

Case Planning Objectives—Out of Home Care (OOHC) Tip Sheet

Family portion of the plan:

- Parental rights intact:
 - One (1) primary family level objective (FLO) relating to the maltreatment or presenting problem that resulted in the child's OOHC entry;
 - A secondary FLO is optional on other issues, including the child's physical health, mental health, and educational needs;
 - One (1) individual level objective (ILO) each for the identified adult perpetrator(s) or person(s) with high risk behavior;
 - If the court orders the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS/Cabinet) or the birth parents to take certain action, the SSW includes these actions in the family section of the case plan.
- Parental rights terminated by the court:
 - Select termination of parental rights (TPR) as the case plan type in the family section;
 - Under the case plan, FLO, and ILO, enter "N/A TPR" for objective on [date]; and "N/A" for tasks.
- Extended or reinstated commitment cases when the youth is the only household member:
 - Under the case plan, FLO, and ILO, enter "N/A Extended Commitment" for objective on [date]; and "N/A" for tasks.

Child/youth portion of the plan:

- **Permanency objective:**
 - Respite care for the caregiver is to be addressed as a task under this objective;
 - An example of a permanency objective would be:
 - Ensure a permanent home through adoption or other permanency goal for the child in a timely manner and ensure safety and stability in placement during the next six (6) months;
 - Examples of tasks to accomplish the permanency objective include:
 - Family will make progress on the family and individual level objectives beginning [date]; or
 - Parents will sign voluntary TPR agreements by [date];
 - SSW will conduct an absent parent search or relative search by [date];
 - SSW will arrange respite for the caregivers once a week beginning [date];and
 - Caregivers will support parents in their efforts by allowing the mother to take part in "special feeding classes" in their home once each week from [date] to [date].
 - When the SSW and FSOS determine that a case is appropriate for concurrent planning, the SSW negotiates and documents the two (2) permanency goals on the case plan.
 - The SSW develops objectives and tasks reflective of both permanency goals.
 - The SSW asks the parents to sign the DPP-191 Information to be Obtained from the Placing Parent and DPP-192 Biological Parent Consent forms.
- **Physical health objective:**
 - Examples of physical health objectives include:

- To improve current health condition by treating injuries from maltreatment in accordance with medical professional directives and timeframes; or
 - To promote continued health by assessment and regular examinations during the next six (6) months.
- Examples of tasks to accomplish physical health objectives include:
 - Parents will supply medical information and records by [date];
 - Parents will attend doctor visits with the child and caregivers as scheduled;
 - SSW will keep parents informed of child's medical progress at least weekly by phone;
 - Caregivers will change dressings daily and follow all other medical recommendations;
 - SSW continues to assess medical needs and well-being by seeking care for any illness and ensuring regular checkups at least yearly; and
 - Caregivers will seek emergency care if needed, transport child for checkups, continue to assess health needs, and notify SSW of any problems.
- **Mental health objective** (including emotional, behavioral, socialization, and self-esteem issues):
 - Examples of mental health objectives include:
 - To improve the child's attention span and control outbursts of anger and crying during the next six (6) months; or
 - To maintain good mental health and promote socialization during the next six (6) months.
 - Examples of tasks to accomplish mental health objectives include:
 - Parent(s) will support child by continuing to assure the child that they are not at fault for their problems, [beginning date];
 - SSW and caregiver will continue to assess signs of emotional stress from [date] to [date];
 - SSW will arrange initial assessment Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) and continued observation by [date];
 - SSW will refer the child to a qualified mental health professional (QMHP) for physiological testing by [date]; and
 - Caregivers will transport child to afternoon "play group" to promote socialization and all other appointments beginning [date].
- **Educational (development) objective** (including educational assessment and follow-up, developmental issues, involvement in extracurricular activities, and steps toward graduation):
 - Examples of educational (development) objectives would include:
 - Improve educational performance during the next six (6) months; or
 - Obtain a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED) by [date];
 - Ensure that services are provided to the child and placement provider to meet the child's educational needs;
 - Ensure educational stability for the child by considering proximity of placement to the child's current school setting;
 - Examples of tasks to accomplish educational (development) objectives include:

- SSW will provide a copy of the Educational Passport form to the school the child is transferring from;
- SSW will obtain a copy of the completed form from the transferring school within two (2) working days and provides a copy to the child's new school within two (2) working days of receipt;
- SSW will request an educational assessment by [date];
- SSW will refer to head start by [date];
- Caregivers will arrange tutoring or extra help with homework by [date];
- Child will try to become more involved in school activities by joining school pep and beta clubs by [date];
- Caregivers will take child to home ballgames beginning [date];
- SSW requests school records;
- SSW works with the caregiver and school to ensure transportation is provided for the child to remain in their current school setting;
- SSW contacts other schools in the same or an adjoining school district regarding the availability of transportation between the school and the caregiver.
- **Attachment objectives** (including focusing on the relationship with the family of origin and/or bonding with other caregivers, contacts and visitation with extended family and siblings, maintaining cultural bonds and addressing cultural issues, assembling and maintaining a lifebook, preparing child for a new family, arranging visits between the child and the family in settings other than the office, and Visitation Agreement, including comments concerning activities or tasks to do during visits):
 - Examples of attachment objectives would include:
 - Maintain a close relationship between the child and the birth family during the next six (6) months; and
 - Maintain cultural connections.
 - Examples of tasks to accomplish attachment objectives include:
 - SSW will obtain pictures, favorite personal items, and toys from the parents and deliver to the foster home by [date];
 - SSW will arrange supervised and unsupervised visitation with siblings, grandparents, and parents, and keep child informed of progress from [date] to [date];
 - Caregivers will transport child to visitation, allow telephone calls to grandparents and to friends at least weekly;
 - Caregivers will assist child in sending cards and pictures to parents monthly;
 - Parents will supply pictures of extended family and other items for lifebook;
 - Caregivers and parents will work together with child on lifebook; and
 - Grandparents will transport child to and from the foster home to attend Sunday morning worship service every week and to scouts each Wednesday afternoon.
- **Independent living objectives:**
 - For children age twelve (12) and older, objectives and tasks may focus on soft skill development such as:
 - Behavior management;
 - Personal growth;
 - Problem solving; and

- Responsibility.
- For youth age sixteen (16) and older objectives and tasks may focus on hard skill development such as:
 - Education;
 - Employment; and
 - Financial management.
- Also, details of the independent living plan are documented in the task section.
- Example of an independent living objective for the child is:
 - Improve the child/youth's ability to live independently during the next six (6) months.
- Examples of tasks to accomplish independent living objectives include:
 - Child will plan menus for the family and help shop for needed items by [date];
 - Child will demonstrate balancing a checking account, submitting job applications, and obtaining a job, etc. by [date];
 - Caregivers will assign small chores (pick up toys, take out trash, set the table) and assess progress by [date];
 - SSW will observe and document progress at least monthly; and
 - The SSW will request and provide an annual credit report for youth beginning at age sixteen (16) until the child is discharged from care.
- **Court order objectives:** If the court orders the Cabinet or the birth parent(s) to take certain action, the SSW includes these actions in the family section of the case plan.
 - Examples of court orders for youth:
 - Attend school daily;
 - Stay away orders;
 - Curfew; and
 - Pay restitution.

**The examples listed in this tip sheet are meant to be used as a guide when completing family case plans. These examples should not be used in each and every case plan. Objectives and tasks should be tailored to meet the needs of each individual family.