



## The Components of Concurrent Permanency Planning



### Components of CPP- for Every Child with the Goal of Reunification:

- Family/Child Assessment
- Front Loading Services/ Service Referral
- Relative Diligent Search
- Full Disclosure – Plan A and Plan B
- Permanency Planning Conference/Case Planning Meeting
- Parenting Time Visits



## Family/Child Assessment – Thinking CPP from the Start

- Looking at the strengths, needs and core issues that are impacting reunification.
- Forming a reasoned theory about the likelihood that the child(ren) will return home.
- Coming up with a plan for permanency if the child(ren) is not able to return to birth family.



## Front Loading Services – Imperative if Parents are to be Given a Fair Chance to Reunify

- A concerted effort to supply all needed services to the birth family as soon as the child(ren) enters care.
- Service referral happens no later than 30 days after placement
  - the sooner parents are using services, the sooner they can address the problems that brought their children into care.



## Front Loading cont....

- The use of treatment plans and service agreements that are clear on:
  - Short term immediate goals
  - Long term permanency goals
  - Links to services
  - Time frames that are documented and adhered to
  - Documentation of services
  - Documentation of progress (behavioral indicators)



## Front Loading cont....

- Early and ongoing case reviews to:
  - assess progress
  - understand continuing needs
  - plan for the future.



## Relative Diligent Search – Finding and Placing with Relatives who can Meet the Children's Needs

- Relative search and notification within 30 days of placement.
- CPS Workers begin the search prior to transfer to foster care.
- FC Worker continues efforts until permanency is achieved.



## Relative Diligent Search cont....

- Timely searches for relatives and nonrelatives includes:
  - Documenting the child(ren)'s relatives
  - Notifying the child(ren)'s relatives of his/her placement in foster care
  - Searching for relatives
  - Continuous follow up with relatives until the child is out of care



## Relative Diligent Search cont....

- Inquiries are made of parents, age appropriate children and others to identify:
  - Maternal and paternal grandparents
  - Maternal and paternal aunts and uncles
  - Adult siblings of the child
  - Other relatives/fictive kin



## Relative Diligent Search cont....

- The goal is to find relatives interested in having a relationship with the child:
  - Have contact
  - Provide connection or support
  - Provide a placement



## Relative Diligent Search cont....

- Forms for search include:
  - Relative Notification – DHS-990
  - Relative Response – DHS – 989
  - Relative Search Information – DHS-988
  - Relative Documentation- DHS-987
  - Diligent Search - 991



## Full Disclosure – Plan A and Plan B

- Explaining the importance of obtaining permanency quickly for the child.
- Revealing to parents that two permanency plans are made:
  - Plan A is reunification
  - Plan B is the alternative permanency plan: adoption, guardianship. Or another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA)



## Full Disclosure – Plan A and Plan B cont....

- Being honest and open with birth family, relatives, foster families and the legal system about the CPP process and time frames:
  - All are informed that there will be an alternative permanency plan
  - It is clear to all what steps the birth family must take to have the child(ren) returned
  - It is clear that the alternative permanency plan will be implemented if the birth family does not meet the expectations within the time frames specified



## Full Disclosure – Plan A and Plan B cont....

- Clear explanation of parental rights and responsibilities, available assistance, consequences for actions.
- Development of a permanency plan with all relevant parties.
- Providing regular progress updates on the PATP.

- ● ● | Permanency Planning Conference/Case Planning Meetings
  - Use of group conferences to involve families, their support systems and others in early planning can incorporate some or all of the case planning meeting.

- ● ● | Permanency Planning Conference/Case Planning Meetings cont...
  - Meeting participants include:
    - Birth family
    - Foster family
    - Relatives
    - Worker
    - Child(ren) who are older (all children need to be informed of the meeting )
  - Meetings can serve to help build relationships between birth parents, foster parents, relatives, etc. and facilitate information sharing between parties.



## Permanency Planning Conference (PPC)

- PPC's are to take place:
  - Prior to placement or by the next working day after an emergency placement
  - Prior to a change in placement in foster care
  - Prior to reunification
  - Prior to a change in the permanency goal



## Permanency Planning Conference (PPC) cont....

- When a child returns from AWOLP status.
- For a child in care for 9 months with a goal of reunification for whom insufficient progress has been made to ensure reunification by 12 months.
- For a child who for 3 months has been legally free for adoption and does not have a permanent placement identified.



## Case Planning Meetings

- Meetings are held within 30 days of initial removal.
- Can be combined with 2 face-to-face visits.
- Meetings include:
  - Review aspects of CPP
  - Develop Parent-Agency Treatment Plan
  - Develop concurrent plan for the child
  - Provide full disclosure
  - Obtain info on relative search
  - Discuss service referrals
  - Discuss parenting time plan



## Parenting Time Visits

- Encouraging regular visitation by parents to increase the chance of reunification.
- Planning and following through on regular and timely visits that are scheduled with the child's needs and age in mind.
- Structuring visits so that parents are more likely to participate.
- Involving foster parents in visits to promote a supportive relationship between foster parents and birth parents.



## Parenting Time Visits cont...

- If reunification is the goal and unless otherwise ordered by the court- frequency of visitation based on age includes:
  - Ages 0 – 2 years – minimum 3 visits per week.
  - Ages 3 – 5 years – minimum 2 visits per week.
  - Ages 6 years and up – minimum 1 visit per week.



## CPP Components Wrap Up

- Goals and outcomes of CPP include:
  - Support the safety and well-being for children and families
  - Decrease the number of child replacements
  - Decrease the length of stay in foster care
  - Increase timely permanency for children

# Components of Concurrent Permanency Planning

## Family/Child Assessment

- Looking at the strengths, needs and core issues that brought the child(ren) into care, and that are impacting reunification.
- Forming a reasoned theory about the likelihood that the child(ren) will return home.
- Coming up with a plan for permanency if the child(ren) is not able to return to birth family.

## Front Loading Services

- A concerted effort to supply all needed services to the birth family as soon as the child(ren) enters care, but no later than 30 days after placement.
- The use of treatment plans and service agreements that are clear on:
  - Short term immediate goals
  - Long term permanency goals
  - Links to services
  - Time frames that are documented and adhered to
  - Documentation of services
  - Documentation of progress (behavioral indicators)
- Early and ongoing case reviews to assess progress, understand continuing needs, plan for the future.

## Relative Diligent Search

- Searching for relatives and nonrelatives of children placed in foster care:
  - Search to begin within 30 days of placement
  - CPS worker initiates search efforts prior to case transfer to foster care
  - Documenting the child(ren)'s relatives (Relative Documentation DHS 987)
  - Notifying the child(ren)'s relatives of his/her placement in foster care (DHS 990)
  - Searching for relatives (Diligent Search Checklist DHS 991)
  - Foster care worker makes continuous searches/follow up with relatives until legal permanence is achieved for the child(ren)
  - Documenting relative response (Relative Response DHS 989)
  - Utilizing family network to contact relatives (Relative Search Information DHS 988)

## **Full Disclosure – Plan A and Plan B**

- Revealing that two permanency plans are made:
  - Plan A is reunification
  - Plan B is the alternative permanency plan: adoption, guardianship or another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA)
- Being honest and open with birth family, relatives, foster families and the legal system about the CPP process:
  - All are informed that there will be an alternative permanency plan
  - It is clear to all what steps the birth family must take to have the child(ren) returned
  - It is clear that the alternative permanency plan will be implemented if the birth family does not meet the expectations within the time frames specified

## **Permanency Planning Conference/Case Planning Meeting**

- Use of group conferences to involve families, their support systems and others in early planning can incorporate some or all of the case planning meeting.
- Meeting participants include:
  - Birth family/relatives
  - Foster family
  - Worker
  - Child(ren) who are older (all children need to be informed of the meeting )
  - Service providers
- Meetings can serve to help build relationships between birth parents, foster parents, relatives, etc. and facilitate information sharing between parties.

## **Visitation**

- Encouraging regular visitation by parents to increase the chance of reunification.
- Planning and following through on regular and timely visits that are scheduled with the child's needs and age in mind.
- Structuring visits so that parents are more likely to participate.
- Involving foster parents in visits to promote a supportive relationship between foster parents and birth parents.
- If reunification is the goal and unless otherwise ordered by the court- frequency of visitation based on age includes:
  - Ages 0 – 2 years – minimum 3 visits per week
  - Ages 3 – 5 years – minimum 2 visits per week
  - Ages 6 years and up – minimum 1 visit per week