

Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services

Specialized Placement and Review Committee (SPARC)

Informational Cover Sheet

SPARC Criteria

Intensive Treatment Foster Care (ITFC) Placements:

A child/youth who may benefit from a specialized foster care placement for the emotionally disturbed or children with behavioral challenges who are at risk of group home placement or are transitioning from a higher level group home placement.

Rate Classification Level (RCL) 13/14 Placements:

A child/youth who is at risk of placement in a group home with a Rate Classification Level of 13 or 14 - a residential treatment facility for children and adolescents who meet the diagnostic criteria of "Seriously Emotionally Disturbed".

Out of State Placements:

A child/youth who is being considered for placement in a facility in a state other than California.

Other – Recommended at Internal CWS Placement Staffing (complex placement issues requiring the oversight of CWS and Behavioral Wellness):

A child/youth with complex placement issues which would benefit from the oversight of a specialized review team. The assigned social worker must receive authorization for the case to proceed to SPARC through the internal Placement Staffing process. These actions should take place a minimum of one week before they wish to have it presented at SPARC.

Scheduling and Referral Procedures

1. SPARC reviews are scheduled to meet immediately following the Wraparound Intervention Team (WIT) meetings which begin at 9 am every Thursday morning.
2. Upon recommendation of the placement staffing, the social worker should complete the placement referral form and submit it to the SPARC coordinator, as well as all CWS Supervisors, at least one day prior to the scheduled SPARC meeting.
3. SPARC referrals shall be presented by the SPARC coordinator/representative after consultation with the assigned social worker and unit supervisor.

