

**Indiana Family Preservation Services
Agenda and Questions
December 20, 2024
All providers**

- I. *Concrete supports reminder and discussion—Please complete this form for any concrete spend, and send to Bridget McIntyre (Bridget.McIntyre@dcs.in.gov) or the Child Welfare Plan (ChildWelfarePlan@dcs.in.gov):*
<https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/Expense-Tracking-Agencies.xlsx>

As a reminder, the anticipated costs of concrete supports were built into the per diem.

The decision to use concrete supports should also be a team one with good planning to ensure families achieve maximum benefit from these supports.

This also is applicable for Probation.

Let's talk a little about how the budget for concrete supports was built into the per diem...

When you encounter challenges with staff about concrete supports, when it is necessary, or get push back on utilizing other options, reach out to the Services Team (Regional Services Coordinator or David)

- Talk to the family about their budget, supports, needs, etc. and plan for potential crises in the future that may lead to other challenges
- When a provider helps a family find another financial resource (Trustee's Office, for example), this is not part of your concrete supports to include in the report

- II. *Service Hub. Please ensure you are updating regularly.*

- III. *Child Safety and Family Pres*

Here's the Service Standard: <https://www.in.gov/dcs/files/Family-Preservation-UPDATE.pdf>

Safety is spoken to in multiple places in the service standard, but most notably page 2, G, H, and I. It states:

“G. These services must be home-based and must monitor and address any safety concerns for the child(ren).

1. The interventions must be strength-based and family-driven with the family actively participating in identifying the focus of services.

2. While these services require home visits to ensure safety (minimum home visiting requirements are listed below), other settings (i.e., office, schools, etc.) may be utilized if the evidence-based model being used requires these

settings, provided that the mandatory weekly home visit to assess home safety has occurred.

H. The Provider must provide intensive safety planning and crisis response services

24 hours a day/7 days per week/365+ days a year. Provider will be expected to speak directly with either a family case manager (FCM), a supervisor, local office director (LOD), or the DCS hotline at 800-800-5556 to report any identified safety concerns.

Any identified safety concerns must be reported to DCS immediately."

It is also spoken to on page 3, under K and L. There it states:

"K. Providers, in order to ensure safety of the child(ren), must visit the child(ren) and identified caregivers in the home at a minimum of one time per week or more frequently if requested by DCS.

1. The entire home must be assessed for safety during these visits.

2. Documentation of this must occur and be reflected in the required monthly reports.

3. Any safety concerns found must be immediately reported to DCS in accordance with subsection I.I above.

L. Providers must submit their initial assessment and safety plan within 7 days of their first face-to-face visit to the FCM.

It's also spoken to under "Goals and Outcomes" on Page 5, where it states:

"IV. Goals and Outcomes

A. Goal #1: Preservation of the referred family while ensuring the safety of the child(ren).

1. Objective: Providers will have clearly-developed treatment plans that target any apparent safety concerns including supervision and appropriate discipline"

And then lastly, on page 13, there's an entire section on child safety that is in EVERY service standard, not just family pres. There it states:

"XIV. Child Safety

A. Services must be provided in accordance with the Principles of Child Welfare Services.

B. All services (even individual services) are provided through the lens of child safety.

1. As part of service provision, it is the responsibility of the Service Provider to understand the child safety concerns and protective factors that exist within the family.

2. Continual assessment of child safety and communication with the Local DCS Office is required. It is the responsibility of the Service Provider to report any safety concerns, per State statute, IC 31-33-5-1.

C. All service plans should include goals that address issues of child safety and the family's protective factors. The monthly reports must outline progress towards goals identified in the service plans.

Well thought out interventions can help families prevent removals

- INFPS must be a safe program, as these families are some of the most vulnerable – providers and DCS must work to ensure we are ensuring safety
- Providers need to be in the homes to ensure safety!
- We have evidence gained through evaluation of the data that this program is helping kids be safe.
- If you are having difficulty with DCS field staff regarding gaining accurate information please utilize your relationships within those counties and if you are unable to come to an understanding please reach out to our team for assistance.

IV. *Upcoming changes to Child Welfare Services division. The division is being divided into two separate divisions, Community-based Service Contracts and Compliance, and Field Support Services and Licensing. I will continue to be the deputy over Community-based Services Contracts and Compliance*

V. *Current referral information: (as of 12/19/24):*

| Region | Family Pres Case Count |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 133 |
| 2 | 86 |
| 3 | 156 |
| 4 | 141 |
| 5 | 48 |
| 6 | 70 |
| 7 | 151 |
| 8 | 177 |
| 9 | 60 |
| 10 | 178 |
| 11 | 137 |
| 12 | 67 |
| 13 | 90 |
| 14 | 61 |
| 15 | 84 |
| 16 | 205 |
| 17 | 86 |
| 18 | 115 |
| Grand Total | 2045 (-31) |

| Region | DCS Case |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 99 |
| 2 | 71 |
| 3 | 103 |
| 4 | 124 |
| 5 | 39 |
| 6 | 57 |
| 7 | 137 |
| 8 | 153 |
| 9 | 51 |
| 10 | 157 |
| 11 | 126 |
| 12 | 50 |
| 13 | 72 |
| 14 | 48 |
| 15 | 81 |
| 16 | 181 |
| 17 | 80 |
| 18 | 93 |
| Grand Total | 1722 (-27) |

| Region | JD/JS |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 34 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 53 |
| 4 | 17 |
| 5 | 9 |
| 6 | 13 |
| 7 | 14 |
| 8 | 24 |
| 9 | 9 |
| 10 | 21 |
| 11 | 11 |
| 12 | 17 |
| 13 | 18 |
| 14 | 13 |
| 15 | 3 |
| 16 | 24 |
| 17 | 6 |
| 18 | 22 |
| Grand Total | 323 (-4) |

IV. *Questions received:*

No questions were received for this meeting.

V. *Anything else?*

VI. *Two last things....*

a. Happy Holidays!

b. GO HOOSIERS!

Next meeting: 1/17/25 @ 1:00 Eastern
THANK YOU!

