**Four Levels of Care for Children/Youth in Custody**

**Level 1—**The behavior/needs of the child/youth does not require constant supervision. Additional services/supports may be provided to the caregiver in order to have the child/ youth placed at this level. Children/youth eligible for this level program

* may be abused, neglected, exploited or unruly;
* can no longer reside in their own homes or residences;
* may exhibit runaway or delinquent behavior;
* may exhibit behavioral and/or emotional problems;
* are basically in good health, but may require medical attention;
* typically have behavior that is under control;
* have peer relations that are generally positive;
* respond favorably to nurturing; and/or
* do not pose a safety risk to the community or other children.

*These placements are always foster homes. All DCS foster homes are Level 1.*

**Level 2—**The behavior/needs of the child/youth requires more supervision than a Level 1 placement can provide. This may include a child/youth who requires monitoring/ administering of medications, has special medical requirements, needs psychological

treatment due to emotional and/or behavioral problems, or has chronic unruly behavior such as running away. Additional services/supports may be provided to the caregiver in order to have the child/youth placed at this level. Children/youth eligible for this level program

* have a DSM V clinical diagnosis of a mental disorder;
* will have been identified as having emotional/behavioral problems;
* may be delinquent or have a history of running away;
* may display manipulative behaviors;
* have difficulty maintaining self-control;
* display poor self-esteem;
* have difficulty securing and maintaining close relationships;
* may be habitually truant from school;
* have difficulty accepting authority; and/or
* may display persistent or unpredictable aggression.

*These placements are usually foster homes, or residential treatment, or group homes.*

**Level 3—**Children/youth at this level may exhibit significant disruptive behaviors such as persistent or unpredictable aggression and may be of moderate to serious risk of harm to themselves or the community. This may include children/youth with special needs such as autism or adolescent sex offenders who may require services in a secure setting due to the potential risk they pose to the community. Children/youth eligible for this level program

* have a DSM V clinical diagnosis of a mental disorder;
* will have been identified as having emotional/behavioral problems;
* have family members or primary caretakers that display a dysfunctional pattern of interaction;
* may exhibit significant disruptive behaviors;
* are at moderate to serious risk of causing harm to themselves or others;
* may be diagnosed as autistic; and/or
* may have significant substance abuse needs.

*These placements are usually group homes or residential treatment. Sometimes they are provider foster homes.*

**Level 4—**These children/youth need highly structured, therapeutically intensive services provided within a secure environment. These children/youth may have made suicidal gestures, been diagnosed as autistic, or be delinquents with serious/habitual offenses.

Children/youth eligible for this level program

* require acute inpatient psychiatric hospitalization;
* continue to require specialized mental health services;
* may have mild mental retardation, autism, autism-like behaviors;
* may exhibit chronic runaway behaviors; and/or
* have a history of substance abuse or inappropriate sexual behaviors.

**NOTE:** Must have staff psychologist participate in the CFTM to move child/youth to a Level 4.

*These are always institutional placements.*