

# Together Facing the Challenge Addendum

## Implementation and Use of Together Facing the Challenge in Nevada

### ***Together Facing the Challenge (TFTC) Model***

The TFTC model is an evidenced-based model of treatment foster care, which provides specific and measurable behavior management strategies within a trauma informed care (TIC) approach. The research identifies three (3) factors largely responsible for helping foster children, who present with higher emotional/behavioral needs, to succeed:

1. Development of and continuing positive and supportive relations between the TFTC in-home coach and the SFCP foster parents providing foster care.
2. Supportive and involved relationships between foster parents and the children/youth placed in their care.
3. Consistent use of behavior management strategies by foster parents.

The TFTC model components provide the structure necessary to address the higher emotional/behavioral needs and trauma histories of children placed into the SFCP. These include:

4. A TFTC supervisor, who coordinates the Child Welfare Agency's SFCP program in the use of TFTC to ensure fidelity to the model. The clinical supervisor provides monthly direct supervision to the in-home coaches **on an individual basis**.
5. In-home coaches provide direct services to the SFCP foster parents through weekly in-home technical consultation and needed support. These coaches will also be available to provide support by phone and, when needed, in-home crisis management.
6. The SFCP foster parents will receive training in the TFTC model. This training will provide the underlying foundation for the principles of TFTC care. This training along with the weekly in-home consultation with their coach will ensure the foster parents are using the behavior management strategies and trauma informed approach to fidelity with the children/youth placed in their SFCP foster homes.

### ***Certification***

Agencies providing specialized foster care in Nevada must obtain certification in TFTC by Duke University. The following criteria must be met in order to achieve certification:

1. Agencies must train foster parents in all 7 Sessions of TFTC within 12 months of becoming licensed.
2. Agencies must ensure all new agency staff are trained in TFTC within 6 months of hire date.
3. Agency staff trained in TFTC must complete Trainer Evaluation Forms (for 2 or more of the 7 sessions for each round of 7 Session Trainings completed).
4. Agency must convene a TFTC implementation team that meets at least monthly.

Agencies must collaborate with DCFS staff in follow-up monthly consultation sessions to troubleshoot implementation barriers and discuss successful implementation of required elements of the TFTC model, including but not limited to use of TFTC fidelity forms (see table above), completion of TFTC Implementation Surveys, ongoing training of staff/parents, etc. Monthly consultation with DCFS continues for the first year of TFTC implementation until certification is achieved.

The in-home coaches, SFCP foster parents and, as needed, the TFTC supervisor will attend any outside meetings that focus on the needs of the child/youth admitted to the program (i.e. Child and Family Team meetings, permanency meetings, etc.).

### **Fee Structure for Certification**

Duke University requires a \$300 fee of each agency in order to become certified in TFTC. Fees are paid directly by the agency. This fee covers administrative costs related to reviewing and approving certification materials.

## Re-Certification

Re-certification occurs bi-annually. Agencies eligible for re-certification will be contacted 20 months in advance of their re-certification date with a reminder about re-certification. At 22 months prior to their re-certification date, the agency is required to submit recertification materials.

In order to achieve re-certification, agencies must demonstrate that they are meeting the same requirements that they met in order to achieve initial certification. These include:

- a. Coaches are using the parent coaching form during each weekly session and completing at least 2 forms per youth per month (75%-100% of the time)
- b. Supervisors are using the staff coaching form during monthly supervision (two homes discussed and a form completed for each) 75%-100% of the time

## Fees Structure for Re-Certification

Duke University requires a \$600 fee of each agency in order to become re-certified in TFTC. Fees are paid directly by the agency. This fee covers administrative costs related to reviewing and approving certification materials.

## Model Fidelity

Pursuant to NRS424.042, as part of DCFS's responsibility to ensure that youth in specialized foster homes are receiving the care and services that they need, DCFS will monitor fidelity to the TFTC model on an ongoing basis.

### TFTC Required Fidelity Forms

<i>Fidelity Form</i>	<i>Who is Form About?</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>
Foster Parent Coaching Form	Youth	At least two forms per month; as often as weekly	TFTC Coach
Staff Coaching Form	TFTC Coach	Monthly	TFTC Supervisor
Trainer Evaluations	Certified Trainer	At every training, submit at least 2 of 7 sessions per round	Trainees (foster parents, new agency staff)

DCFS will request 100% of one month's fidelity monitoring tools per jurisdiction per year in order to monitor adherence to the TFTC model. Jurisdictions will report in the same month each year (e.g., always in February). They will receive a reminder 30 days in advance. Jurisdictions shall submit 100% of parent coaching forms, supervisor coaching forms, and a full coach roster for all homes/agencies for that month only.

Any SFC agency or AFC program that is not meeting fidelity requirements may be placed on a corrective action plan (CAP) to support continued certification in TFTC. DCFS may re-audit an agency/program on a CAP at any time to assess progress on the CAP.

**Please Note:** DCFS may audit any agency/jurisdiction at any time if concerns arise regarding fidelity to the TFTC model. As such, agencies/jurisdictions are expected to maintain full and complete records demonstrating fidelity to the TFTC model at all times.