

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS FOR JUNE 20TH

### Issue #1

Children often experience a disruption in the first foster home placement. The belief (and research backs this) is that if you can keep the first placement stabilized, the child's opportunity for success is much greater. After the first failed placement it seems that everything goes further downhill from there. With each move, the child's behavior often becomes more disruptive, angry, and difficult to manage.

#### Questions:

How can the community work together to decrease the average number of moves for a child in foster care?

What are some ways that the community can assist in better preparing foster parents to develop skills and better prepare?

What are some ways the community can better support the child and foster home in working through the difficult first few months of a child's initial placement in foster care?

What members of the community should be involved in assisting to reduce the number of moves for a child in foster care?

How can the community become more involved in providing activities and therapeutic supports for youth in foster care?

How can the community be involved in developing more respite for tired foster parents?

### Issue #2

Grandparents often want to foster their grandchildren. However, many times they do not have the income, housing, resources to make it happen; although they could provide good, loving, basic care.

#### Questions:

What members of the community could be involved in developing resources to help this problem?

What types of resources are needed to help this problem?

What steps could be taken to develop these resources?

This issue is particularly troubling in the summer when school is out. What are some resources available in the community to help? What resources need to be developed?

What steps need to be taken to begin development of these resources?

### Issue #3

The Children's Division has been instructed recently by their central office NOT to solicit the community for goods and services. This is a huge conflict. Where do you draw the line in terms of what is okay to ask and what is not? Sometimes community partners, such as churches will ASK, "What can we do?" Too often the Children's Division is afraid to connect with these

partners for fear of breaking rules. This is particularly true of working with the faith community. It appears that the Children's Division is sometime alienating faith organizations because they do not know how to communicate and connect.

**Questions:**

Who in the community should come together to resolve this confusion?

Who should take the lead in determining how to resolve this problem?

What steps should be taken to begin organizing the community to determine the needs and match the needs to a community partner who can meet them?

What are some barriers to making this happen?

How can these barriers be broken down?

**Issue # 4**

In rural areas, after care services for kids released from residential or foster care are very limited. A worker may have a child who has improved enough to return to the community, but still has serious behavior problems.

**Questions:**

Who in the community should be involved in working on this issue?

Where will the community draw the line in terms of knowing when a child's behavior is good enough to be managed in the community rather than in an institution?

What are some behaviors that the community does not feel can be tolerated?

What will the community do to support the child/family in situations where the youth's behavior has been determined too extreme to manage successfully in the community?

What are resources available in your community to support a child whose behavior has been determined to be appropriate for community intervention.

What does the term "wrap-around" mean to your community?

What are resources that need to be developed to help with this issue?

What steps need to be taken to begin developing these resources?

(Other miscellaneous issues that might be looped into some of the scenarios are: no summer resources for kids-incidence of abuse/neglect often goes up in summer because kids are out of

school with no supervision and nothing to do, need for mentors for kids, and the growing number of families who do not speak English and the difficulty in getting translators (A scenario could be developed in regard to one of the above issues and is compounded by the fact the family does not speak English)