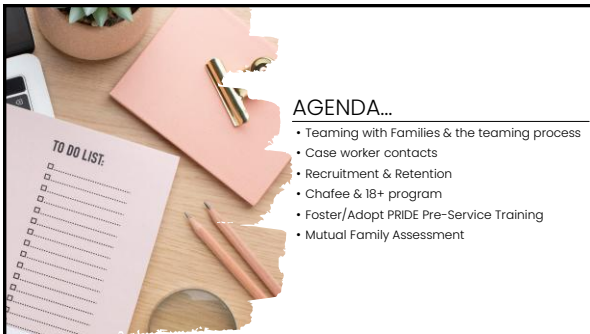




1



2



3

WHERE DO WE START?



- Relationship initiated
- gaining trust
- Gathered information on
strengths/needs & supports
- Assemble Team
- Create case plan & implement

4



5

Ask family members...

- When _____ happened, who did you call first??
- Who has been helpful to you and/or your family in the past?
- What professionals do you feel have you have been helpful in the past?
- Do you have any family members who aren't aware of the situation?
 - Could be helpful?
 - Would your child benefit from their support?
- Where do you find other community support?
- Is there someone specific at your child's school that has been helpful?

6

Who belongs on the team?

7

POTENTIAL TEAM MEMBERS...

- Parents
- Noncustodial parents
- Child (age dependent)
- Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)
- Extended family
- Family friends
- Kinship Providers
- Foster Care Providers
- Therapist/Counselor
- School Professionals
- Coaches
- Chemical Dependence Professionals
- ICWA Family Preservationist
- Mental Health Professionals
- QRTP or PRTF professionals
- Parent Aides
- Chafee II Worker
- Family Support Workers
- Attorney/Legal Professionals
- Parole/Probation Officers
- Medical Professionals
- Other Safety Service Providers
- Other Child Welfare Professionals

8

To Qualify for Team Involvement, Individuals should...

- Have a role in the lives of the child(ren) and/or family
- Be supportive to the family
- Be committed to participate in the process
- Participate in discussions
- Be involved in the plan for the child and family
- Be willing to accept responsibility for a task within plan.

9

Curious, how many of you
LOVE group work?



10

- Anxiety or resistance to working on teams
- Resistant to "sharing" authority and decision-making...
 - Prefer...
"power over rather than power with"
- Increased time commitment (initially)
- Tension between partners (individuals or disciplines), including perceived status differences
- Results take time
- Different systems may appear to have contradictory goals

Challenges to Team Development



11

Children & Family Team Meetings...

- What is the purpose?
- How often do we meet?
- How do we prepare families for these meetings?
- What are possible outcomes/goals?



12

Potential Outcomes of a CFTM



- Children remain safely with their parents or relatives.
- Children are reunified with their parents or relatives.
- Children are safely adopted by relatives or other families.
- Children are safely placed with relatives or other families as legal guardians.
- Children are safely placed in another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA).

13

Concurrent Planning



- Working towards reunification while at the same time establishing and implementing an alternative permanency plan.
- Concurrent rather than sequential planning efforts to more quickly move children from the uncertainty of foster care to the security of a safe and stable permanent family.

14

Children & Family Team Meeting Outline...



15



16



17



18



19



20



Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997

- Requires permanency decisions within 12 months of placement
- Court order language...
 - Contrary to the welfare of the child to remain in the home
 - Reasonable efforts to prevent removal
- Trial Home Visits
 - Planned, formalized, agency supervised
 - May not exceed six months duration
 - Unless court orders longer visit
 - IV-E eligibility must be re-established if longer than 6 mo.

21

ASFA Key Points

- Use of Concurrent Planning implemented
- Compelling Reasons
- Aggravated Circumstances
- Termination of Parental Rights...
 - Child has been in foster care for 15 out of the most recent 22 months (450 of the last 660 days)
 - The child is being cared for by a relative
 - Documented compelling reasons that a TPR would not be in the best interests of the child
 - State has not provided necessary services



22

What
about the
relatives???



23

Relative Preference

Federal law requires that the State shall consider **giving preference** to an adult relative over a non-related caregiver when determining a placement for a child, provided that the relative caregiver meets all relevant state child protection standards.

(1996 amendment to Section 471 of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act)

24



Relative Preference cont.

The department and county social service boards shall thoroughly explore the option of kinship care when a child is unable to return home due to safety concerns. Absent kinship options, the department and the county social service boards shall provide permanency options that are in the least restrictive care and near the family's home as required by the federal Adoption and Safe Family Act of 1997.

(ND Century Code 50-06-23)

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Fostering Connections to Success & Increasing Adoptions Act

Relative search and notification:

- Agencies are required to exercise due diligence to identify and provide notice to the following relatives:
 - Parents,
 - Parents of a sibling of the child entering foster care who have legal custody of the sibling,
 - All adult grandparents, and
 - Any other adult suggested by the parents, subject to exceptions due to family or domestic violence
- Notification within 30 days of child's removal.

ND FC Permanency Planning Policy
Requirement for Notice to Relatives to Child's Removal 624-05-15-50-23

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Sibling placement:

- Reasonable efforts to place siblings together
- Reasonable efforts to provide frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between siblings
- Unless contrary to the sibling's safety or well-being

The case plan must reflect in detail:

- Efforts were made to place siblings together when they must be removed from their parents' home, provided it is in the children's best interests; and,
- In the case of siblings not placed together, efforts to provide for frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction is being made, unless such interaction would be harmful to any of the siblings.

Key Requirements of FC Act

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Remember...

The best planning & search efforts come from...

GOOD CASEWORK!!!

No life changing decision should be made in isolation!

28

A group of people are sitting around a wooden table, looking at a speech bubble that says "Teamwork is Essential for Successful Planning!!!". The speech bubble is white with a black outline and contains the text in a black, sans-serif font. The people are seen from above, and the table is made of dark wood.

29

Promoting Placement Stability and Permanency Through Caseworker Visits

An illustration of four colorful houses with green roofs. The houses are in shades of blue, red, yellow, and green. They are arranged in a row, and the roofs are a solid green color. The houses have small windows and doors.

30

Minimum Requirements

The Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006
(PL 109-288)

- Monthly visits: focused on case planning & service delivery
- Majority of the visits must occur in the residence of the child
- Face to Face visits must address safety, permanence, & well-being
- Video conferencing does not meet the standard for face to face
- Caseworker visits can be conducted by any caseworker in the custodial agency

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Case worker visits

Evaluate for...

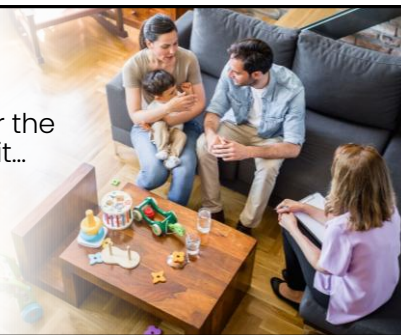
Safety

Permanency

Well-Being

32

Planning for the
home visit...



33

Foster Care Providers have a lot to handle...



...so here are some things to consider!

34

NORTH DAKOTA

FOSTER OR ADOPT

Recruitment & Retention
Of foster providers & adoptive parents

35



36

NORTH DAKOTA

FOSTER OR ADOPT

Recruitment & Retention

1.833.FST.HOME
1.833.378.4663

37



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Questions or simply want to continue
the conversation on CW in ND...

amy.oehlke@und.edu or 701.777.3261

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