

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES  
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

**STANDARDS FOR INTENSIVE FAMILY-BASED SERVICES**

**4.6 CASE STAFFINGS AND INTENSIVE FAMILY-BASED SERVICES**

**Council on Accreditation Standards**

The Council on Accreditation Standards S20.3 (Service Elements: Service Approach); S20.4 (Service Elements: Service Components) and S20.5 (Additional Service Requirements for Intensive Family Preservation Programs) link to and support Standard 4.6 *Case Staffings and Intensive Family-Based Services*.

**Administrative Code**

There are no Administrative Code Rules that directly addresses Standard 4.6 *Case Staffings and Intensive Family-Based Services*.

**I. Philosophy**

The Intensive Family-Based program uses case staffings as a vehicle to build the family-staff team, assist families in identifying their strengths, and to support them in making decisions to protect and care for their children. Case staffings provide the CFSA and family with a valuable decision-making forum to synthesize the breadth of information gathered, provide a balanced perspective on risk factors and family strengths, and allow for the objectifying of the intensive interaction process. Case staffings are guided by principles of respect for all points of view and are consensus driven. Through case staffings, the family and key stakeholders assess and celebrate the family's progress and seek solutions which support child safety and the preservation of the family. This is accomplished through exploration of service supports, optional kinship care, and other familial agreements which, when put in place, will maintain the family as an intact unit avoiding CFSA custody.

**II. Outcome**

Children are protected and families supported through a process of quality participatory decision-making.

**III. Evaluation**

FACSIS events, CPOE and the Federal Health and Human Services outcomes may be considered when evaluating this standard. In addition, the CFSA may consider the following:

- percentage of families, community advocates and community providers participating in case staffings to total number of program families;
- satisfaction survey results of families, community providers and community advocates regarding location, facilitation, outcomes.

**IV. Standards for Implementation**

- 1) Intensive Family-Based Services (IFBS) hold case staffings at the time the case is received and opened for IFBS to initiate, complete, and update the

comprehensive family assessment at crucial decision-making junctures as identified by the family and/or assigned staff and prior to case termination.

- 2) The IFBS unit, in conjunction with the family, should select an individual who can act as the case staffing facilitator.
- 3) Case staffings should be convened by the IFBS staff at a location mutually acceptable by the team.
- 4) All family members involved in the comprehensive family assessment should be invited to attend case staffings. Every effort should be made to ensure their presence and active participation. The family should be given the opportunity to have input on whether or not the child and other individuals should be in attendance.
- 5) The team should be encouraged to invite any additional individuals identified who can support the safety plan and be helpful in the reduction of future maltreatment.
- 6) The IFBS case staffing facilitator should guide the group through a consensus-driven process whereby all opinions are aired and considered by the participants. Participants should be encouraged to explore the range of available community services and every alternative to keep the child safe while maintaining the integrity of the child's family. Decisions made by the group should be documented and should be accompanied by action steps, responsibility for which is assumed by various members of the group.
- 7) When there are child safety issues, and consensus cannot be reached on key decisions regarding child's safety, the CFSA makes the final decision.

**V. Financial Implications**

Costs associated with Standard 4.6, *Case Staffings and Intensive Family-Based Services* are as follows:

4 staff @ \$81.21 per hour x two hours per review = \$649.68 per case staffing