Safety Intervention and Permanency System (SIPS):

An Overview

ACTION FOR CHILD PROTECTION
AUGUST 2016
A safety intervention system contains actions, decisions and methods that are organized in such a way so as to result in an orderly process of moving toward the primary purpose.

A Safety Intervention System as Defined by ASFA and CFSR:

- Timely response to contact a family (CFSR)
- Control recurrence (CFSR)
- Expend reasonable efforts to keep children safely in their homes (ASFA)
- Provide services to the family to protect children in the home and prevent removal (CSFR)
- Assess safety in out-of-home placements (ASFA)
- Address safety issues in case (treatment) plans (ASFA)
Purposes of SIPS as an Intervention System

- To identify unsafe children in need of protection
- To enhance caregiver protective capacities and restore caregivers to their protective responsibilities
- To create safe homes
- To achieve child permanency by restoring caregivers back to their protective role
Features of the Safety Intervention and Permanency System

- Respect for Rights
- Systematic Approach – Step By Step
- Purposeful Assessments
- Criteria Based Decision Making
- Substitute for Parents Not Being Protective
- Relationship Building with Parents
- Enhancing Parents’ Capacity to Protect
- Consistency In Application
Core SIPS Concepts used throughout the life of the case

- **Present Danger** - An immediate, significant, and clearly observable family condition that is actively occurring or in process of occurring at the point of contact with a family and will likely result in serious harm to a child, therefore requiring a prompt CPS response.

- **Impending Danger** - A state of danger in which negative family conditions and/or Diminished Caregiver Protective Capacities pose a threat which may not be currently active but can be anticipated to have severe effects on a child at any time in the near future.

- **Caregiver Protective Capacities** - A caregiver’s personal (individual) and parenting characteristics that specifically and directly can be associated with being protective of one’s children (Enhanced-Safe) or can be associated with contributing to a “state of danger” that a child is routinely exposed to (Diminished - Unsafe).
Family Conditions Continuum:

Caregiver Protective Capacity (Strengths)

1. Severity
2. Vulnerable child
3. Out of Control
4. Imminence
5. Observable

Safety Threats (Impending Danger)

Safety Threshold

- Severity
- Vulnerable child
- Out of Control
- Imminence
- Observable
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Determine who to serve</td>
<td>Assist reporters to provide behaviorally-specific, detailed info</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify caregivers who are unable or unwilling to protect their children</td>
<td>Justify referral against NV statutes of A/N and/or suggestive info about presence of Present Impending Danger</td>
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<pre><code>                                                                                                                                       | Determine need for law enforcement                                                          |
                                                                                                                                       | Determine the safety based prioritization response time for NIA Specialist                 |
                                                                                                                                       | Provide info to reporters of community resources                                           |
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Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA)

Purpose
Determine which families that DFS should serve and what is the least intrusive and most appropriate approach.

Objectives
- Identify and protect children who are unsafe from Present Danger.
- Comprehensively assess family functioning.
- Substantiate the occurrence of maltreatment.
- Identify problems associated with diminished caregiver protective capacities resulting in Impending Danger.
- Ensure that Reasonable Efforts have been made.
- Develop understandable Conditions For Return.
Safety Plan Determination (SPD)

Purpose

- To Make Reasonable Efforts and Ensure that Civil Rights are Protected
- Develop the least intrusive, sufficient Safety Plan that ensures child safety as Permanency Specialists begin and continue their intervention
- Attempt to involve caregivers in the Safety Planning process as much as they are able and willing

Objectives

- Describe in detail how Impending Danger is manifesting in families (when/how often/times of day)
- Analyze criteria of the residence, caregivers, and resources which can support and allow an in-home safety plan
- Determine if an out-of-home safety plan is necessary
- Rule in/out use of relatives or fictive kin
- Establish and justify why Foster Care is the least intrusive and most appropriate placement for child
Conditions for Return (CFRs)

What are Conditions for Return?

- Defined behaviors and circumstances that must exist in the home that would allow for an in-home safety plan - managed by CPS - that is sufficient, feasible and sustainable

- This means that there is still Impending Danger in the home that must be controlled

- NOT based on treatment service attendance, compliance or completion
Conditions for Return (CFRs)

Developing Conditions for Return

- Must understand current manifestation of Impending Danger Threat(s)

- Must understand exact reason(s) that an in-home safety plan was insufficient, unfeasible or unsustainable

- For each reason an in-home safety plan is not possible, must define a benchmark for reunification: what is necessary for an in-home safety plan to work?
Protective Capacities Family Assessment (PCFA)

The PCFA is a structured intervention that is intended to engage caregivers in a partnership that seeks their involvement in determining what must change; resulting in the development of individualized Case Plan Goals that target the enhancement of diminished Caregiver Protective Capacities.
Protective Capacities Family Assessment (PCFA)-Introduction Stage

**Purpose**
- Engage caregivers and express desire to work in partnership to address the reasons why the case was opened for ongoing Permanency services.

**Objectives**
- Explain role difference from NIA Specialist and with respect to facilitating change
- Establish caregiver understanding of reasons for open case (Impending Danger): review results of NIA, SPD, Safety Plan and CFR (if applicable)
- Explain PCFA process and case plan development
Protective Capacities Family Assessment (PCFA) - Discovery Stage

Purpose
- Engage caregivers and express desire to work in partnership to address the reasons why the case was opened for ongoing Permanency services.

Objectives
- Acknowledge caregiver right to self determination; establish a willingness to continue working in partnership
- Assess with caregiver enhanced and diminished CPC
- Raise self awareness of what must change and reach mutuality in partnership with caregiver
- Address discrepancies; utilize motivational interviewing
- Determine what/how change would look like in the home
- Identify areas of agreement and disagreement
- Specifically what caregivers would be willing to address in the case plan
Case Planning (Meeting)

- Confirm Caregiver Protective Capacity outcomes.
- Confirm Child Unmet Need outcome (as necessary).
- Finalize Case Plan Goals for caregiver.
- Finalize Case Plan Goals for children (as necessary).
- Determine treatment strategy and select services.
- Determine what caregivers are willing to work on.
- Formalize/Document case plan.
- Supervisor approval.
Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA)

**Purpose**
ASFA explicitly requires measurement.

- PCPA is a formal SIPS intervention that occurs on a scheduled basis following the PCFA and the implementation of the Case Plan (Min of every 90 days and before all court reviews).

**Objectives**
- Measuring Caregiver Behavior Change- must measure progress for the reasons children are in care (Unsafe)
- Assess that the Safety Plan continues to be necessary (Impending Danger remains in bio home); is least intrusive (SPD); and description of the appropriateness of the placement provider (CSE)
- Ensuring that Case Plan Services are working effectively; addressing child needs
- Examining Conditions for Return