



Section B: 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**



Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2008 - FY 2009 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 2008, the following was accomplished:

- 1) Discussions continued about potential Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) for FPS. (The target for the addition of EBPs to their contracts is 2010.)
- 2) The first pilot Evidence-Based Practice training was scheduled for FPS providers.

In FY 2009, the following is planned:

- 1) Ongoing discussions and decisions regarding the implementation of appropriate Evidence-Based Practices in FPS. In July 2008, an initial training will be held to introduce Triple P (Positive Parenting Program), on a voluntary basis to a limited number of FPS contractors in more rural areas of the state.

- **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.

Continuum of Care is a program designed to serve children and families both active and not active with Children's Administration. The services are determined within each community, based on gaps in existing services. Programs vary by provider but generally focused on serving ethnically diverse children and families referred to Children's Administration and parenting and intervention services. Services include in-home visits, on call crisis assistance, individual and family therapy, parent education and social and community support linkages.

In FY 2008, CA has 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 assessment and classification system for documenting and tracking client and family outcomes.
- 5) One provider agency received training in the promising practice, Promoting First Relationships.
- 6) Throughout FY 2008, a stakeholder group has met regularly to implement and track changes as a result of the review.

The following is expected in FY 2009:

- 1) Continue training in the Omaha System.
- 2) Continue training in Motivational Interviewing.
- 3) Continue training phase in of Promoting First Relationships.
- 4) Begin the three month pilot of the Omaha System with 6-7 sites statewide.
- 5) Provide training in Triple-P, an evidence based program to selected providers statewide.
- 6) Phase in the Omaha System with the remaining providers.
- 7) Update the data collection system to allow for improved reporting.
- 8) Begin implementation of the Training Hubs, which will provide rural providers the training and technical support needed with service delivery tools and assessment.
- 9) Annual providers meetings in Eastern and Western Washington to provide training and information, open to all EFSS service providers.
- 10) The four trained providers will train all of the EFSS providers within their agency in the promising practice, Promoting First Relationships. .
- 11) The stakeholder group will continue to meet to assist in developing continued improvements for FY 2009.

- **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:** Adoption promotion and support services include medical care not covered by Medicaid for children receiving adoption support services, Out-of-Home Care Services, the Adoption Program, recruitment of prospective adoptive homes, development of specialized adoption curricula, and training of staff on adoption-related issues.

Family preservation services, community based family support via the Early Family Support services to families referred for child protective services, time limited family reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services span the gamut of child welfare services. Each service targets children at a different point in the continuum, facilitating permanency at each point.