



Part V

Other Possible Situations

Seminar # 27

“Foster Care Services in Substance Use Disorder”

The Seminar Goals:

1. The attendee will be able to name the eight (8) Criteria point for reunification.
2. Create a plan in how they will work with the case worker on each of the eight points.
3. Have a working understanding of the Family Level and Child Level factors involved with reunification.

Introduction

Parental substance use is particularly relevant to child welfare as children whose parents misuse or abuse substances are disproportionately the victims of neglect or abuse, which may lead to placement in a foster home (Christoffersen & Soothill, 2003; Cunningham & Finlay, 2013; De Bortoli, Coles, & Dolan, 2013; Dunn et al., 2002; Young, Boles, & Otero, 2007).

Further, parental substance use has been linked to other poor outcomes including lower probability of reunifying with a caregiver (Courtney & Hook, 2012),

As one strategy for addressing parental substance use for families involved with child welfare, most states have implemented family drug treatment courts (FDTCs) (American University School of Public Affairs, 2012). Evidence from prior studies suggests that children of adults who enroll in FDTCs spend less time in foster care and experience higher rates of reunification with parents than children of similar adults not enrolled in FDTCs (Bruns, Pullmann, Weathers, Wirschem, & Murphy, 2012; Chuang et al., 2012;

Understand Their Criteria, then meet it

These are a set of criteria used by some Foster Care Agencies. They have goals, your goal is to help them meet their goal. To work in the opposite direction will ensure failure.

1. **Because they are:** Examining multiple interrelated factors that influence your child's neglect

You will want to: Know exactly what those factors are, take steps to improve them. Work with your case manager on each issue. You will want them to record where you start from, what you will do to correct it, on record how these steps created a measurable change. The change is recorded and is satisfactory to them.

2. **Because they will:** Identify the parents' (your) needs.

You will want to: Know what they are recording as your needs. Then make a plan with your case working to take steps in fulfilling those needs. Typically, these are critical needs they want to see in place before reunification.

3. **Because they will:** Identify stressors that contribute to difficulty.

You will want to: Know what the recorded stressors for their list. Then make a plan with your case working to work on resolving these stressors. Be sure as each is resolved it gets recorded in you record to their satisfaction.

4. **Because they will: Identify your existing strengths and resilience of parents.**

You will want to: Have them list for you these strengths and create a plan in how to make them stronger. Make sure your starting point is recorded and the follow up progress review is recorded.

Allow them to set up longer periods of contact when meeting with you.

Accept their educating you about the culture of the child welfare system, ask good questions.

Be clear about their expectations for the you. Ask for clarification, it shows you care.

State you appreciate their empathy when they give it.

Allow hope by you when interacting with them

Let them know you see this as a partnerships, you as the parent with them as an agency who is trying to help.

5. **They will always be evaluating you with a "Needs Assessment" tool.**

- a. Be aware of how they assess your and the families strengths and needs

- b. Ask for a copy of the blank standardized assessment tool they are using
 - c. They are focused on the three domains of parenting influences: (Ask them to review with you)
 - i. Developmental history
 - ii. Child characteristics
 - iii. Sources of stress and support
- 6. They will be reviewing progress in goal setting**

Develop and set goals with them that are tailored to the unique strengths and needs that were identified

in the need's assessment process,

Identify smaller goals with them that may be achieved in the process of reaching the larger end goal

in order to instill hope and empowerment in families.

- 7. They will measure "Assessment of Progress" (this is very important)**

Ask them to review with you their assess of progress.

Understand the baseline measurement of the problem area (where you started) and review with them their notes on progress made when taken as a daily or weekly assessment. This is how your progress gets recorded

- 8. Goal achievement**

Utilize individual or team of child welfare workers to determine if the outlined goals have been achieved and if reuniting the child and family is appropriate.

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VIDEO ONE:



ASSIGNMENT VIDEO: On www.youtube.com/

Search Title: Children of Addicted Parents

Duration: 28:59 min

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ajuw8YImIM>