



Family Connection Circles Process

(this is a draft/work in progress – we will update after we have tried this for the next 6-12 months based on what is working or not)

Permanency should be identified on the FS timelines – approximately six-month mark where the FS SW stops the family safety planning meetings because of various reasons and starts the series of family connection circle meetings moving towards permanency.

****TL needs to review files so we are clear they aren't sitting in FS for too long - do we need a transition/permanency timeline to start as soon as we are off the FS timeline.*

- When kids are TCO we do a referral to Permanency Support Worker as soon as possible, but we consult with supervisor when it is an out of care option.
- Referral to Permanency Support Worker - she will gather info for the family circle.
- Even if the family knows the kids, do they understand the greatest unmet need and what they need? Identifying relational permanency vs. physical permanency and we still have family circles around relational permanency.

Documents required: C+B assessment (child's voice and greatest unmet need as well as understanding past harm) and words and pics

If no words and pics then be prepared to share What brought them into care - why we are no longer looking at reunification and the impact to the child.

TLs to consult re: moving from FS safety planning

Structure: (to take approximately three months – to execute all three meetings)

1. Foundational meeting:

First meeting is always about relational permanency and the caseworker needs to have the above documents ready to share with the participants at the first meeting.

Early years to speak to the child - strengths, worries, impact

FS SW speaks to past harm, words and pics (and/or guardianship worker)

Have a meal/snack and talk about ground rules

Pictures of the child on the table

If people aren't willing to come because of other people please get their voices to the table.

Work the 3 columns starting with the scaling question.

Whoever is documenting the meeting will provide the document to the members of the circle and have them sign it at the following meeting.

2. Connection meeting:

How are people connected? what does Connection look like moving forward? - who will do what to address their greatest unmet need for connection and belonging, holidays, special moments, weekends?

C+B assessment shared.... highlighting where their voice has been strongest re: connection needs.

If younger child - how are they capturing the younger kids voice, recent 3 cabins shared as well?

Anyone else missing? - Permanency Support Worker to connect and bring them into the circle

How often will we be meeting?

Child's voice around who is important to them to stay connected to.

SW consult with TL to create a connection plan so that they can remain connected throughout the process.

Whoever is documenting the meeting will provide the document to the members of the circle and have them sign it at the following meeting.

3. Physical Permanency

How can we all support this kiddo not growing up in the system?

What would permanency for this child look like?

Who will do what? Even if they aren't taking the child (ren)

If we know the family is not going to step forward to care – make a decision about involving adoptions worker for them to ask questions to.

If we are Transitioning from TCO to CCO then we involve guardianship at this time.

Whoever is documenting the meeting will get the document to the members of the circle and have them sign it whenever possible.