

Concurrent Planning: Thinking Beyond A Checklist

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Overview

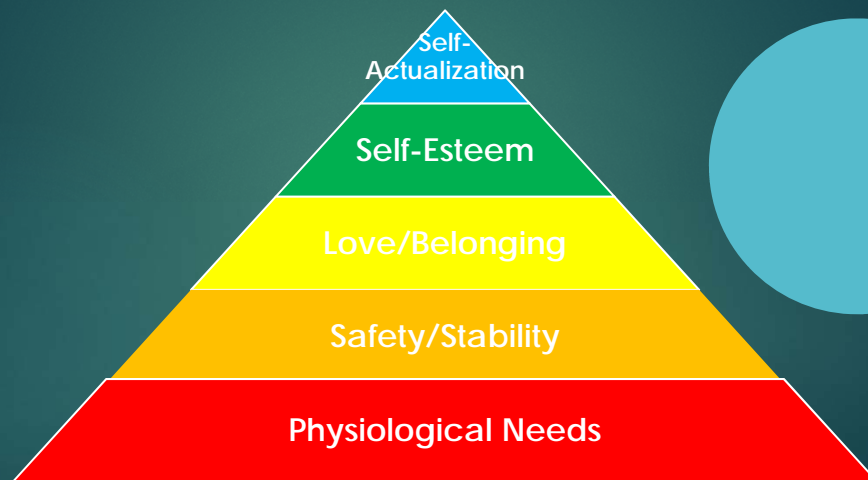
- ▶ What is Permanency and Why Is It Important?
- ▶ Relational vs Legal Permanency
- ▶ What is Concurrent Planning?
- ▶ Alternate Plans
- ▶ Key Elements of Concurrent Planning
- ▶ Exercise: Read Scenario and Think of Questions to Ask

Permanency Defined

- ▶ Permanency for a child is defined as having a relationship with at least one adult that is characterized by parenting, life-long intent, a sense of belonging, unconditional commitment and, finally, legal and social status.

Why is Permanency Important?

Maslow's Hierarchy Of Needs



Relational Vs. Legal Permanency

- ▶ A child can have legal permanency without relational permanency or vice versa, so it's important to understand and appreciate the difference in order to strive for children to have both.

Reunification: The Most Preferred Permanency Plan for Children

- Unless Aggravated Circumstances exist, DHS must make reasonable or active efforts (If the Indian Child Welfare Act applies) to preserve and reunify the family
- Most children who enter care return to their parents and remain with them. Even if risk factors persist, children are more likely to achieve long-term stability and a sense of belonging with their family of origin.

What is Concurrent Planning?

Introduced through the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, concurrent planning is a tool to expedite permanency for children that gives states the option of making reasonable efforts to make and finalize an alternate permanent plan concurrently with reasonable efforts to reunify the family

In Oregon, Concurrent Planning is Required for Children Placed in DHS Custody

DHS must:

- ◆ Develop and review the Permanency Plan and Concurrent Plan within 60 days of child's placement into substitute care and review the plan every 90 days
- ◆ Work with the child's team which includes the child and parents to develop and assess the permanency and concurrent plans

The *concurrent permanent plan* is considered in the following order of preference:

- ▶ *Adoption*
- ▶ Guardianship
- ▶ Placement with a *fit and willing relative*
- ▶ Another Planned Permanency Living Arrangement (APPLA) If the *child* has reached the age of 16

Key Elements of Concurrent Planning

- ▶ Identify, Assess and Engage all legal parties. Please don't forget the dads and non-custodial parents.
- ▶ Determine ICWA eligibility. If ICWA eligibility is likely to apply, act as though the ICWA applies
- ▶ Diligently Search for and Engage Relatives: Not just conducting/completing the diligent search, but assessing the suitability of relatives who are wanting to provide temporary and/or permanent care or just support to the child and family

Key Elements of Concurrent Planning Cont.

- ▶ Make diligent efforts to keep siblings together and maintain sibling relationships if separated in placement
- ▶ Engage the child, parents, relatives and others in developing and assessing the permanency and concurrent plans
- ▶ Early assessment of the child's physical, emotional and behavioral needs

Group Exercise: What Kind of Questions Would You Ask?

- ▶ Please read the short scenario about two siblings, Mary and Joseph, who are being reviewed by the CRB
- ▶ At your tables or seats, think of questions you would ask to determine if effective concurrent planning is occurring.
- ▶ The Trainer will write down the questions each table or individual shares with the entire group.

Examples of Questions

- ▶ Why doesn't Mary want to live with her parents? If her concerns are not safety related, what efforts are being made to help reduce her resistance to being placed with either parent?
- ▶ Have Mary's relatives been engaged and informed regarding her needs? Have there been efforts at facilitating contact or developing a relationship between Mary and her relatives.
- ▶ Have we contacted Mary's uncle and assessed him as a potential resource for her?
- ▶ Have we asked the children's mother about Joseph's paternal relatives?
- ▶ Have relatives been contacted and identified as potential supports to the mother and child should Joseph return home?



QUESTIONS?