



**Louisiana Department of Health
Health Plan Advisory 16-21
August 2, 2016**

Functional Family Therapy - Child Welfare (FFT-CW) Service Expansion

To ensure members have access to the most effective services available to meet their mental health needs, the Department has collaborated with the Functional Family Therapy (FFT) Organization. The organization has developed a version of FFT for members under the age of 10. The Department of Children and Family Services, FFT providers, and the Office of Behavioral Health supports this expanded version of the service.

Important issues to note:

1. Providers who deliver FFT-CW are certified to deliver this service
2. Providers will bill the same procedure code as FFT
3. The reimbursement rate will be the same as FFT
4. Two providers are in the process of being certified
 - a. Center for Families and Children
 - b. Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority
5. Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) should only reimburse certified FFT-CW providers
6. Services authorization requests submitted by certified FFT-CW providers should not be denied if the member is under the age of 10 if all other service authorization criteria are met.

Service Definition

FFT and FFT-CW are virtually identical, except for the following differences:

- FFT-CW can serve youth from birth to age 18 (while traditional FFT targets youth 10-18).
- FFT-CW is specifically designed to target “youth and families with suspected or indicated child abuse or neglect.”

FFT and FFT-CW Overview

FFT is deemed a best practice/family-based approach to providing treatment to youth who are between the ages of 10 and 18 and are exhibiting significant externalizing behaviors. It is a

systems-based model of intervention/prevention, which incorporates various levels of the client’s interpersonal experiences to include cognitive, emotional and behavioral experiences, as well as intrapersonal perspectives which focus on the family and other systems (within the environment) and impact the youth and his or her family system. FFT is a strengths-based model of intervention, which emphasizes the capitalization of the resources of the youth, their family and those of the multi-system involved.

FFT-CW services are targeted for youth, ages 0 to 18, and families with suspected or indicated child abuse or neglect. Problems include youth truancy, educational neglect, parental neglect or abuse, a history of domestic violence, adult caregiver substance use, and adult caregiver anxiety, depression and other mental health issues.

Impact of Implementation

Utilization Management/Prior Authorization

- FFT-CW is targeted to members between the ages of 0-18 with suspected or indicated child abuse and neglect. MCOs should develop specific clinical review criteria to ensure services are medically necessary and prior authorized for this subset of the population of members receiving FFT.
- Providers are required to complete additional training prior to providing services to members appropriate for FFT-CW services. FFT-CW training is conducted by FFT, LLC. MCOs should inform interested providers where training information can be obtained and develop specific criteria for verification of this training which may include submission of FFT-CW certificate as documentation of completion of the initial two day onsite training.
- As indicated below, the current fee schedule accurately depicts rates for FFT-CW. The rate and procedure codes will not change from standard FFT.

H003 6	COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRIC SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT - FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY	H E	15 min	0+	\$38.5 5 HO	\$31.7 0 HN
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Provider Qualifications

FFT Therapists

The FFT program at the provider level will consist of one site. This site will be comprised of (three to eight) therapists. Therapists are master’s-level staff with graduate degrees in a clinical field. Other human service degrees may be accepted. Highly skilled bachelor’s-level professionals may also be selected under certain hiring conditions. These conditions include: (1) the provider has actively recruited for master’s-level therapists but has not found any acceptable candidates *or* the bachelor’s-level applicant is clearly better qualified than the master’s-level applicants and (2) the bachelor’s degree must be in a human services field. A degree in a mental health field is preferred.

All FFT therapists must have a background in family, youth and community service and a minimum of two years' experience working with children, adolescents and families. FFT therapists will meet the guidelines for training outlined in the current service definition manual.

FFT Site Supervisor

At the cessation of Phase One, (approximately nine to twelve months after the initial training) the FFT site supervisor is expected to emerge and be appointed. The site can appoint a site supervisor prior to the cessation of Phase Two; however, it is expected that, regardless, this person follow FFT training guidelines which are outlined in the current service definition manual.

Site supervisors are master's-level mental health professionals with graduate degrees in a clinical discipline. A background in family, youth and community service and a minimum of two years' experience working in these areas is required.

FFT National Consultant

The provider will work with an FFT national consultant, who will provide the monitoring, supervision, and training during the first two phases (typically the first two years) of site implementation. This person will have been involved in the delivery of FFT services for five years, has been a site supervisor, had training and is employed by FFT, LLC.

All staff will have background checks on file before working alone with youth and families.

Please review the FFT website for additional information: www.fftinc.com

Additional training information can be found at the link below:

www.ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/BHIntegration/FFTCW_Training.pdf