At The Village Family Services (TVFS), children and families always come first. TVFS’ mission is to protect children from abuse, preserve families and build a stronger, safer community for all. With a complete spectrum of integrated, strengths- and evidence-based, family-focused and culturally competent services, TVFS can accomplish its mission. In 2012 the agency received the Human Rights Campaign’s All Children – All Families seal, showing cultural competency in working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) youth and families. In addition, the agency collaborates with a variety of other federal, state and local organizations.

The Outpatient Mental Health (OMH) Department at TVFS is designed to support infants, toddlers, children, adolescents, and their families who are victims of neglect, family or community violence, abuse (emotional, physical, or sexual), or who have been exposed to traumatic events. While primarily serving those residing in Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas Two and Seven, encompassing the San Fernando Valley and a portion of East Los Angeles, TVFS’ bilingual (Armenian, English, Farsi and Spanish) clinical staff is extensively trained to provide a range of coordinated mental health interventions including: individual and family therapies; school-based services; in-home counseling; case management; psychological testing; the Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Team (MAT); and psychiatric assessment, medication support services and classes for adults on parenting, domestic violence and anger management. These services take place at TVFS’ offices, in client homes, or within Los Angeles Unified School District through established memorandums of understanding.

Clients and their families can be involved with this program and other TVFS programs if necessary and desired by the client. If a client needs or wants services that are not offered directly by TVFS, the agency maintains a referral network and is dedicated to serving clients and families in the communities in which they live.

Clients are referred to TVFS through various avenues including the Los Angeles Departments of Mental Health, Department of Children and Family Services, Probation Department, children and family courts, County info line and on-line services, private outpatient clinics, hospitals, schools, surrounding agencies, and referrals within programs at TVFS. The agency prides itself in providing specialized care to clients and their families with a staff trained on trauma-informed care and evidenced based interventions. TVFS has received The Human Rights Campaign’s All Children All Families seal which recognizes that the agency is well-versed and culturally competent in serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) clients and LGBTQ-headed families. In 2010 The Village Family Services launched its innovative program called Project Q to better meet the needs of LGBTQ clients. In addition, all staff members are trained with working with LGBTQ youth and families.

After initial assessments, clients, therapists, and their treatment team determine the need and frequency of services and develop the client–centered care plan. Evidence based practices used by TVFS have been validated by research and proven to increase wellness and reduce negative mental health symptoms. The OMH Department staff has been trained and specializes in the following evidence based practices:

**Trauma-Focused Cognitive Therapy (TF-CBT):** TF-CBT is a model of psychotherapy that combines trauma-sensitive interventions, with elements of cognitive behavioral therapy, into a treatment designed to address the unique needs of children with Post Traumatic Stress Disorders and other problems related to traumatic life experiences.

**Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP):** CPP is a model designed to restore the child-parent relationship and the child’s mental health development that has been damaged by the experience of traumatic events such as domestic violence.

**Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT):** PCIT is a model designed to improve the quality of the parent-child relationship by focusing on teaching and coaching parents of children who express behavioral problems including aggression, non-compliance, and defiance.
Positive Parenting Program (Triple P): Triple P is a model designed to work with parents and caregivers of children and adolescents who present with social, emotional, or behavioral problems, by enhancing knowledge, skills, and confidence.

Seeking Safety: Seeking Safety is a present-focused therapy concentrating on the integration of treatment for Trauma, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, and substance abuse. This model focuses on coping skills and psycho-education to ultimately reduce substance use and improve trauma symptoms.

Managing and Adapting Practice (MAP): MAP is a database designed to improve quality, efficiency, and outcome of children’s mental health services. It assists the clinician in developing proficiency in the selection, organization, and delivery of evidence based treatments, and ultimately improves direct services to clients.

Alternatives for Families Cognitive Behavior Therapy (AF-CBT): AF-CBT is designed to improve the relationships between children and their caregivers by addressing concerns such as harsh physical discipline and punishment, child and family aggression, and family interactions characterized by trauma, hostile interaction and conflict.

Crisis Oriented Recovery Services (CORS): CORS is a short-term intervention designed to provide immediate crisis intervention, address identified case management needs and assures hard linkage to ongoing services.

Individual Cognitive Behavior Therapy (Individual-CBT): Individual CBT is conducted in an individual format, aims to reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety with a variety of treatment strategies including psycho-education, skills acquisition, contingency management, Socratic questioning, behavioral activation, exposure, cognitive modification, acceptance and mindfulness strategies and behavioral rehearsal.

Interpersonal Therapy (IPT): IPT is a brief, attachment-focused psychotherapy that centers on resolving interpersonal problems and symptomatic recovery. It is an empirically supported treatment (EST) that follows a highly structured and time-limited approach and is intended to be completed within 12–16 weeks.

Our agency is funded through grants, program contracts with the Los Angeles County Departments of Mental Health and Children and Family Services, philanthropic contributions, and in-kind support. Additional support comes from interest and dividend income, special events, and unrealized gain. Most clients seen at TVFS are insured by Medi-Cal, and the agency is able to answer questions regarding eligibility and access. If a client is uninsured funds may be available through grants to provide services.

Agency hours are Monday–Thursday: 8:30am-8:30pm, Friday: 8:30am-7:00pm and Saturday: 9:00am-1:00pm. More information on the OMH Department and other services can be found at www.thevillagefs.org, through calling (818)755 - 8786, or emailing info@thevillagefs.org.

Additionally, the program maintains an on-call system that provides emergency response to clients and families on a 24 hour, seven days a week basis.

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