

# One Voice Texas

## A Collaborative for Health & Human Services



### Children & Youth Services Workgroup: Kinship Placements

Position Statement Approved by One Voice Texas: August 10, 2012

#### Issue/Concern:

In order to ensure that children/youth to be placed in foster care are prepared, pre-placement visits and the provision of a placement summary form are required. This same practice is not mandated in the case of kinship placements given that these placements are with relatives and familiarity with the child is assumed. Despite the blood ties that children and youth may have with a kinship placement, they may not have had regular contact and the caregiver may not be familiar with the child's history. A pre-placement visit would allow for a brief opportunity for both child and caregiver to determine if the placement is appropriate. In addition, the placement summary form ensures that the caregiver is aware of all of the child's medical, education, and behavioral issues and needs so these can be appropriately met. This information also ensures the caregiver is aware of what will be required of them. Relatives are often not aware of a child's history and experiences and accept a placement with very little information. The ability to prepare for a placement, both through a pre-placement visit and receipt of a placement summary form, can strengthen the stability of a placement.

#### Specific Policy Recommendation(s):

- Require that a pre-placement visit occur prior to placement with a relative.
- Require placement summary forms to be provided to kinship placements.

#### How Will This Impact State Funding? What Can Be Accomplished?

Kinship placements are less costly to the state and more beneficial to children and youth in state custody. By increasing the stability of kinship placements, more children will remain in placements with family.

#### Others That Support These Recommendations:

Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS); Texas CASA; Texans Care for Children

#### Supporting Facts/Research Resources:

1. Redding, R.E., Fried, C., & Britner, P.A. 2000. Predictors of Placement Outcomes in Treatment Foster Care Implications for Foster Parent Selection and Service Delivery. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*. 9(4): 425-447.
2. Chang, Janet, Liles, R., Hoang, T. 2006. *Factors affecting premature termination in kinship care*. California Social Work Education Center. Available at: [http://www.csulb.edu/projects/ccwri/Liles\\_Module.PDF](http://www.csulb.edu/projects/ccwri/Liles_Module.PDF).
3. Worrall, J. (2001). Kinship care of the abused child: The New Zealand experience. *Child Welfare*. 80: 497-512.

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