

DHHS PERMANENCY PLANNING SPECIALIST

DESCRIPTION: This class is responsible for providing consultation, coordination, and support to DHHS staff working with State Wards to reach permanency goals such as returning youth to their families, adoption placements, or transitioning to independent living.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (A position may not be assigned all of the duties listed, nor do the listed examples include all of the duties that may be assigned.)

Develop and facilitate Service Area permanency planning teams responsible for developing plans for youth to achieve permanency outcomes. Develop and facilitate Service Area teams for utilization management of child welfare services to determine the appropriate level of service required to meet the needs of a youth.

Provide consultation to Protection & Safety staff to assist with difficult and unusual cases to remove placement barriers, offer options for service delivery to reach permanency, or making changes to the permanency goal.

Interact with permanency planning and utilization management teams to encourage proactive efforts to achieve permanency outcomes and/or determine the appropriate level of youth intervention.

Review pertinent Service Area child welfare data to determine and report permanency outcome achievement and to present interpretation of data. Review outcomes of service and relation to a youth's progress to permanency and working with service providers to develop transition and discharge plans for youth in care.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED:
(these may be acquired on the job and are needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: interviewing and public relations, techniques for conducting reviews, group dynamics, and principles and concepts and experience in using family centered practice in casework.

Ability to: communicate the purpose of the review process, facilitate the review process, clarify misunderstandings and promote joint planning, be flexible and coordinate and maintain a close working relationship with supervisors, case workers and program managers, interpret and draw conclusions from data.

Skill in: conducting group discussion to face issues and promote shared decision making in the best interest of the youth, identifying social, physiological and psychological needs of youth and the biological and foster families, recognizing specific barriers, conditions, relationships and problems, identifying obtainable goals and the tasks necessary to achieve the goals.

ENTRY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED: (Applicants will be screened for possession of these through written, oral, performance, and/or other evaluations.)

Knowledge of: Child Welfare laws, family centered practice principles, policies and practices including protective services, home based services, community resources and mobilization, adoption procedures, Juvenile Court system.

Ability to: be objective and fair, establish and maintain positive relationships with review participants, express facts, ideas, opinions, and recommendations clearly and concisely.

JOB PREPARATION GUIDELINES: (Entry knowledge, skills and/or abilities may be acquired through, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, the following coursework/training/and/or experience.)

Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the incumbent to possess the required knowledge, skills and abilities. A general qualification guidelines for position in this class would be a Bachelor's degree in social work, psychology, sociology, counseling, human development, mental health care, education or a closely related academic area and Protection & Safety experience.