resource homes.

Crisis plan – A plan included in the child’s plan of care that identifies safety concerns, interventions that should be used during a crisis, interventions that should not be used, and contact information for people in the child’s life who may be important to help resolve a crisis.

Diversion – A plan put in place to meet the child’s mental health needs while keeping them out of a higher level of care.

HCBS or Home and Community-Based Services - Services that individuals with Medicaid may receive in their own home or community. The SED Waiver is a waiver that enables CMHCs to provide Home and Community-Based Services to children with SED. See the definitions for SED and SED waiver on this sheet for more information.

Higher Level of Care – Typically refers to care provided through Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment, Residential Treatment or a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). Higher levels of care often result in the child being removed from their community which means they are unable to continue receiving services from their usual treatment providers and unable to remain involved in school and other community activities while receiving services for their mental health needs.

Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment - May be used interchangeably with Residential Treatment Facility or Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). These types of treatment require a child to remain in a facility setting where they participate in intensive treatment for their mental or emotional health difficulties.

Least Restrictive Environment – Providing treatment in a location that has fewest limitations on a child’s ability to live an ordinary life while keeping the child and others safe.

MCO or Managed Care Organization – Starting in January 2013, the State of Kansas privatized the delivery of its Medicaid program. The Kansas Medicaid program is now referred to as KanCare. Currently, there are three MCOs (Managed Care Organizations) with whom the State of Kansas Contracts to deliver Medicaid health plans: Sunflower Health Plan, Amerigroup, and UnitedHealthcare. The MCO must provide prior authorization for PRFC to be used.
**Medical Necessity** – A QMHP (see definition below) determines that the care that a child is receiving (or going to receive) is considered to be effective, appropriate, and necessary to treat the child’s particular mental health disorder.

**POC or Plan of Care** - A treatment planning document that outlines the child’s identifying information, strengths and needs, treatment goals, treatment objectives, crisis plan, services to be provided, and the cost of providing those services. The plan of care may also be referred to as a treatment plan.

**PRFC or Professional Resource Family Care** - PRFC provides a child who has serious emotional disturbance (SED) and their parents with short-term, intensive support and resources. PRFC occurs in a licensed foster home with trained PRFC providers who co-parent with the child’s parents and are active members of the child’s treatment team to prepare for the child’s return home.

**QMHP or Qualified Mental Health Professional** – This CMHC employee determines a child’s initial and continued eligibility for the **SED Waiver**. They also direct the PRFC service. A QMHP is a Master’s level clinician who is licensed by the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (such as LSCSW or Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker) or an APRN (Advanced Practice Registered Nurse), PA (Physician’s Assistant), or MD (Medical Doctor).

**SED or Serious Emotional Disturbance** - SED refers to a diagnosed mental health condition that substantially disrupts a child's ability to function socially, academically, and/or emotionally.

**SED Waiver or Serious Emotional Disturbance Waiver** – Provides home and community based services for eligible children 4 to 18 years of age who experience serious emotional disturbance and who are at risk of needing inpatient psychiatric treatment at a State Hospital. Exceptions for children younger than 4 and older than 18 (up to age 21) to be on the SED waiver may be granted by KDADS. The SED waiver is a federal Medicaid waiver program administrated by local CMHCs. SED waiver services provide children with special intensive support so they may remain in their homes and communities. Parents and children are actively involved in planning for all services. SED Waiver Services include:

- **Wraparound Facilitator**: A person who works with the family and their identified supports to set treatment goals and decide on services for the child and family.
- **Parent Support and Training**: Services designed to provide education, assistance, and other support to parents and families.
- **Independent Living Skills Building**: Staff-supported development of the skills needed in order to live independently.
- **Attendant Care**: A staff person who helps the child with daily tasks.
- **Professional Resource Family Care (Crisis Stabilization)**: Intensive support services provided to the child in a licensed family foster home.
- **Short Term Respite Care**: A service provided inside or outside of the child’s home to provide caregivers and the child a break.

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Some of these definitions were adapted from the following sources: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Kansas HCBS SED Waiver Manual, Medicaid.gov, kancare.ks.gov, Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC)
**Step-Down** - A plan put in place that will allow a child who is exiting *a higher level of care* to gradually re-enter their community and ensure comprehensive services are in place to assist them as they transition back into their home and community.

**Treatment Team** – Works together to direct, coordinate and manage services that will meet the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of a child. The treatment team includes the child, the child’s parents, and other professionals who have expertise in different areas.