

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
STANDARDS FOR EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

STANDARDS FOR OUT-OF-HOME CARE SERVICES

6.1 PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

Council on Accreditation Standards

The Council on Accreditation Standards S21.1 (Access to Kinship Services- Foster and Kinship); S21.13 (Treatment Foster Care Access to Services); S21.17 (Foster Care for Medically Fragile Infants and Children Access to Services); S26 (Group Living Services); and S27 (Residential *Treatment Services*) link to and support Standard 6.1 *Placement of Children in Out-of-Home Care*.

Administrative Code

The Ohio Administrative Code Rules 5101:2-42-05 (Selection of a Placement Setting); 5101:2-42-64 (Preplacement Services) address Standard 6.1 *Placement of Children in Out-of-Home Care*.

*Items with an asterisk indicates that this Standard is based on effective practice, however, it does not currently comply with the Ohio Administrative Code.

I. Philosophy

Identifying the most potentially successful placement for children begins before the determination that the child will be removed. Pre-placement staffings (a Team Decision Making meeting) should occur and involve the birth family, extended family, and other supportive and community resources prior to a decision that the child must be removed.

When it is determined that removal is necessary, the agency, in partnership with the family and community stakeholders, should select the placement for the child that promotes safety, stability and permanency. This decision should be based on the child's current and future needs identified through an assessment process. Additionally and equally important, the CFSA should evaluate: separation and attachment issues with the child's family including siblings and extended family; the desires of the child's family; and the children's permanency plans.

II. Outcome

Children are placed in a setting that provides safety and stability and meets their current and future needs.

III. Evaluation

FACIS 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:

- the number of team decision making meetings per family/child case held prior to removal;
- the number of children prevented from coming into care due to holding a team decision making meeting;
- the number of children removed after holding a team decision making meeting;
- the number of team decision making meetings per family/child case after removal (including a family case conference the following day after an emergency removal) until case is closed;
- the number of participants (family, family support, service providers, relatives, staff, etc.) who attend each team decision making meeting;
- the number of children initially placed with relatives, kin, foster families, congregate care settings, residential, group homes, and institutions.

IV. Standards for Implementation

- 1) Once high risk has been identified and an alternative placement arrangement is identified as likely, the CFSA should hold a Team Decision Making meeting (see Standard 3.10, *Team Decision Making*).
- 2) Along with the agency, participants in the Family Case Conference may include the child's family, extended family, foster family (if applicable), child (if age appropriate), Juvenile Court, CASA (Court-Appointed, Special Advocates), GALs and other supportive and community resources.
- 3) The CFSA should follow the structured decision making process for determining how to identify the most potentially successful placement (through the TDM).
- 4) In order to determine the most potentially successful setting for the child, the assessment process (through a TDM meeting) should address the following criteria and should be ranked in order of importance based on the individual priorities and needs of the specific child to be placed:
 - a. the child's current behavior;
 - b. the child's psychological and medical needs;
 - c. the child's intellectual and social functioning;
 - d. the child's past history (including the child's placement history); and
 - e. the child's educational level.
- 5) The CFSA should use the outcomes of the assessment to identify the type of placement needed for the child.
- 6) The CFSA should document who is invited to, and who attends, the Team Decision Making meeting and how the placement decision has been made.
- 7) When emergency placement occurs and an assessment process cannot be completed prior to placement, the agency should hold a TDM meeting the next business day, which includes a thorough assessment.
- 8) Agencies should place children in the most potentially successful setting that can meet their current and future identified needs (see Standards 6.2, *Placement of Children into Foster Care* and 6.12, *Placement of Children into Congregate Care*).

V. Financial Implications

Costs associated with Standard 6.1, *Placement of Children in Out-of-Home Care* would include:

- a. Policy development- 16 hours x \$71/hour = \$1,136
- b. Assessment Process- 40 hours x \$89.25/hour = \$3,570
(see Standard 6.5, *Foster Care*)