

# Practice Model Look-Fors:

As cases are reviewed and interviews proceed, is it important to tie the review back to the practice principles. The onsite review instrument is based upon the following practice principles, which are believed to support improved outcomes for children and families: (please keep these in mind as you review.)

## **Family-Centered Practice**

- ✚ Strengthen, enable, and empower families to protect and nurture their children
- ✚ Safely preserve family relationships and connections when appropriate
- ✚ Recognize the strong influence that social systems have on individual behavior
- ✚ Enhance family autonomy
- ✚ Respect the rights, values and cultures of families
- ✚ Focus on an entire family rather than select individuals within a family

## **Community-Based Practice**

- ✚ Support the needs of children within the context of their families and communities
- ✚ Emphasize prevention-oriented services and supports
- ✚ Provide local communities a role in identifying, designing, implementing, and overseeing services within the community

## **Individualizing Services**

- ✚ Tailor interventions to meet the specific needs of children and families served
- ✚ Recognize that children and families are affected by both individual and environmental factors
- ✚ Recognize that children and families and the environments in which they operate are unique
- ✚ Offer children and families opportunities to provide input in the identification of their strengths, needs and goals and the means to achieve those goals

## **Strengthening Parental Capacity**

- ✚ Enhance services and support for both parents and recognize the value of involving both parents in the care of their children
- ✚ Promote parents' strengths and self-esteem by emphasizing partnership with service providers
- ✚ Balance parental need for autonomy in decision-making with the need for ongoing support

# A Snapshot of Family Centered Practice

## Family-Centered Child Welfare Services

## Conventional Child Welfare Services

<p><b>Engagement</b> Families are engaged in ways relevant to the situation and sensitive to the values of their culture.</p>	<p>Efforts focus on getting the facts and gathering information, and not in the building of the relationships.</p>
<p><b>Assessment</b> The assessment protocols look at families' capabilities, strengths, and resources throughout the life of the case and are continuously assessed and discussed. Awareness of strengths supports the development of strategies built on competencies, assets, and resources.</p>	<p>The assessment focuses on the facts related to the reported abuse and neglect; the primary goal is to identify psychopathology of the "perpetrator."</p>
<p><b>Safety Planning</b> Families are involved in designing a safety plan based on information and support of worker/team members.</p>	<p>The plan is developed by child protective services, courts or lawyers without input from the family or from those that know the child.</p>
<p><b>Out-of-Home Placement</b> Partnerships are built between families and foster/adoptive families, or other placement providers. Respectful, non-judgmental, and non-blaming approaches are encouraged.</p>	<p>Biological, adoptive, and foster families have little contact with one another.</p>
<p><b>Implementation of Service Plan</b> Workers ensure that families have reasonable access to a flexible, affordable, individualized array of services and resources so that they can maintain themselves as a family.</p>	<p>Implementation most often consists of determining whether the family has complied with the case plan, rather than providing services and supports or coordinating the informal and formal resources.</p>
<p><b>Permanency Planning</b> Families, child welfare workers, community members, and service providers work together in developing alternate forms of permanency.</p>	<p>Alternative permanency plans are introduced only after efforts at parental rehabilitation are unsuccessful.</p>
<p><b>Reevaluation of Service Plan</b> Information from the family, children, support teams, and service providers is continuously shared with the service system to ensure that intervention strategies can be modified as needed to support positive outcomes.</p>	<p>Few efforts are dedicated to determining the progress of the family in reaching the plan's outcomes. Re-evaluation results are not shared with the families.</p>

**Thank you for being a Wyoming Child and Family Services Reviewer...you have helped to give children and families a voice in Wyoming!**