

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 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**

CPP Principles (4)

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**

Guidelines to Implementation (3)

- **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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