

## Glossary of Terms Children and Family Services

- **Abandoned Child/Youth:** A child/youth that is without an appropriate caregiver due to the intentional act and conscious decision of the parent not to care for the child.
- **Accountability:** is defined as taking responsibility through internal behavior control in order to achieve long-term community safety.
- **Caregiver:** A parent, foster parent, or other person responsible for the child/youth's care and supervision. While caregivers are generally members of the child's household, the term may also include individuals responsible for the child's care on a short term or interim basis.
- **Case Planning:** The case plan is developed following the completion of the Protective Capacity Assessment. The case plan is a written, working agreement developed between the family, the PSW and other Family Team members as appropriate. The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), which is federal law, requires that the PSW address safety concerns in the case plan. The case plan identifies outcomes, needs and strategies that address the identified safety threats, and is designed to assure safety of the child, and restoration of the parent/caregiver to their protective role.
- **Children/Family Service Review Outcomes:** The outcomes identified by the federal government to address issues related to safety, permanency, and well-being.
- **Child/ Youth Maltreatment:** Parenting behavior that is harmful or destructive to a child's (age birth through age 17) cognitive, social, emotional, and/or physical development.
- **Comprehensive Child/Adolescent Assessment (CCAA):** CCAA is an assessment of a juvenile offender conducted as part of the OJS evaluation; funded by the Division of Medicaid.
- **Comprehensive Family Assessment (CFA):** CFA is an in home assessment conducted on parents/caregivers in the family home to assess mental health/substance abuse issues of the adults; funded by the Division of Medicaid.
- **Community Safety:** Community safety is defined as communities free from law violations committed by juveniles ages 0 – 18 years.
- **Court Involved Case:** A case in which the County Attorney has filed a petition in the interest of the child/youth and the court has assigned responsibility of the child/youth to DHHS, or the court has taken jurisdiction of the child and family to address identified safety threats.
- **Dependent Child/ Youth:** A Child/youth whose parent is or will be unable to care for through no fault of the parent, when no maltreatment has been identified. Parent may be incapacitated or absent due to illness, death, incarceration, or otherwise unavoidably unable to provide care. Or, the child has extraordinary mental health, emotional, or physical needs which the parent does not have the ability or capacity to meet.

- **Domestic Violence:** The establishment of control and fear in a relationship through the use of violence and other forms of abuse. The offender may use physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, economic oppression, isolation, threats, intimidation, and maltreatment of the children to control the other person. Relationships involving domestic violence may differ in terms of the severity of the abuse, but control is the primary goal of all offenders.
- **Ecomap:** the eco-map has been completed a more holistic picture of the family begins to emerge. What significant resources are available in the family's world; what resources or supports are nonexistent or in short supply; the nature of the relationships between family and environment.
- **Effective Services:** are services that have the power to produce the desired results.
- **Efficient Services:** are services that produce results without waste.
- **Evidence-Based Practice (EBP):** generally refers to approaches to prevention or services that are validated by some form of documented scientific research, such as controlled clinical studies, but other methods of establishing evidence are considered valid as well. Evidenced based practice stands in contrast to approaches that re based on tradition, convention, belief, or anecdotal evidence.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Psychopathological or disturbed behavior in a child/youth which is documented in writing by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed mental health practitioner to be the result of continual scapegoating, rejection, or exposure to violence by the child/youth's parent or caretaker.
- **Emotional Neglect:** The child/ youth is suffering or has suffered severe negative emotional effects due to a parent's failure to provide opportunities for normal experiences that produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secure, and worthy, as documented in writing by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed mental health practitioner.
- **Facility:** is something that is built, installed, or established to serve a particular purpose.
- **Family Centered:** The provision of services based on the basic values, beliefs, and principles of Family Centered Practice.
- **Family Team Meeting:** A meeting that is convened for the purpose of creating, implementing, evaluating, and updating a Safety Plan and/or a Case Plan that furthers an individual's/family's achievement of their outcomes and the Department's mandated safety concerns. The team meeting must include the family (unless reunification is not the permanency objective), the PSW, and may include other formal and informal supports selected by the family (or others if the family is no longer involved).
- **Family Team:** A group comprised of individuals, including but not limited to family, friends, relatives, peers, Bidders, teachers etc. who come together both formally and informally to form a circle of support around a person and/or family in need. This family driven team, which changes as

the needs of the family change, make it unique to the person and families it supports.

- **Family:** A biological, adoptive or self-created unit of people residing together consisting of adult(s) and child(ren) with the adult(s) performing duties of parenthood for the child(ren). Persons within this unit share bonds, cultural practices and a significant relationship. Biological parents, siblings, and others with significant attachments to a child living outside of the home are included in the definition of a family.
- **Formal Resource People/ Participants:** Persons or individuals who participate as members of the Family Team due to their paid relationship with the child/youth and family. Examples of this include foster parents, teachers, therapists, community treatment aides, family organization advocates (mentors paid to provide support who are not chosen by the family), and agency staff.
- **Genogram:** A genogram is an interview format for drawing a map of a family. It records information about family members and their relationships over a least three generations.
- **Geomapping:** The process of identifying the presence of the targeted resources/services available to people in a geographical area.
- **Imminent/Specific Time Frame:** A belief that threats to child/youth are likely to become active without delay; a certainty about an occurrence within the immediate to near future that could have severe effects.
- **Impending Danger:** Threats to child/ youth safety that may not be occurring in the present, but are likely to occur in the immediate to near future. These threats may or may not be identified at the onset of PS intervention, but are often understood upon a more full evaluation and understanding of individual and family conditions and functioning. This understanding results in a reasonable and prudent conclusion that without PS safety intervention, severe harm is probable in the near future.
- **Informal Resource People/Participants:** Persons or individuals who participate as members of the Family Team and do not receive payment for their responsibility with respect to the family. Examples of this may be relatives who are old enough to care for the child, neighbors, spiritual leaders, volunteer mentors, friends etc. for example. Informal resource participants who hold professional/paid employment positions are not in a relationship with the child/youth/family as a result of their profession, but may be friends, neighbors, etc.
- **Injurious Environment:** Circumstances within the child/youth's living environment that threatens the child/ youth's health or safety. Such circumstances may include, among others, the structural condition of the residence; housekeeping or cleanliness issues such as feces, vermin, or trash; criminal activity within the home; or a young child's accessibility to hazardous items such as drugs, drug paraphernalia, weapons, or chemicals.
- **Injury:** Tissue damage such as welts, bruises, or lacerations that lasts more than 24 hours, resulting from trauma.

- Juvenile Offender: (1) Any juvenile who has committed an act other than a traffic offense which would constitute a misdemeanor or an infraction under the laws of the state or violation of a city or village ordinance. (2) Or any juvenile who has committed an act which would constitute a felony under laws of this state. (3) Or any juvenile who has committed an act which would constitute a traffic offense as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat section 43-245.
- Medical Neglect of Handicapped Infant: The withholding of medically indicated treatment (including appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication) from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions.
- Medical Neglect: Serious harm to a child resulting from parents/ caregivers' failure to provide medical care or attend to health needs. This may include parent/ caregiver failure to seek timely and appropriate medical care for a serious health problem.
- Non-court Involved Case: A case in which the family agrees to work with DHHS without involving the juvenile court system, to address identified safety threats.
- Non-custodial Parent: Any individual recognized as the parent legally through marriage, adoption, or biology; a man named by the mother or other relative as the father, who agrees he is the father; or in some cases, an individual who has acted in the role of parent for a significant period of time.
- Observable and Specific: The danger is real, can be reported in descriptive ways, and is evidenced in explicit, unambiguous ways.
- Out of Control: Family conditions that can harm a child/youth and are unrestrained; unmanaged; without limits or monitoring; not subject to influence, manipulation, or internal power; are out of the family's control.
- Physical Abuse: The non-accidental infliction of injury or an act that poses substantial likelihood of bodily injury.
- Physical Neglect: The failure of the parent to provide basic needs, for example food, clothing, shelter, medical care, supervision and a safe and sanitary living environment for the child/ youth.
- Positive Youth Development: The engagement of youth in activities and events that give youth the chance to exercise leadership, build skills, and get involved. The self-confidence, trust, and practical knowledge that young people gain from these opportunities help them grow into healthy, happy, self-sufficient adults.
- Protection and Safety Worker: The Case manager, initial assessment worker or ongoing worker.
- Protective Action: An immediate, short term response to control present danger observed at first contact with a family, or at any time present danger is identified to manage the immediate threats to the child.
- Protective Capacity Assessment: A structured, interactive process that is intended to build partnerships with parents/caregivers in order to identify and seek agreement regarding what must change related to child safety,

and to develop case plans that will effectively address parent/caregiver protective capacities and child needs.

- **Protective Capacity:** Personal and parenting behavioral, cognitive, and emotional characteristics that can specifically and directly be associated with a person taking action to ensure the child's safety. A protective capacity is a specific quality that can be observed, understood and demonstrated as a part of the way a parent thinks, feels and acts that result in protective behavior. Protective capacities may be enhanced (adequate or above) or diminished (deficient).
- **Present Danger:** Immediate, significant and clearly observable severe harm or threat of severe harm, occurring to a child/ youth in the present.
- **Psychopathological or disturbed behavior:** Behavior symptomatic of an emotional or behavioral disorder as determined by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed mental health practitioner.
- **Recidivism:** is defined as a juvenile who is already adjudicated as a delinquent and has a second adjudication as a delinquent or is convicted of a crime in adult court.
- **Reunification:** A placement of a child back into the family or home they were removed from, based on an analysis that the conditions for return have been met, indicating that there is sufficient progress in the enhancement of diminished protective capacities, an in-home Safety Plan can be put in place, the parents are willing to cooperate with an in-home safety plan, and there is evidence that the reunification is sustainable. Reunification may also be a permanency objective.
- **Risk of Child Maltreatment:** The likelihood (chance, potential, and prospect) for parenting behavior that is harmful and destructive to a child's cognitive, social, emotional and/or physical development, and those with parenting responsibility are unwilling or unable to behave differently.
- **Risk of Harm:** The likelihood that a child will be in a situation that is damaging or destructive to the child/ youth's cognitive, social, emotional, and/or physical development.
- **Runaway:** A child/youth who has been absent from home for at least one night without parent/caregiver consent, and the parent/caregiver does not know where the child is.
- **Safe Child:** A child who is not in present or impending danger or the caregiver's protective capacity controls existing threats.
- **Safety Assessment:** A focused information gathering, decision-making and documentation process conducted in response to a child abuse/neglect or dependency report in which possible threats to child safety are identified, analyzed and understood. Through the collection and analysis of discrete information sets, the safety assessment guides decisions about the presence or absence of present danger or impending danger to a vulnerable child, resulting in a decision as to whether a child is safe or unsafe. Safety assessment is continuous and is used to guide key decisions throughout the involvement with the family.

- **Safety Net:** Arrangements and connections within the family network or community that can be created, facilitated, and reinforced that support the caregiver and provide resources and assistance when the Department is no longer involved with the family.
- **Safety Intervention Plan:** A written arrangement between the family and agency that establishes how impending danger threats to child/youth safety will be controlled and managed. The plan will remain in effect as long as needed and must be continuously evaluated for sufficiency and modified as long as it is in effect.
- **Safety services:** Services that are provided to address the safety threat identified in the family.
- **Safety Threshold:** The criteria that must be met in the family's situation to determine that a child/ youth is unsafe. Criteria include threats to safety that 1) are observable and specific, 2) are imminent, 3) out of control, 4) have the potential for severe effects, and 5) involve a vulnerable child/youth.
- **Severity/ Severe Effects:** Effects that is consistent with harm that can result in pain, serious injury, disablement, grave/debilitating physical health conditions, acute/grievous suffering, terror, impairment, or death.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Any sexually oriented act, practice, contact, or interaction in which the child/ youth is or has been used for the sexual stimulation of a parent, the child/ youth, or other person.
- **Sexual Exploitation:** Allowing, encouraging, or forcing a minor child to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or pornographic photography, films or depictions.
- **Status Offender:** Any juvenile who, by reason of being wayward, or habitually disobedient, is uncontrolled by his or her parent, guardian, or custodian; who deports himself or herself so as to injure or endanger seriously the morals or health of himself, or others; or who is habitually truant from home or school.
- **Strengths:** An individual's functional attributes, abilities, interests or inherent assets. In this context, strengths must be related to the ability to protect one's children and must be related to the identified safety threats.
- **Torture:** The infliction of intense pain to punish, coerce, or afford sadistic pleasure.
- **Unsafe Child:** A child who is vulnerable to present or impending danger and the caregivers are unable or unwilling to provide protection.
- **Urgent Crisis Response:** The response time of a safety service provider to provide in-home services to a family referred by CFS.
- **Violence:** The exertion of physical force so as to injure, abuse, or control.
- **Vulnerability:** Susceptibility to harm balanced by the child/youth's capacity for self-protection. Factors to consider include the child/youth's age, health, size, mobility, social/ emotional state; visibility in the community; and access to individuals who can provide protection.

- Verification Testing: Verification testing are systematically performed on presumptively positive or altered samples prior to the issuance of the test results; and assistance with interpretation of the test results if requested.
- Vulnerable Child: A child/youth who does not have sufficient capacity for self protection.
- Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI): The standardized assessment instrument used for youth adjudicated as status offense or juvenile offenders to assess risk, need, and responsiveness factors; to determine treatment needs, and utilized for case planning.