Statement of Consideration (SOC)

PPTL 22-06 SOP 4.3 Relative and Absent Parent Search. The following comments were received in response to SOP drafts sent for field review. Thanks to those who reviewed and commented. Comments about typographical and grammatical errors are excluded; these errors have been corrected as appropriate

SOP 4.3

1. Comment: We don't define relatives in statute (or we didn't use to) to include fictive kin. We did that on purpose to avoid being required to search for fictive kin. This SOP is exactly what we never wanted to imply: that we are required to actively search for fictives; and in parallel, appears to give fictives the right to expect us to look for them. We never wanted to do that in the past. My advice would be to strip out all the procedures that imply we have to actively search for fictives and add it in clarifications that we can do a cursory search for fictives in the spirit of looking for least restrictive, and/or that we are allowed to place with fictives.

   Response: Language that implies that a fictive kin search is mandatory has been removed from procedure. The following language is added; **If relatives cannot be found, the SSW may also complete a cursory search for fictive kin placements as it could be considered a least restrictive placement.**

2. **Comment:** Is this mapping replacing the genogram?

   Response: The genogram was removed as a requirement but can still be used as a tool in locating possible connections. The links for the Mobility Mapping videos can be found under Forms and Resources.

3. **Comment**:   In this section of SOP it does not explain what the mapping is or how to do it, will that be added?

   Response: The links for Mobility Mapping videos is posted under Forms and Resources.

4. **Comment:** There should be something in this section re: the Worker discussing and documenting that the Service Array was discussed with any/all potential placements.

   Response: The following language has been added to procedure; **If a relative or fictive kin caregiver is identified as a possible placement, will follow SOP 5.1 Relative and Fictive Kin Placement Consideration.**

5. **Comment:** Staff feel that a statement saying a safety check and review must be completed on all people that request placement. Every considered relative, should have a safety check and review in that screen with a denied or approved status.

   Response: Not every placement request will warrant documentation on a safety check and review. There are many factors that should be considered. No change will be made.

6. **Comment:** Instead of just during OOHC reviews there should be an addition in Case Plan evaluation where staff document whether relatives were explored in order to update efforts prior to new case plan.

   Response: Comment is considered and changes in case planning are forthcoming.

7. **Comment:** We often struggle with completing absent parent searches in a timely manner. We seem to require OT to complete these searches. I would make a rough guess that only 1/4 of frontline employees on this side of the region follow the SOP on absent parent searches. If employees truly requested searches at every OOHC consult as recommended in this draft, we would be completely bombarded. Furthermore, there rarely seems to be any changes in search results in a three month time frame. The "continuous" searches are a little excessive. It absolutely should be done at entry to OOHC, and maybe again at 6 months, but again, we rarely see any differences between an initial search and a follow up search.

   Response: Ongoing searches as outlined in SOP are a federal requirement. No change will be made.

8. **Comment:** What our region could greatly benefit from is a designated person that ONLY does these searches. He/she could sit in on consults, complete the forms him/herself, send out letters, etc.

   Response: Comment will be considered for future discussion.