



Section C: Program Information

(2) Promoting Safe and Stable Families

**Family Preservation
Family Support
Time-Limited Reunification
Adoption Promotion and Support Services**

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

Child and Family Services Plan FY 2010 - FY 2014 Promoting Safe and Stable Families

Children's Administration will use Title IV-B, subpart 2 funds on actual service delivery within the following four categories:

- **Family preservation:** Family Preservation Services (FPS) are available primarily to families whose children face "substantial likelihood" of being placed outside of the home or to assist with reunifying a child with their family (from out-of-home care). Interventions focus on resolving the immediate crisis and strengthening a family's relationships through a variety of community resources. FPS is available to families within 48 hours of referral and is offered for a maximum of six months by a contracted service provider. Services include a pre- and post- service assessment using the North Carolina Family Assessment Scales.

In FY 2009, the following was accomplished:

- 1) Discussions continued about potential Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) for FPS.
- 2) The first pilot Evidence-Based Practice training was scheduled for FPS providers. A few FPS therapists were trained in Triple P and are now incorporating these skills in their practices.

In FY 2010, the following is planned:

- 1) Discussions continue regarding FPS and the implementation of Evidence-based practices.
- 2) The target for the adding EBPs to the FPS contracts is 2010.
- 3) The training structure for NCFAS will change in FY 2010. In keeping with the new FPS online format, CA will be moving the NCFAS training out of the classroom and to the CA provider webpage. This will make the training more accessible and convenient.

- **Community-Based Family Support:** Early Family Support Services (EFSS) are provided statewide through regional contractors to help reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect and re-referrals to CPS. EFSS serves families whose CPS referrals are determined to be low risk or moderately low risk at intake or following investigation. As a result of the Children's Administration 100% contract review initiated in 2005, this program has undergone improvements. The program is now has two pathways for services. The contracts have a short-term referral based service as well as a longer term, family engagement and intervention pathway. The family engagement path includes the Omaha System which is a family assessment component. The Omaha System allows providers to track and document family and individual outcomes.

The program also includes the integration of evidenced-based and promising practices: Promoting First Relationships and Triple P – Positive Parenting Program. These programs, as well as the Omaha System, will be phased into the programs within the next few years due to the nature of training and oversight needed.

In FY 2009, CA continued to move forward implementing changes recommended from the Children's Administration internal contracts review. The following has been implemented by contracted providers:

- 1) Standardization of service delivery to include a two-tiered delivery service that provides short term and long term interventions.
- 2) Improved time frames outlining service delivery.
- 3) Training in Motivational Interviewing with the goal of increasing family engagement and improving service delivery.
- 4) Training in the Omaha System, which was the chosen classification system for documenting and tracking client and family outcomes.

- 5) Completed a three month Omaha pilot project with five agencies.
- 6) Two provider agencies received training in the promising practice, Promoting First Relationships.
- 7) Three provider agencies received training in Triple P – Positive Parenting Program.
- 8) Throughout FY 2009, a stakeholder group met regularly to implement and track changes as a result of the review. The stakeholder group will continue to meet to assist in developing continued improvements for FY 2010.
- 9) Held EFSS provider meetings in each region to allow information sharing and updates on the EFSS program and changes in CA.

The following is expected in FY 2010:

- 1) Continue training in the Omaha System so providers can begin tracking outcome data.
 - 2) Implement the use of training hubs statewide to support EFSS providers with the Omaha implementation and other training needs/consultation.
 - 3) Continue training phase in of Promoting First Relationships.
 - 4) Continue training in Triple-P
 - 5) Utilize stakeholder workgroup to look at Project SafeCare as a potential fit for this program.
- **Time-Limited Family Reunification:** Time limited family reunification services provide FPS for family reunification when children have been in out of home care not more than 15 months. They also include Transportation and Supervised Visitation services. Parent-Child Visitation contracts provide transportation and supervision for visits between children in out-of-home care and their families, essential services that support family reunification.
- **Adoption promotion and support services:** This funding will be used for recruitment of prospective adoptive homes, development of specialized adoption curricula, medical care not covered by Medicaid for children receiving adoption support services and training of staff on adoption related issues.

A post adoption booklet using a question and answer format was developed for adoptive families. The booklet was mailed to all adoptive families currently on Adoption Support and is provided to new families.