

# CHILDSUCCESSNYC OVERVIEW

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## Overview:

- ◆ ChildSuccessNYC (CSNYC) is an innovative, multifaceted, cohesive family foster care model linking together evidence-based/evidence-informed interventions.
- ◆ CSNYC formally integrates ACS' permanency planning policy and utilizes concurrent planning strategies in casework activities.

## Participants:

- ◆ All youth in care in 5 CSNYC pilot agencies' "regular" family foster care programs:
  - Coalition for Hispanic Family Services
  - Good Shepherd Services
  - Jewish Child Care Association
  - New York Foundling
  - St. Dominic's Home

## CSNYC Goals:

- ◆ Expedite reunification and reduce re-entries into foster care
- ◆ Reduce step-ups and lateral moves (placement disruptions) by supporting foster parents
- ◆ Expedite adoption, especially for children in care 2+ years.
- ◆ Actively pursue kinship guardianship for children in stable kinship homes
- ◆ Increase discharges to kinship guardianship, adoption and reunification.

## CSNYC Components:

- ◆ CSNYC consists of the following evidence-based/evidence-informed interventions:
  - KEEP is a group model used to support foster parents, limit placement disruptions, reduce lateral moves for children and increase permanency rates.
  - Parenting through Change (PTC) is a model of support and behavior change for birth parents. The model works with the birth parent individually and in group sessions.
  - Youth Development Skills Coaching focuses on working with adolescent youth 14 years and older to develop skills needed to navigate life independently, regardless of permanency goal.
  - Family Finding identifies and engages potential permanency resources or supports for foster youth.
  - R<sup>3</sup> is an over-arching case planning approach for interacting with youth, birth parents, caregivers, and foster parents.
- ◆ CSNYC case planners carry no more than 12 children (10 active and 2 suspended payment).
- ◆ CSNYC supervisors supervise no more than 4 case planners.
- ◆ Each CSNYC foster home has no more than 3 unrelated siblings placed in a foster home.
- ◆ CSNYC agencies' casework activities must adhere to the ACS' permanency planning policy.

## Training & Quality Assurance

- ◆ All case planners and supervisors must attend trainings as scheduled.
- ◆ All case planners and supervisors must participate in consultation sessions with the model developers. Model fidelity data is regularly provided to ACS to ensure consistent case practice.
- ◆ Each CSNYC provider must appoint a Program Champion to oversee program implementation and integration within their agency.
- ◆ CSNYC Program Champions must meet with ACS regularly to facilitate implementation.

# KEEP

## Keeping Foster and Kinship Parents Supported

### Participants:

- Non-kinship and Kinship foster parents

### Purpose:

- Supports foster parents by teaching them effective behavior management skills, providing a support group, and requiring weekly contact with the foster care agency
- Better equips foster parents to address the needs of children placed in their care
- Stabilizes youth by reducing placement disruptions and thereby expedites permanency

### Proven Outcomes Achieved in Other Jurisdictions:

- Decreased child behavioral/emotional problems and placement disruptions
- Increased reunification

### KEEP Program Components:

- ♦ Weekly support groups facilitated by trained case planners (8-10 foster parents per group)
  - Groups provide support and enhance foster parents' parenting skills
- ♦ When possible, groups are composed of foster parents caring for children of a similar age
- ♦ Foster parents discuss caring for the specific children in their home; group lasts for 16 weeks
- ♦ The foster care agency must give foster parents \$25.00 at each weekly group session:
  - Assists with transportation and other related costs;
  - Acts as an incentive to increase group participation and program engagement
- ♦ The foster care agency must give each foster parent \$100 bonus after 13 completed sessions
- ♦ If a foster parent misses a group session, foster care agency must provide a make-up session
- ♦ Foster parents complete a weekly assessment of the child's behavior called a "PDR" (Parent Daily Report). PDR data is tracked to ensure the youth's behavior is stabilizing over time.
- ♦ Weekly session curriculum includes but is not limited to:
  - Discipline Strategies
  - Teaching New Behaviors in Children
  - Limit Setting
  - Stress Management
  - Promoting School Success

### Training & Quality Assurance

- ♦ Each case planner and supervisor receives five days of pre-service training in the model.
- ♦ Each weekly group session is video recorded by the foster care agency. The camera is focused on the staff facilitator, not the participant parents.
- ♦ The foster care agency sends the videos to the agency's assigned KEEP expert consultant.
- ♦ During required weekly consultation, the expert consultant provides feedback about the group facilitation and coaching to increase the staff's fidelity to the KEEP model. The agency receives a monthly fidelity score, which is shared with ACS.

## PARENTING THROUGH CHANGE (PTC)

### **Participants:**

- ◆ Respondent and/or Non-Respondent Parents

### **Purpose:**

- ◆ Improves parenting skills/practices while decreasing child behavioral and emotional problems.

### **Proven Outcomes Achieved in Other Jurisdictions:**

- ◆ Improved parenting skills: increased limit setting, effective supervision, family problem solving.
- ◆ Improved child well-being: reduced negative behaviors, alcohol/drug use; increased academic functioning.

### **PTC Program Components:**

- 1. Groups:** Parents participate in weekly 90 minute groups that are facilitated by staff (groups of 8-10)
  - ◆ When possible, groups are composed of parents/caregivers with children of a similar age.
  - ◆ Duration of weekly group while children are in foster care – 10 weeks
    - Parent may finish 10 week session if child is paroled during this time.
  - ◆ If parent misses sessions, the foster care agency must provide make up sessions and make strong efforts to have parent attend.
  - ◆ Weekly group session curriculum includes but is not limited to:
    - Encouraging Cooperation
    - Teaching Positive Behavior
    - Observing Emotions
    - Regulating Emotions
    - Setting Limits
    - Following Through
    - Active Communication
    - Problem Solving
- 2. Incentives:** Foster care agency must provide parents \$25.00 (cash or gift card) after each attended session:
  - To assist with transportation and other related costs; and
  - Acts as an incentive to increase group participation and engagement.
  - ◆ Foster care agency must give parent \$100 bonus (cash or gift card) after 8 completed sessions.
- 3. Visit Coaching:** Case planners must provide visit coaching once a week for the duration of the PTC group (in addition to any unsupervised visits); required checklist guides the coaching
  - ◆ Visit coaching teaches parents to use skills and techniques learned in the group sessions.
- 4. Aftercare:** After 10 week session has concluded and upon reunification, parents must attend 6 additional group sessions to review skills.
  - ◆ If parent misses a session, foster care agency must provide make up sessions and make strong efforts to have parent attend.
  - ◆ If a child is paroled, the foster care agency provides aftercare concurrently with FSU monitoring (if applicable).

### **Training & Quality Assurance**

- ◆ Each case planner and supervisor receives 5 days of pre-service training in the model.
- ◆ Each weekly group session must be video recorded by the foster care agency. The camera is focused on the staff facilitator, not the participant parents. The video is sent to expert model consultants for review.
- ◆ During required weekly consultation, the expert consultant provides feedback about the group facilitation and coaching to increase the staff's fidelity to the PTC model. The consultant provides the foster care agency with a monthly fidelity score, which is shared with ACS.