

Children In Foster Care System

Vision and Priorities

Assumptions:

- For children who have had multiple placements interventions are needed.
- Children in out-of-home care have significant risk factors.
- Inadequate visitation puts a child at risk for psychological and behavioral problems and decreases chances for reunification.
- Mental Health problems exacerbated by placement instability impair chances for successful reunification.
- Multiple foster care placements are a predictor of problems.
- A child needs mental health services when in group care to support placement stability.
- Mental health services are needed to support a child's transition from group home to family settings.

Key Principles for Delivery of Foster Care

- Within 90 days of entering foster care a child will have a mental health assessment as part of the CFS plan
- Providers will understand the CFS System
- Services are designed to minimize disruptions in placement and reliance on group home care
- When group care is needed mental health services will support placement stability
- Mental health services will support a child's transition from group home care to family settings
- Multiple placements are a predictor of problems for a child
- Services to foster caregivers is an effective mental health intervention
- Collaboration and integration between agencies is required

Interventions of Particular Interest (Menu of Services)

- Centers for **therapeutic visitation**
- **Wrap-around including home-based therapy** and mental health case management
- **Dyadic therapy**
- **Mobile mental health services** for "hard to place" and multiple placement youth
- Individual and group transition services for emancipating and pre-emancipating youth
- **Post-reunification/adoption /guardianship support services**
- Intensive attachment therapy – for children whose attachment problems are preventing permanent placement

Blueprint for Intervention

- 90 day assessment and placement stabilization for all new intakes, 7 day notices, and placement changes
- Services available to prevent placement disruption
- Services available for children in long term foster care
- Services available for exit support

