

DSS Policy and Procedure Guide

Division 03: Child Welfare

Chapter 04: Ongoing Case Management/Practice

Item 028: Referrals to Parents Becoming Partners

Suggested changes send to: [DSS PSOA Mailbox](#)

Issued: August 19, 2011

References:

Replaces Issue: **NEW**

Policy

Parents Becoming Partners will provide support to birth parents, legal guardians and adoptive parents that are receiving reunification services. The services are intended to work to increase the quality of the relationship between the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the families it serves so that better reunification outcomes are achieved for children and families.

Purpose

To provide the process by which a referral is to be made in order to access the services of Parents Becoming Partners, in a direct service role with consumers.

Definitions

Parents Becoming Partners are parents who have successfully reunited with their children and overcome the issues that involved them with the child welfare systems. They perform their role as volunteers. Assignment to direct work with families is limited to Parents Becoming Partners who have achieved the level 5 certification.

Procedure

Training and Development

Parents Becoming Partners will receive training similar to the Cultural Broker training. During the first year Parents Becoming Partners may participate in level 1 activities while they are being trained.

A candidate for Parents Becoming Partners will usually have had their Child Protective Services case closed for a year before they begin to participate with the program.

The role of the Parents Becoming Partners Social Work Supervisor (SWS) will be include coaching, mentoring, debriefing, and meeting with the unit once a month as a group.

Nomination/Recommendations for Parents to Parents Becoming Partners

- The case manager or case manager's supervisor will complete the [Parents Becoming Partners referral form](#) and submit the referral to the DSS Parents Becoming Partners Social Work Supervisor (SWS).
- The Parents Becoming Partners SWS will confer with the referring case managing social worker (CMSW) and his/her SWS to identify the parents' needs.

- The Parents Becoming Partners SWS will identify and assign a Parents Becoming Partners volunteer parent who best meets the needs of the family. The volunteer parent will also work with the CMSW.
- The Parents Becoming Partners SWS and Parents Becoming Partners parent will meet with the referring CMSW and his/her SWS to develop a plan to identify how the Parents Becoming Partners parent can best support the case plan and the relationship between the family and the Social Worker.
- The CMSW will document in CMS that the family has been assigned a Parents Becoming Partners parent. The name of the Parents Becoming Partners parent shall be documented as well. This information is to be entered on the case ID page and in the Case Alerts section of CMS. The Parent Partner must also be entered as a collateral.
- The Parents Becoming Partners parent will meet with the family accompanied by either the Parents Becoming Partners SWS or the case managing SW. The purpose of the meeting is to offer support and answer any questions the parents or guardians may have about the court or the Child Protective Services (CPS) system.
- The Parents Becoming Partners parent will continue to work with the family until the case manager, his/her SWS, the Parents Becoming Partners SWS and the Parents Becoming Partners parent believe that the parents/guardians have demonstrated they understand the system.

Certification Tiers

Depending on each Parents Becoming Partners candidate's training level and assessment of readiness by the Parents Becoming Partners SWS, they will be certified for a tier. Each tier is related to work qualification. Services are delivered by Parents Becoming Partners based on the tier they are in.

- Tier I- Unit meetings, Telling My Story, Parent Engagement
- Tier II- Participate in Training, Parent Orientation, Planning Team
- Tier III - Focus Groups, System Change Workgroups, Immersion Classes
- Tier IV - PRIDE trainings
- Tier V- Team Decision Making, Parenting classes, one on one Direct Service Mentoring with SW, Permanency Teaming Participation, SB163 Wraparound Review

Services Provided

Direct Services provided by Parent Partners may include:

- Provide support to birth parents whose children are in out of home care or are involved in other areas of the child welfare system.
- Bridge the gap between child welfare staff, birth parents and foster families.
- Engage birth parents in maintaining connections with their children.
- Provide third party supervised visitation.
- Provide other mentoring, support, and resources to birth parents (schools, Juvenile Court, etc.)
- Participate in Team Decision-Making meetings.
- Encourage parent participation in complying with their case plan.