

Prevention Services For Families Involved with Child Welfare

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COURSE OVERVIEW:

- What are Prevention Services and why are they Important?
- Collaboration within the Community
- Best interest – the Big Picture
- Reasonable Efforts
- CFSR Outcome Measures
- Protective Services Records
- Prevention – Scenario

What are Prevention Services?

Mental Health Services

Substance Use Treatment

Family Counseling

Parent Education

Kinship Supports

Family Team Meetings

In-Home Supportive Services

Trauma Informed Interventions

Why Prevention Services are Important for Families?

Children do best when safely raised within their families

Early intervention

Reduction of unnecessary foster care placements

Create a continuum of care

Better use of court and county resources

Congregate Care/Group Homes



Exposure to Non-Traditional
Home Settings



Increase in Behavioral
Concerns



Increased Reliance



Distance and Displacement
from Community & Services

Importance of Prevention for Professionals

Prevention services may be an alternative to court involvement

Prevention services support informed decision making

Prevention services promote family preservation

Prevention services improve outcomes for families

Prevention services reinforce a collaborative approach

The primary goal is to strengthen families, address safety concerns, and prevent the need for foster care placement whenever a child can remain safely at home.

Think about a recent case...

Collaboration within the Community



Team Approach

Trust between entities

Do not always have to agree but have to respect each other's positions and work toward a solution



Common Goals

Prevent removal

Reunification

Permanency

Collaboration within the Community & Fairfield County's Approach

Best Interest – Big Picture



Best Interest – the Big Picture



What is best interest?

Not truly defined;

3109.04(F) factors or 2151.414(D) factors



Court findings at all stages/hearings:



Shelter hearings

Adjudication/Disposition

Reviews

Oral hearings on motions

Reasonable Efforts

Finding that there were reasonable efforts made by Agency

- (1) to prevent the need for removal;
- (2) allow child to be returned home;
- (3) find permanency;
- (4) and intensive efforts to find kinship for placement

When made:

- Shelter
- Disposition
- Review/Annual Review
- Oral Hearing



Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

Safety

Permanency

Wellbeing

Prevention Services-Examples

Ohio START
(Sobriety,
Treatment, and
Reducing Trauma)

Family in Need of
Services (FINS)

Multi-System
Youth

School Based
Services

Triple P (Positive
Parenting
Program)

Ohio Rise

Protective Services Records

- Case Notes
- Semi-Annual Administrative Reviews (SAR)
- Court Reports
- Family Team Meeting Notes
- Family Assessments
- Closing Summaries



Prevention Scenario

1. What questions would you ask the family to understand if they received or were offered prevention services?
2. What additional prevention services would you recommend to prevent removal?
3. What barriers might the family encounter?
4. How might you know if the prevention services were effective? What behavioral change are you looking for?



QUESTIONS?