

## ***Foster Care for Children with Behavior Problems from the Perspective of Experts***

### ***Summary***

*Abstract: The goal of the research is to gain insight into the challenges of foster care for children with behavioral problems from the perspective of experts and their suggestions for improving foster care, with the purpose of identifying guidelines for the development of specialized foster care and protect the welfare of children with behavioral problems. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews (N = 7), and as a method of processing the data collected an analysis of the thematic framework was used. Results show that from the perspective of experts the main problems of practice in a system of foster care in Croatia, are that primarily the specialized foster care as such has not happened, although there is a legal basis for this form of foster care to be full in form. Experts their experiences in the field of foster care for children with behavioral disorders describe in the following topics: system limitations, instability and negative experience of placing a child with behavioral disorders in foster care and factors that contribute to the positive experience of foster care of children with behavioral disorders. For the challenges of foster care for children with behavioral disorders experts were pointing lack of preparation of foster parents to care for children with behavioral disorders, difficulties related to the manifest behavior of the child, lack of support for foster parents, and environmental risk factors for children. Suggestions of experts for the improvement of foster care for children with behavioral disorders are launching specialized foster care in practice, which reflects the setting of clear criteria for engaging in specialized foster care, the organization of systematic assistance and support for foster parents, the need to recruit more foster parents and the professionalisation of foster care.*

**Key words:** *foster care, specialized foster care, behavior disorders*