

Chapter 7

MODIFYING A CASE PLAN

7-1. Purpose. Progress Updates will provide a concise, current understanding of the child and family's status and progress so that the current case plan outcomes, interventions and services can be evaluated for their continued appropriateness. The knowledge gained from ongoing assessments will be used to update the case plan to create a self-correcting process that leads to finding what works for the child and family. The case plan will be modified when outcomes are met, strategies are determined to be ineffective, and/or new needs or circumstances arise.

7-2. Team Meeting To Develop Case Plan Modifications.

a. The family team should play a central role in conducting a review of the current case plan's effectiveness. Reviews might also be conducted through an internal staffing or a judicial hearing.

b. Case plan reviews should result in agreement as to:

(1) How is the child and family doing? Has their situation changed? What is the progress that has been achieved in enhancing caregiver protective capacities?

(2) What is the status of impending danger safety influences?

(3) Has there been progress in achieving conditions for return?

(4) Has there been a change in parent(s)/legal guardian(s) motivational readiness?

(5) Have new child or parent(s)/legal guardian(s) needs emerged?

(6) For the child in out-of-home care, are there emerging needs of the caregiver in order to ensure child stability?

(7) Are supports and services being delivered as planned? Are providers dependable?

(8) How well are the mix, match, and sequence of supports and services working?

(9) How well do these arrangements actually fit the child and family?

(10) Are advance arrangements for any child transitions being identified and accomplished?

(11) Are desired results for child and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) being produced?

(12) What things in case plan need to be changed in order to improve results desires?

c. When children are in out-of-home care, reviews will consider whether visits and appropriate interactions are occurring now? If so, are visits:

(1) Frequently occurring?

(2) Therapeutically appropriate?

(3) Conducive to relationship building with parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and siblings?

(4) Located in a convenient and least restrictive setting?

(5) Rescheduled in a timely manner?

(6) Increasing in frequency and duration and decreasing in supervision, if appropriate?

(7) Being used to assess reunification appropriateness?

(8) Providing mentoring opportunities for parent(s)/legal guardian(s)?

(9) Are other forms of family contact, interactions, or connecting strategies being used (e.g., phone calls, letters, family photos, tapes, Skype, recordable book, life books) when appropriate?

(10) Is there an effort to integrate the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) into other beneficial connections (e.g., participation in doctor's appointments, teacher conferences at school, sporting events, etc.)?

(11) What steps are being provided to encourage contact between children and incarcerated parent(s)/legal guardian(s) when appropriate?

d. The key decisions and range of options that will be considered and identified at a review meeting include:

(1) Modifying the case plan outcomes, actions, tasks and/or services to ensure time and resources are not wasted on a flawed strategy.

(2) Reunification of the children and family with an in-home safety plan.

(3) Changing the visitation plan to improve the quality and/or frequency of visits.

(4) Changing the permanency goal if adequate progress is not made.

(5) Increasing court and casework activity to ensure an alternate plan for permanence (e.g., adoption, transfer of guardianship) is secured.

(6) Seeking and/or renewing a commitment from parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to actively participate in change-oriented services.

(7) Closing the case when a safety plan is no longer required.

e. A Progress Update must be completed to justify changes necessary to a case plan. Any new assessment information that results from a case plan review meeting will be included in the Progress Update.

f. A court-supervised case plan may be amended upon approval of the court.

g. Case plan amendments must include service interventions that are the least intrusive into the life of the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and child, must focus on clearly defined objectives, and must provide the most efficient path to quick reunification or permanent placement given the circumstances of the case and the child's safety and well-being needs.

7-3. Supervisor Consultation and Approval. The supervisor will approve any modifications to the case plan.

7-4. FSFN Documentation.

a. When a case plan is modified, the case manager must ensure that the child's record is updated to support all information gathering activities including any case review conducted.

b. A Progress Update will provide the information gathered and assessed which is the basis for the case plan modification(s).

