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Family Preservation and Family-Centered Practice

Slide 2

Module 1: Philosophy and Values

Objectives

- Describe the philosophy of family preservation.
- Identify values of family preservation services.

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Philosophy of Family Preservation Services

- Child safety's paramount
- Actions are family focused
- Families are considered partners
- Built on respect
- Build on family strengths within the context of culture and community
**Slide 4**

**Philosophy of Family Preservation Services**

- Dedicated to prevent, reduce or eliminate behaviors, barriers, conditions that place a child or family at risk.
- Provided in the home.
- Flexible, based on the family’s and children’s changing needs.
- Timely.
- Designed to achieve measurable outcomes.

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**What is the Purpose of Family Preservation Services?**

Family preservation services are meant to:

- Protect children in a home where allegations of child abuse or neglect have occurred;
- Be intensive and short term;
- Be voluntary and provided within 24 hours;
- Prevent subsequent abuse or neglect;
- Provide minimal disruption to the family lives of children;
- Prevent out-of-home placement of a child, or
- Reduce the stay for a child in out-of-home placements.

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**What are Family Preservation Services?**

Range of Activities Focused to:

- Help families with children stay together;
- Assist families to independently meet their own needs; or
- Access services to meet their needs; and
- Avoid unnecessary out-of-home placements.
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Types of Family Preservation Services

Family Preservation Services provide a holistic response to families on a 24 hour basis to include services in the home like:

- Family therapy
- Budgeting
- Nutrition
- Parenting skills

Module 1: Philosophy and Values

Core 103_FP_July 2013                     PPT

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Goals of Family Preservation Services

- Enhance parents’ ability to create a safe, stable and nurturing home that promotes healthy child development.
- Prevent out-of-home placement when safety can be assured.
- Provide, refer to, and coordinate services needed to achieve or maintain family safety, stability, independence and unity.

Module 1: Philosophy and Values

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An 11-year-old boy was severely beaten by his father while the father was under the influence of alcohol. The child had a broken arm, black and blue marks and bruises all over his body. He was temporarily placed in a foster home but was not ready to leave his father.

The boy cried and kept on saying “My father is not bad. He loves me very much. He can’t help himself when he’s drunk. Please let me stay with him.”

Module 1: Philosophy and Values

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Father completed a D/A inpatient rehabilitation program, and enrolled in an outpatient counseling program.

Father got a part-time job.

The child attended an after-school program.

Grandmother took care of the child when the father was in the rehabilitation program.

The rest of the family members help the grandmother whenever possible.

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1st Concern is Child Safety

Child safety must be primary concern.

No family can be preserved at the cost of child safety.

Risk and safety assessments must be completed.

Initial assessment of the crisis situation is very important.

Perpetrator cannot be left in charge of children.

Assessments must conclude that the children are safe in the home before services are implemented.

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7 Values of FP Services: Family First

- Family drives the system
- All children need families
- Model family strengths
- Immediate response: crisis=opportunity for change
- Leave the power with the family
- You must be culturally competent
- 1st concern is safety
**Slide 13**

**Family Drives the System**

- Working with family system – complete with a hierarchy and power structure.
- Family unit has primary responsibility for the welfare of its members.
- Family must have the necessary power to exercise responsibility.
- Family must feel ownership and empowerment.

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**All Children Need Families**

- Separated children miss out on significant portions of family history which makes it difficult to regain their original firm sense of belonging and continuity.
- When families participate in solving their problems together, individuals are less likely to use blame, separation, and giving up as ways to problem solve.

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**Model Family Strengths**

- Family members are doing the best they can with the resources they have.
- Work with the family to uncover their strengths.
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**Immediate Response**

- Crisis = opportunity for change.
- The “imminence” of placement is a stress-producing situation that can make families receptive to change.
- People undergoing stress are more open to change.

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**Leave the Power with the Family**

- Most family members really do care about each other.
- Beginning point for being strengths-focused.
- Even when a family indicates that they want their children placed, it is because they want what is best for their children.

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**You Must be Culturally Competent**

- You must be aware of both your own cultural biases and your need to remain objective.
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**Safety is First Concern**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Preservation:</th>
<th>However:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>often the best place for a child is in the home with the parent</td>
<td>at no time will the safety of the child be compromised</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Module 1: Philosophy and Values

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**Design of Family Preservation Programs**

- Trained staff
- Immediate responsiveness
- Low caseloads
- Clear guidelines regarding sexual and physical abuse

Module 1: Philosophy and Values

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**Module 2: Strengths-Focused Model**

Objectives:

- Identify the concepts of strengths-focused service delivery.
- Apply the concepts of a strengths-focused service delivery model.

Module 2: Strengths-Focused Model
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**Strengths-Focused Service Delivery Model**

Identifying family strengths helps you to help the family:

- Build self esteem.
- Identify concrete skills that can be developed.
- Reinforce positive things that they already do or know how to do.
- Use what they know as a basis for future growth.

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**Implementing a Strengths-Focused Model**

Decide what motivates each family member; every individual has different motivations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relate the family service plan to the strengths and needs of the family.</th>
<th>Identify and build on the strengths of each family member.</th>
<th>Treat each family member as a unique individual.</th>
<th>The family must feel that they are receiving services that benefit them.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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**Implementing a Strengths-Focused Model (Continued)**

Respect the strengths that the family brings to the relationship.

- Trust forms through mutual respect.
- Demonstrate how to build on strengths in order to facilitate growth within the family.

Facilitate the family's definition of their own motivations.

- Help them to use that energy to create the positive growth and change necessary for their children to remain at home.
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Assessing Family Strengths: The Butler Family
- The child and the mother have a place to live.
- Mother is willing to work with the child protection worker.
- Mother shows an interest in developing parenting and coping skills as well as anger management skills.
- Father was involved with the child until recently.
- Mother has attended parenting skills classes and parent support groups.
- Child was brought to the emergency room.

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Assessing Family Strengths: The Elk Family
- Child resides in a 2 parent family household.
- Mother admits the father has a drinking problem.
- Father has a job at a local convenience store.
- Mother is active in the child's school.
- Mother shows concern and willingness to work with the child regarding behavior problems.

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Module 3: Florida’s Family-Centered Practice Model
Objectives:
- Identify Florida statutes and administrative rules for family preservation services.
- Describe Florida's Family-Centered Practice Model.
The Purpose of Chapter 39:
To provide the care, safety and protection of children in an environment that fosters healthy social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development.

To recognize that most families desire to be competent caregivers.

Children achieve their greatest potential when families are able to support and nurture the growth and development of their children.

Florida's Child Protection System Principles
Child’s safety and health must be of paramount concern.

Prevention and intervention must:
- Engage families in a constructive, supportive, and non-adversarial relationships;
- Intrude as little as possible into the life of the family;
- Focus on clearly defined objectives;
- Take the most parsimonious path to remedy a family's problems;
- Be based upon outcome evaluation results that demonstrate success in protecting children and supporting families.

Family Preservation Services Defined
65C-30.001(52)
- Services provided primarily in the home;
- Counseling and therapeutic services;
- Provision of goods or services designed to prevent the removal of a child; or
- Stabilize an out-of-home placement.
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**Family Team Conferencing Defined**

65C-30.001(53)

- Highly individualized process that enables families to solve problems by focusing on strengths and underlying needs.
- Heavily reliant upon family input and cooperation, the family’s support system, and community resources.
- Families participate actively in the process: assess their own strengths and needs; develop action plans; set goals and timeframes.

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**Florida’s Tiered Services Protocol**

Non-Judicial In-Home Services

Judicial In-Home Services

Court Ordered Relative/ Non-Relative Placement

Foster Care

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**Early Service Intervention Staffing**

65C-30.002 (1)(b).

- Also known as the Case Transfer Staffing
- Make final service intervention decisions
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**Family Preservation Services Summary**

Family preservation services are distinctly different from traditional services. Family preservation services:

- Are provided in the family’s home
- Are more frequent – often daily
- Have a short predetermined duration
- Use a crisis situation as a "teachable" moment for intervention
- Focus on the family system and the strengths which motivate the family members to reach the goals of the family preservation plan.

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**What is Family-Centered Practice?**

Enhance family’s capacity to care for and protect child.

See family in the context of their own culture, networks and community.

View family as partner; involve them in the assessment; planning; delivery; and coordination of services.

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**Module 3: Florida’s Family-Centered Practice Model**

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**Family Group Decision-Making**

- Family team conferencing
- Family team meetings
- Family group conferencing
- Family team decision-making
- Family unity meetings
- Team decision-making

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**Family-Centered Practice Framework**

**Core Practice Functions:**

- Engage families and assemble individual family teams.
- Help families assess their strengths, needs, and resources within a cultural context.
- Collaboratively develop and implement case plans.
- Involve and support parents and caregivers in decision making.
- Monitor and modify services.

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**Family-Centered Practice Framework Outcomes:**

- Ensure child safety.
- Strengthen family functioning.
- Achieve permanence for children.
- Meet the children and family's well-being needs.