



Safety Intervention and  
Permanency System  
(SIPS):

An Overview

*ACTION FOR CHILD PROTECTION*  
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# SIPS as a System of Intervention

- ▶ 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 (CFSR)
  - ▶ 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:



# Intake Assessment (IA)-

## Purpose

- ▶ Determine who to serve
- ▶ Identify caregivers who are unable or unwilling to protect their children

## Objectives

- ▶ Assist reporters to provide behaviorally- specific, detailed info
- ▶ Justify referral against NV statutes of A/N and/or suggestive info about presence of Present Impending Danger
- ▶ Determine need for law enforcement
- ▶ Determine the safety based prioritization response time for NIA Specialist
- ▶ Provide info to reporters of community resources



# 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