

Michigan's Families First and Family Reunification Programs

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Michigan FPS Program History

- Foster Care Rate
- Decision-Making for families and children
- FPS Costs vs. Foster Care Placement
- Initial Planning and Pilot

FPS History *Continued*

- Stages of Growth-Families First
- Expansion to larger teams
- Reunification referrals
- Juvenile Justice
- Domestic Violence
- All 83 Michigan Counties
- ASFA-1997



History *Continued*

- ASFA – 1997
- Family Reunification Program
- Family Group Decision Making
- Families Together Building Solutions



Continuum of Care

Category III and IV

Community Services recommended and/or needed.

Services referred to:

Families Together Building Solutions

Wraparound Services

Continuum *Continued*

Category I and II

CPS required, Court petition required, *Family has been unsuccessful in services.

Services for referral:

Families First of Michigan

Wraparound

Other In-Home Services

Continuum *Continued*

Court Intervention and Foster Care

Children removed and placed in care. Planning for return.

Services for referral:

Family Reunification Program

Families First of Michigan

Continuum *Continued*

Post Adoption Services

For the purpose of strengthening the parent/child relationship, or, averting a disrupted adoptive family.

Services for referral

Families First of Michigan



Families First of Michigan

Program Characteristics

- Focus on Family Strengths
- Limited to Children at Imminent Risk of placement
- Immediate Response (w/in 24 hours)
- Flexible 24/7 schedule
- Small Caseloads
- Intensive Intervention (Min. 10 hours/week/family)

Characteristics *Continued*

- Services delivered in the family home/community
- Time Limited and Brief (4 to 6 weeks)
- “Hard” and “Soft” services delivered by a single worker w/ safety back-up
- Ecological Approach
- Goal Oriented w/ Limited Objectives
- Specific Assistance
- Evaluation

Referrals

- Can be taken by the contracted agency program supervisor and assigned 24/7.
- Taken on a first come, first served basis. (No waiting list)
- DHS Protective Services, Foster Care services staff are the designated referral sources.
- Worker phones the agency team and the program supervisor takes referral information.

Services

- Skill-Based Interventions:
 - Behavior Management
 - Household Management
 - Anger management
 - Impulse Control
 - Cognitive Strategies
 - Communication Skills
 - Money management
 - Social Support Interventions



Services *Continued*

Concrete Services

- Home repairs and cleaning
- Transportation
- Advocacy
- Relocation assistance



Family Reunification Program

Program Characteristics

- ❑ Focus on the family – Not Problems
- ❑ Limited to children returning home from placement
- ❑ Immediate Response (within 48 hours)
- ❑ Flexible Scheduling (24/7 availability)
- ❑ Small caseload (6 families per Social Worker, 12 families per Team Leader)

Characteristics *Continued*

- ❑ “Hard” and “Soft” services delivered by a team with safety back-up
- ❑ Ecological Approach
- ❑ Goal Oriented w/ Limited Objectives
- ❑ Specific Assistance
- ❑ Parenting Classes Offered to Families (on-going)

Characteristics *Continued*

- ❑ Workshops and Family Activities offered Quarterly
 - ❑ Respite Care Availability (up to 5 days)
 - Formal: Foster Care Respite available
 - Informal: Other Family members/Kin
- Evaluation

Program Goals

- Increased Early Return Home
- Remaining Reunified with no further out of home placement (or CPS Involvement)



Modality

- Solution Focused Brief Therapy model as developed by Insoo Kim-Berg.**

ALSO

Skill-Based interventions are employed in concert with the more formal therapeutic services.

CASEFLOW

First Month:

- 48 hr contact w/ family (meet w/ all w/in 5 days)
- Average 4 hrs. of services weekly (minimum).
Average 8 - 12 hrs. weekly for the first two weeks children are placed back in the home.
- Assessment and information gathering
- Set goals in collaboration with the family
- Design treatment plan
- Begin working on the plan

CASEFLOW *Continued*

Second Month

- Team continues to work on goals and treatment planning.
- **Average of 4 hours service (minimum) weekly. Average 8 – 12 hours weekly if additional children are reunified.**
- Updated Service Plan due to referring worker by day **67** (7 days after the next 30-day period)

CASEFLOW *Continued*

□ Third Month

- Continue to work on goals and treatment plan.
- Service hours continue at the same rate (on average)
- Updated plan would be due to the referring worker by day 97 (7 days after the third month of services).

CASEFLOW *Continued*

Fourth Month

- Prepare for the termination of the intervention
- Make additional referrals to community resources, as appropriate
- Termination meeting with family to review progress on goals and changes that have occurred in the last four months.
- Closing Summary due to the referring worker by day 130.




