



# **Our Little Haven's Community Family Services at the Taylor Family Care Center**

**Our Little Haven's Community Family Services at the Taylor Family Care Center provides services for children and families in the foster care and adoption community. Community Family Services helps fill significant gaps in the child welfare system by meeting current needs. Our dedicated team has previously worked in the foster care case management field for many years, and this has given us the experience and knowledge to provide support and prevention services. Our goal is to continue to be an agent of change toward a healthy and permanent solution.**

**By expanding our programming, we can be of greater service within the foster care and adoption community. Community Family Services at the Taylor Family Care Center offers important early intervention services with the overall goal of permanency. Our professional and experienced team offers support and prevention services, including:**

**Coordination of Medical Services (COMS)  
Diligent Ongoing Relative Search (DORS)  
Accelerated Permanency Support (APS)**



## Community Family Services (CFS) - Coordination of Medical Services (COMS)

*Children and teens have often received only fragmentary and sporadic health care prior to entering foster care. Typically, they enter foster care with a high prevalence of undiagnosed or under-treated chronic medical problems.*

*Of the children and teens entering foster care:*

*-About 50% have chronic physical problems (e.g., asthma, anemia, visual loss, hearing loss, and neurological disorders)*

*-About 10% are medically fragile or complex*

*(as reported by the American Academy of Pediatrics 7/21/21)*

Coordination of Medical Service is a comprehensive nursing service provided by a registered nurse responsible for identifying foster children's medical, dental, behavioral and developmental needs and assisting caregivers and case managers in getting these needs met per Children's Division's guidelines and best practices according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. COMS is clinically based, child-centered and serves foster children and their families by helping to close gaps in medical care for these high-risk children.

### Available services provided by the Our Little Haven COMS:

- request and review medical records
- identify services needed and/or gaps in services
- provide referrals to specific providers as needed
- educate families on the foster child(ren)'s health needs
- assess the child(ren)'s home environment
- meet regularly with the legal guardian
- coordinate care between the case management team, medical team and family
- attend FST meetings as needed
- available for clinical collaboration

### Other possible benefits to support the alternative care community:

- Support case managers by helping to relieve the burden of tracking medical histories and appointments, reviewing medical records, and developing a plan of care for each child.
- Avoid fragmentary, crisis-oriented care by decreasing the number of emergency department (ED) visits and hospital admissions.

### How to Refer:

### COMS coordinates with the following community providers:

- First Steps
- Jefferson County pediatricians
- Medical, Dental and Mental Health Specialists

Complete a referral form and send securely to: Fax: **314.531.3164** Attn: **COMS** or [cfsreferrals@ourlittlehaven.org](mailto:cfsreferrals@ourlittlehaven.org)



4435 West Pine Blvd • St. Louis, MO 63108 • 314-531-3183 • 314-531-3164 fax

## Community Family Services (CFS) - Diligent Ongoing Relative Search (DORS)

*Previous research has found that, while in foster care, children placed with relatives experience greater placement stability and have better mental health and behavioral outcomes than children placed with non-relatives (Winokur et al, 2018).*

The Diligent Ongoing Relative Search service provides immediate relative search services for children entering foster care in St. Louis County, St. Louis City and Jefferson County focusing on placement and ongoing support. This service aims to identify family and kinship providers for all children in foster care as early as 48 hours after entering alternative care but continuing those search efforts up to and beyond 30 days when necessary. In addition, Diligent Ongoing Relative Search services will be available for those cases that have been open for longer periods of time with no family or kinship identified. The service will support case managers in assisting them with meeting the Child Placement Diligent Search expectations of Children's Division, included in Senate Bill 186, Sections 210.305 & 210.565. The DORS staff will utilize different search tools to find relatives for the child(ren) and be in regular consistent communication with the case manager and team.

### Available Services by the DORS Staff

- Database searches to locate family and kin
- Background checks for potential placements
- Interviews with child, parents and family members
- Documentation fulfilling the requirements of legislation and CD policy

### How to Refer:

### Criteria for DORS:

- Child(ren) must be in the legal custody of Children's Division in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, or Jefferson County jurisdiction.
- Child(ren) must be under the age of 18 years.
- Child(ren) must be referred within 5 business days of custody being established.

### Ongoing Case Relative Search services:

- Child(ren) must be in the legal custody of Children's Division in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, or Jefferson County jurisdiction.
- Child(ren) must be under the age of 18 years.
- Child(ren) already in care and in need of relative placement.

Complete a referral form and send securely to:

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## Community Family Services (CFS) - Accelerated Permanency Support (APS)

During fiscal year 2024 there were roughly 2422 kids in care between St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Jefferson County; of those kids 330 had a goal of guardianship and 404 had a goal of adoption. In addition, almost 45% of the 2422 children have been in care for over 2 years. (Missouri Department of Social Services, Children's Division's Children's Services Management Report June 2024)

After the permanency plan for a child(ren) in foster care changes to Guardianship or Adoption, a different permanent track begins for the child(ren). This track requires specific forms, contracts and profiles be completed in a particular order in coordination with a permanency attorney. This paperwork can be time consuming for all involved and confusing for the perspective guardian or pre-adoptive family. Our Little Haven's Community Family Services is offering Accelerated Permanency Support services to case managers. CFS staff work with the permanency placement providers, case managers and the assigned permanency attorney to expedite the paperwork process and get the team in the best position to get a date on the docket for guardianship or adoption.

APS services are currently offered to foster care case managers in St. Louis County, St. Louis City and Jefferson County.

### Available APS Services

- Coordinating the case manager and team efforts.
- Obtaining case status, contact information and consents.
- Meeting with proposed guardian or adoptive resource, explaining the proposed permanency plan, and answering questions.
- Assist with attorney selection process and potential legal conflicts.
- Gathering information to assist with the guardianship or adoptive petition.
- Search for and supply last known addresses for service of process purposes.
- Assist with completing child profile and other subsidy paperwork for Guardianship or Adoption.
- Assist the guardian ad litem regarding consents from youth 14 years old or over.
- Coordinate with the assigned attorney regarding filing legal documents with the court.
- Supply referrals for post-permanency support for child and family.

(CFS staff cannot negotiate the contract with the proposed guardian or adoptive resource. CFS staff does not provide legal services or legal advice.)

### Criteria for APS:

- Children/youth in the legal custody of Children's Division
- Children/youth under the age of 18yrs
- The child(ren) must have a court ordered case plan of Guardianship or Adoption (TPR must be granted).

*The availability of APS services is subject to additional criteria and OLH's review on a case by case basis.*

## How to Refer:

Complete a referral form and send securely to:

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