



# Foster Care and Community Programs – Central Virginia Program Statement

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## Purpose of the Foster Care Program

The purpose of KidsPeace Foster Care and Community Programs (FCCP) is to provide community-based treatment for children needing placement outside of their family of origin. The program serves children, adolescents and their families in Central Virginia. The treatment services address a variety of social and emotional difficulties, developmental delays, learning problems, psychological disturbances and abnormal behavior patterns. The FCCP program trains families in the community to provide individualized treatment. A team of KidsPeace professionals supervises these treatment families. The client and the treatment family are considered integral parts of the treatment team.

## Description

FCCP is a community-based, family-focused, child-centered and strengths-based treatment foster care program for children needing placement outside of their family of origin. Our program serves children who require specialized services for emotional, behavioral and/or medical issues. We work closely with our partners in the local departments of social services, family members, relatives, foster families and adoptive families to help the child achieve permanency within the required Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) timeframes and to ensure safety, well-being and permanency for children. The program serves children ranging from those who exhibit minimal behaviors as a result of being removed from their family of origin to children with extensive emotional/behavioral issues and/or medical issues. The practice model utilized within FCCP is based on the principles of the resiliency model in which we strive to increase the protective factors and reduce the risk factors for children in order to enhance the opportunity for successful life outcomes. Because we realize that healing and growth happen within the context of the family. The FCCP program trains qualified families in the community to provide a therapeutic milieu for children in their care. Additional trainings tailored to meet the individualized needs of each child are developed and taught to the treatment families to ensure each family's effectiveness. In matching children with treatment families, characteristics of the treatment family are closely matched with the individual needs of the child to promote stability of placement for a child. The program adheres to the principle that first placement is best placement. Additionally, the program supports healthy and enduring connections of the child with his/her biological family including siblings, parents, extended family and other caring adults and peers and considers them integral members of the treatment team. KidsPeace strives to ensure that our interventions with children are positive by tracking outcomes, which include achievement of permanency goals, successful academic performance and meeting therapeutic goals as identified within the individual service plans. Also, KidsPeace works in partnership with the Virginia Department of Social Services to meet performance measures and national standards of the Child and Family Service Reviews.

## Population Served

The program is open to all children without regard to race, color, national origin or sex. Children with physical disabilities will be accepted if their needs can be reasonably accommodated. The program serves males and females from infancy to age 21. Treatment services address a wide variety of social and emotional difficulties, developmental delays, learning problems, psychological disturbances and behavioral challenges. The program also serves pregnant teens and teenage mothers. The program is inappropriate for children who are actively suicidal, overly aggressive, active fire setters or who are in need of 24-hour awake supervision.

## Treatment Services Provided by KidsPeace

- 24-hour crisis intervention
- Supervised visitation
- Medical foster care services
- Respite Care
- Behavior modification
- Concurrent permanency planning
- Quarterly Individualized Service Plans (ISP)
- Embracing family of origin in treatment planning and intervention
- "Bridging the Gap" between foster families and birth families
- Case management
- Outcome-based clinical services
- Adoption preparation
- Ongoing training for foster parents
- After-hour placement
- Preparation for Independent Living
- Ansel Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA)

## Treatment Services Provided by a Contract Agent of KidsPeace or a Community Provider

- Psychiatric evaluations
- Medical/physical/dental examinations
- Group and/or family therapy when necessary
- Tutoring and/or mentoring when necessary
- Psychological evaluations
- Appropriate educational placement
- Individual therapy

## Treatment Team

Individualized service plans are designed for each child by our interdisciplinary team with input from the child, the child's

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family of origin, treatment family and referral source. Members of the treatment team may be composed of, but are not limited to, the following:

- Child/Youth
- Department of Social Services representatives
- KidsPeace treatment parents
- Certified special education teachers
- Board certified pediatricians
- Mentors
- Licensed clinical psychologists
- Family of origin
- KidsPeace Program Manager
- Board certified psychiatrists
- Therapists
- Tutors
- KidsPeace Family Consultants

### Description of Division of Responsibilities/Staff-to-Client Ratio

*Family Consultant-* provides case management services for foster children, including but not limited to in-home visitation, linking to therapeutic services and development of the Individualized Service Plan. Maximum caseload size ranges from 6-12 children per caseworker, dependent upon the clinical needs of the children, with most caseworkers serving a maximum of 10 children.

*Family Resource Specialist-* recruits and trains potential foster parents, assists families through the approval process, conducts home studies, assists with the placement of children in the foster home, and provides on-going support to foster families as well as ongoing training relevant to their needs and the needs of the child(ren) in the home.

*Program Manager-* supervises staff, provides on-going support to foster families and children, and intervenes in crisis situations when necessary.

***The FCCP Program will, at a minimum, meet the state requirements in regard to staffing patterns.***

### Pre-admission Requirements

Before a child can be accepted for placement, at a minimum, KidsPeace is required to obtain: the reason the placement is requested, current information on the child's health, behavior in the home or other living situation, and grade level and adjustment to school, if school age or adjustment to day care or nursery school, if any, for preschool children. The fee system is determined by contracts with the Local Department of Social Services and is subject to change. Children will be accepted into the program and placed when a slot is available, based on the best match of available foster homes, and based upon the best interest of the child. If a placement must be terminated, KidsPeace will work with the Local Department of Social Services to assist with the transition and to ensure that contractual agreements regarding termination are met.

### Levels of care

KidsPeace Foster Care and Community Programs of Virginia has three levels of care. These levels exist to serve the various needs of the children who are admitted to the program. Most of the clients who are referred to the program have a chronic history of abuse and/or neglect, emotional/mental health issues, numerous disrupted placements and prior residential treatment and enter the program at the Intensive Level for an adjustment period. Throughout treatment, each client's progress is assessed and based on his/her functioning across nine life domains that include behavior, legal/community impact, emotional, social, medical, educational, sexual, familial and substance use.

• Intensive Foster Care (Level III)

Children who fall into the Intensive Level of Treatment Foster Care demonstrate serious to severe emotional and/or behavioral management problems that interfere with their ability to function in the family, school and community setting outside of the therapeutic environment. Also in this category are children with severe medical conditions that require time-intensive procedures to be performed frequently and children with severe developmental delays. KidsPeace staff visits children at the intensive level a minimum of four times per month.

• Therapeutic Foster Care (Level II)

Children who fall into the Therapeutic Level of Treatment Foster Care demonstrate moderate to serious emotional and/or behavioral management problems that interfere with their ability to function in the family, school and community setting outside of a therapeutic environment. This category includes children with major medical problems and/or those considered medically fragile, as well as children with developmental disabilities. KidsPeace staff visits children at the therapeutic level a minimum of three times per month.

• Basic Foster Care (Level I)

Children who fall into the Basic Level of Treatment Foster Care demonstrate moderate and/or occasional serious emotional and/or behavioral management problems that interfere with their ability to function in the family, school and/or community without structure or supervision. Also included in this category are children with significant medical problems and/or significant developmental delays. KidsPeace staff visits children at the basic level a minimum of one time per month.

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### **Procedures for Foster Family Study & Approval**

Persons applying to become KidsPeace foster parents must attend an orientation session as well as complete the KidsPeace 30-hour pre-service training which covers topics including but not limited to abuse and neglect, family of origin, bridging the gap, resiliency, attachment, discipline, impact of providing foster care on the family, behavior modification, permanency, emotional disturbance and behavior disorders. Additionally, foster parents must submit the proper paperwork to the agency including but not limited to references, background clearances and income verification. Finally, the family will have at least three face-to-face interviews in the home as part of the foster family study.

In order to be approved, foster families must be in compliance with the Virginia Minimum Standards and KidsPeace policies and must be found to be acceptable to the KidsPeace Foster Acceptance Committee.

### **Hours of Operation**

The FCCP Program is available to foster parents and children in our program 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additionally, the program is available for placements at all times.

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