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Our mission is to provide comprehensive mental health and social services to children and their families. Developing healthy alternatives to abuse and violence, addressing emotional and behavioral challenges, results in healthy children, families and communities.

## ICGC Launches Full Service Partnership

ICGC is proud to introduce the Full Service Partnership (FSP) for Children, which is a new program designed to expand the accessibility and effectiveness of children's mental health services. The County of Los Angeles recently received funding under the Mental Health Services Act to initiate this innovative new program, which will be implemented in mental health clinics throughout Los Angeles County. In contrast to more traditional therapies where clients receive treatment in a clinic, therapy under FSP programs will take place in the home and out in the "real world," in what is called field-based therapy.

While a number of families at ICGC currently receive field-based therapy, those families under FSP will receive almost all of their therapy outside of the clinic. The therapists trained for FSP programs will especially be trained in treating the family within their home, and also for meeting the needs of their client outside the scope of mental health.

When therapists are able to meet with their clients within their home environment, they are better able to assess their client's situation. As Adam Grindlinger L.C.S.W., Director of Intensive Services at ICGC states, "FSP therapists will be providing all of their treatment in the home environment, which permits a deeper understanding of the complex issues and struggles that many of our families face." Not only can the therapists better understand their client's circumstances, but they can also counsel and coach families right there in the home when



problems arise. When parents are having difficulty managing their children's unruly behavior, the therapist will be right there to teach them appropriate ways of responding and dealing with the problem.

In addition, therapists in the FSP program also help alleviate the family's situation by removing some of the stressors and obstacles they may face. For instance, if a parent needs help finding a job or if the family needs to find more suitable housing, case management can provide families with the resources they need. By providing families with basic necessities, parents can concentrate on supporting the healthy development of their children. In some cases, families cannot receive services because transportation to a clinic is simply too difficult. Especially with the recent rise in gas prices, some families cannot afford the extra cost of traveling to a mental health facility. With FSP programs, therapists will be able to go directly to the families, which will allow mental health services to be accessible to them. Furthermore, therapists will be able to drive the families wherever they need to go, demonstrating the program's commitment to providing comprehensive and essential services to families. This dedication to clients is further exemplified by the fact that families will have the access to a service provider 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

To be eligible for FSP services, a family must have at least one child between the ages of 0-15 who is experiencing serious emotional or behavioral difficulties. Children who have extreme behavior problems at school or other serious emotional disturbances (SED) can receive assistance from FSP programs. Furthermore, children who have had to be removed from their homes by child protective services or have been in out-of-home placement may qualify, in addition to those who have parents with



mental illnesses or substance abuse problems. Once a referral is made to the Department of Mental Health Impact Unit, the family is screened for eligibility. If you would like to know if your child qualifies to receive services from the FSP program, please contact Adam Grindlinger L.C.S.W., Director of Intensive Services, at (562) 692-0383 Ext. 272.