3.1.3.4 Mandated Eligibility through CHINS-Services Parental Agreement

Children or youth who meet criteria for a CHINS-Services but require out of home placement through an agreement between the local board or public agency designated by the CPMT and the parents or guardians where legal custody remains with the parents or guardians. These cases cannot be case managed by the LDSS.

- The use of a Parental Agreement is intended for youth with behavioral/emotional needs that require out of home placement. It is not appropriate for cases of abuse/neglect, or where protection or permanency is a concern.

3.1.3.4.1 Parental Agreement Requirements

- A Parental Agreement meeting shall occur prior to out of home placement to review the contract and be signed by members of each stakeholder group, including but not limited to the parents/guardians, agency case manager, CSA Coordinator, and an agent of the provider.
- Youth who are placed out of the home through a Parental Agreement shall be reviewed by FAPT every 30-45 days and must include the parents/guardians and the provider. In rare instances, the family and/or provider may participate via phone, however every effort must be made to attend the meeting in person. Failure to participate in person may result in immediate discharge and termination of the Parental Agreement.
- The parents/guardians of youth placed through a Parental Agreement must participate in weekly family therapy, preferably in person or through video conferencing. A Parental Agreement may be void and an extension shall not be allowed if parents/guardians do not meet this requirement unless otherwise determined by FAPT.
- Parents/guardians may be required to participate in additional services as recommended by FAPT to facilitate discharge and transition home. Failure to participate may result in immediate discharge and termination of the Parental Agreement.
- Parents/guardians of youth placed out of the home through a Parental Agreement shall be referred to the Division of Child Support Enforcement for the collection of child support. Parents/guardians may appeal the decision of the court through the DCSE appeals process.
- The Parental Agreement shall be reviewed and signed by parents/guardians, Agency Case Managers, CSA Coordinator, and authorized Provider Representative.

3.1.3.4.2 Parental Agreement Terms and Limitations

- The Parental Agreement is a voluntary agreement between the local CPMT, the agency providing the case management (CSB, CSU, or FCPS), and the parent/guardian of the youth.
- CSA Parental Agreements are limited to short-term out of home placements. “Focus is on the treatment of the child, not parent’s ability to care for or provide a safe home for a child.” (taken from New Coordinator Academy “CHINS and CSA Parental Agreements” March 2018 presentation slide 31.)
- If a youth is eligible for services under a Parental Agreement, treatment out of the home is limited to six months. If the FAPT determines that the youth is still in need of treatment at the

end of six months, the team has the authority to extend the Parental Agreement for an additional length of time individualized for each child, but no longer than 90 days. This limit will include the amount of time placed out of the home through a Parental Agreement for a family that has moved into Frederick County from another jurisdiction. A summary of the case will be presented to CPMT at the next scheduled meeting.

- In the rare instance that services beyond 270 days is necessary, services must be authorized by CPMT upon recommendation of FAPT.
- Extensions will not be granted due to the lack of participation in preparation for discharge/transition or delay in support services being sought on the part of the family.