

FFTA



Foster Family-based Treatment Association  
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Dear Colleague:

Please consider the following two questions:

1. Does your agency benchmark outcomes with other foster care agencies around the country?
2. Do you have the right data to inform key stakeholders about the services that your agency provides?

The last few years have seen a dramatic shift in the Treatment Foster Care (TFC) arena. Referral sources, government entities, and grant makers are focusing, now more than ever, on outcomes. They want evidence that their funding and trust are being invested in agencies that produce positive results. The Foster Family-based Treatment Association (FFTA) has been monitoring this trend and understands that it is no longer enough to provide only data on your own agency; funders want to see that your agency is also using benchmarks as a way to improve services. Benchmarking data provides one method of demonstrating positive outcomes.

FFTA supports the benchmark process and has piloted a national benchmarking effort to help TFC programs collect data of interest to funders and program decision-makers. This project, first established in October 2005, currently has over 30 agencies participating, resulting in a database of nearly 2,000 youth admissions and over 300 youth discharges. At this time, FFTA is extending an invitation to other agencies to be a part of this national effort by joining the *Benchmark TFC!* Project.

**About *Benchmark TFC!***

*Benchmark TFC!* was made possible through a generous, initial grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Since then, FFTA has remained committed to this project by providing additional financial support. *Benchmark TFC!* offers the following:

- Collects information on a common set of outcomes;
- Gathers data to establish and distribute benchmarks;
- Provides a survey taxonomy which classifies types of foster care, including Treatment Foster Care, Traditional Foster Care, and Specialized Foster Care, allowing for like minded-program comparisons;
- Compiles existing data for a variety of comparison purposes;
- Supports research and evaluation activities that are taking place in your agency;
- Impacts public policy through disseminating our results.

All participants receive quarterly benchmarking reports that will allow your agency to monitor the quality of its program, promote your agency, and inform your community about the services you provide. Not only will your agency receive valuable individualized information, but you will also receive aggregate data to benchmark with similar agencies. In addition, your agency will join FFTA in developing a broader, more empirically based description of children and families served in Treatment Foster Care.

The enclosed brochure outlines the benefits and advantages to joining your peer agencies in this important project. An Information Kit is available to provide in-depth information about *Benchmark TFC!* We also invite you to view a sample report at <http://www.ffta.org/benchmark/irbdeterminationltr.pdf>.

### **Data Collection**

We are familiar with the administrative burdens on agencies today and have devised three simple ways to collect and submit your data:

- Via pre-designed Excel spreadsheets (FREE to *Benchmark TFC!* subscribers)
- Auto-extractions for KaleidaCare subscribers; or
- Via a *Benchmark TFC!* web-based data collection tool offered by KaleidaCare Management Solutions (additional fee applies).

Whichever method you choose, please be assured that your individual data will be held in the strictest confidence and will be shared only with you.

### **How do you join *Benchmark TFC!*?**

*Benchmark TFC!* was initially funded as a national service to members. To help defray costs, all participants are asked to pay a small fee to sustain this important project. FFTA members pay an annual fee of \$595 per site, and nonmembers pay \$995. To join this exciting project or to request our Information Kit, please contact Melissa Cole by phone at (800) 414-3382, ext. 113 or e-mail: [mcole@ffta.org](mailto:mcole@ffta.org).

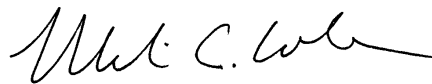
**Space is Limited.** The project is currently accepting new members through December 31, 2007. In order to ensure quality, new membership is limited to 60 agencies during this open enrollment period.

We encourage your agency to join this exciting initiative. Your agency will have the opportunity to benchmark with other programs across the country and be a part of an important effort to develop performance targets in Treatment Foster Care.

Sincerely,



Amelia Franck Meyer, MS, MSW, LISW, CAPSW  
Executive Director, PATH Wisconsin, Inc.  
President, Foster Family-based Treatment Association



Melissa C. Cole  
Administrator  
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