

Families in Crisis

Home-Based Therapy, Case-Worker and Parent Aid Services

Family Focus staff provides support to the families while also acting as role models and by educating parents on alternative parenting methods to prevent child abuse/neglect. Family Focus staff is available to the families seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day.

The Therapist will provide structured, goal-oriented, time-limited therapy in the natural environment of families who need assistance recovering from physical, sexual, emotional abuse, and neglect. Other issues, including substance abuse, mental illness, personality/behavior disorder, developmental disability, dysfunctional family of origin, and current family dysfunction, may be addressed in the course of treating the abuse/neglect.

The Caseworker will provide home-based casework services for multi-problem and/or dysfunctional families. Home-based Casework services are also available for pre-adoptive and post-adoption services for adoptive families at risk or in crisis. The programs interventions seek to minimize the risk to the family and child(ren), through enhancing parenting competence and coping strategies.

The Parent Aid will provide assistance and support for parents who are unable to appropriately fulfill parenting and/or home-making functions. Paraprofessional staff assists the family through advocating, teaching, demonstrating, monitoring, and/or role modeling new, appropriate skills for coping with various stressors.

Assessment: Parenting and Family Functioning

A Parenting/Family Assessment will be conducted in order to establish current family functioning for the purposes of providing service recommendations.

The Assessment will be completed by a Family Focus Therapist who will gather comprehensive information about all relevant family members including social histories and parental family histories; family's strengths and needs; family medical, psychiatric, and educational needs; substance abuse/usage; present parenting abilities, attitudes and employment; risks and current issues that may jeopardize the child(ren)'s safety; and any changes that need to be made for the child(ren) to remain in the home.

Visitation

Family Focus staff will assist, coordinate, and facilitate visitations with the focus of helping parents, children and siblings develop healthy relationships that will then promote bonding, communication and nurturing interaction. Visit Facilitation will also promote the opportunity for parents, children and siblings to re-establish relationships while allowing parents to learn and demonstrate alternative parenting concepts in a safe, positive, and structured environment.

Parent Education

Family Focus has incorporated the "Positive Parenting" curriculum in order to educate parents on child development and alternative methods for discipline while teaching responsibility and providing a supportive structured environment. This curriculum is

given in either a classroom (group) setting or as a home-based family preservation tool (individually).

Home-Based Intensive Family Reunification

The goal of this program is to reunify children in out-of-home placements with their family of origin while maintaining a safe and stable home environment. In order to accomplish this, Family Focus will provide reunification services according to the HOMEBUILDERS® Intensive Family Preservation model.

Home-Based Intensive Family Preservation

Home Based Intensive Family Preservation supports the entire family to learn new adaptive ways of coping with crisis situations by utilizing the HOMEBUILDERS® model. This service is for families who are highly dysfunctional and need intense services to increase their functioning and avoid child placement outside of the home.

Parent and Infant Services Healthy Families

Healthy Families is a voluntary program for new parents available in Jasper and Newton Counties. A Family Support Worker visits the family regularly during the first five years of the child's life and is available to answer questions, provide information, and offer support and encouragement during the daily stresses of parenting and life circumstances. The Family Support Specialist helps the family build upon its strengths, allowing family members to make positive changes in their lives and prevent future problems. Services are provided at no cost.

