

Best Practice Model Principles and Skills

The Mission of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is to protect children at risk of abuse, neglect, or dependency. We do this by working with families to provide safety, nurturing and permanence. DCFS leads in a partnership with the community in this effort.

The following principles and skills provide the foundation, philosophy, techniques and tasks necessary for caseworkers to do their jobs and help families achieve their goals:

Principles:

Protection—Children’s safety is paramount. Children and adults have a right to live free from abuse.

Development—Children and their families need consistent nurturing in a healthy environment to achieve their development potential.

Permanency—All children need and are entitled to enduring relationships that provide a family, stability and belonging and a sense of self that connects children to their past, present and future.

Cultural Responsiveness—Children and families are to be understood within the context of their own family rules, traditions, history and culture.

Partnership—The entire community shares the responsibility to create an environment that helps families raise children to their fullest potential.

Organizational Competence—Committed, qualified, trained and skilled staff, supported by an effectively structured organization, helps ensure positive outcomes for children and families.

Professional Competence—Children and families need a relationship with an accepting, concerned, empathic worker who can confront difficult issues and effectively assist them in their process toward change.

Skills:

Engaging

Teaming

Assessing

Planning

Intervening

QUICK FACTS

- DCFS served 55,110 people in 2008
- 31% of supported CPS cases were related to domestic violence
- Neglect accounted for 38% of children served in custody
- Substance abuse was a factor in 53% of children placed in foster care

