CONCURRENT PERMANENCY PLANNING

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Traditional Child Protection Case Management

- Temporary foster care
- Reunification efforts made over many years
- Permanency determination
- Search for adoptive family for the child
- Usually involves numerous moves for the child
- Often creates attachment problems for the child
Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA)

- Passed in 1997 (Public Law 105-89)
- Established maximum time limits for children in out of home placement
- Attempts to reduce length of time children are in foster care
Minnesota’s response to ASFA

- Children under 8 years of age
  - Permanency review at 6 months
  - Final permanency determination 12 months

- Children over 8 years of age
  - Final permanency determination 12 months

- Immediate permanency
  - Egregious harm
  - Prior involuntary TPR or TPLC
  - Children in out of home care for 15 of last 22 months
Concurrent Permanency Planning (CPP)

Goals

- Provide comprehensive services to the child’s parents to improve conditions in the home such that child may safely return home;
- Place the child with a permanency resource family who will:
  - Assume the care for the child and incorporate the child in their home;
  - Support the reunification process;
  - Provide a permanent home for the child if reunification does not occur.
What is CPP?

- An approach to social work which emphasizes reunification and establishes an alternative permanency plan for the child if the child cannot return home.
- Concurrent planning NOT sequential planning
- Front end loading
- Comprehensive services
- Family centered
- Child focused
- Community based
CPP
Target Populations

- Children who enter foster care under the age of 8 and their siblings:
  - and remain in out-of-home placement more than 90 days
  - or have a prognosis of remaining in care for more than 90 days;
- Children involved in an immediate permanency case until the Court relieves the agency of providing further reunification services;
- Indian children involved in a permanency case.
CPP Principles

Full Disclosure – To Parents

- Explain foster care and child’s need for permanent family;
  - Potential attachment issues for children in foster care
- Discuss parents’ rights and responsibilities
  - Share information regarding child
  - Relative search
  - Case planning
- Discuss supportive services available to the parents
- Discuss CPP
  - Timeframes
  - Permanency options
CPP Principles (2)

Full Disclosure – To Permanency Families

- Explain children's needs for permanency
- Define time frames
- Discuss legal requirement to search for relatives
- Explain CPP
- Offer support services
- Review licensing, training and responsibilities
CPP Principles (3)

Timely Assessments

- Structured Decision Making
  - Family Strengths and Needs Assessment
  - Child well-being tool
  - Reunification tool
- Children’s mental health screening tool
- Chemical Dependency assessments
- Mental health/psychological assessments
- Parenting assessments
Timely permanency determination

- Children under 8 years when CHIPS Petition filed:
  - Six month permanency review, if parent substantially complying with case plan and maintaining regular contact with child, may extend six additional months;
  - 12 month permanency review – required determination as to child’s permanent placement

- Children 8 years and over when CHIPS Petition filed:
  - permanency determination required at 12 months post court ordered out-of-home placement.

Minn. Stat. Sec. 260C.201, subd. 11 and 11a
Guidelines to Implementation

Case Planning

- Plan A

  Comprehensive assessments & services/supports (with a focus on reunification of child with parent)
  - Parenting assessments
  - Chemical dependency assessments
  - Psychological assessments
  - Diagnostic assessments for children

Implement case plan
  - In small steps
  - With individualized services/supports
  - Allows for parent to experience success
Guidelines to Implementation (2)

- **Plan B**
  Early planning for where the child will stay if reunification is not possible
  - Requires early comprehensive relative search
  - Work with parents for information
  - Family Group Decision Making
  - Tribal notification
  - Court order for parent to cooperate if necessary
  - Identification of permanency resource families
  - Individualized placement determination
Tribal involvement in all facets of permanency planning;

Both plans pursued concurrently NOT sequentially with initial primary focus on reunification;

Visitation
  • Early
  • Often
  • Least restrictive, most normal environment & activity
  • Siblings
Case Management

- **3 Stages**
  - **“Doing For”**
    - Social Worker is very active in arranging services
  - **“Doing With”**
    - Social Worker efforts reduce in intensity
  - **“Cheering On”**
    - Social Worker encourages parent’s efforts
Permanency Determination Options

- Reunification
  - Trial home visits Minn. Stat. 260C.201, subd. 1(a)(3)
- Consent of Parent to Adoption
  - Minn. Stat. 260C.201, subd. 11(d)(5)
- Termination of Parental Rights
  - Minn. Stat. 260C.201, subd. 11(d)(2); subd. 11a (d)(3) and 260C.301
- Transfer of Physical and Legal Custody
  - Minn. Stat. 260C.201, subd. 11(d)(1) and subd. 11a (d)(2)
- Long Term Foster Care in limited situations
  - Minn. Stat. 260C.201, subd. (d)(3)
Relatives

- Option that best preserves family relationships and connections
- Relative search required pursuant to:
  - Minn. Stat. 260.012 (e)(3) reasonable efforts requires diligent relative search
  - Minn. Stat. 260C.212, subd. 2 outline placement preferences and best interests factors for determining placement needs
  - Minn. Stat. 260C.212, subd. 4 outlines general agency responsibilities to children in placement
  - Minn. Stat. 260C.212, subd. 5 outlines scope of relative search and notice requirements
  - Minn. Stat. 260.751-260.835 MIFPA; USC, Title 25, 1901 et. seq. ICWA outlines placement preference and notice requirements for Indian Children
Permanency
Resource Families

- Recruitment
- Training
- Retention
Questions?????????
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