

## Concurrent Planning Talking Points

Concurrent planning is a tool to help expedite permanency through the parallel development of an alternative solution for cases where returning to the family of origin might not be an option. Such an approach honors a child's attachments and best interests while also acknowledging that reunification is not always the safest or best option. When concurrent planning is well supported and implemented effectively, it can provide an efficient and compassionate approach for helping birth parents and resource parents work together toward the best interests of the child and expedited permanency (Child Welfare Information Gateway).

### Talking Points To Use With The Family

- Who are the family's supports?
  - Who cares for your child when you are at work or sick?
  - Can you name some relatives involved in your child's life?
  - Who from school, the neighborhood, church, etc. does your child enjoy being around?
  - Who cared for you when you were growing up?
  - Who are your friends from work, the neighborhood, church, etc.?
  - Who do you go to when you need help?
- Who are your relatives, and do we have contact information? Has the relative notice worksheet been completed with the family and relative notices sent? What are the family dynamics with the identified family members? (Out of State and in-state)
- Does the child have any identified special needs or mental health diagnosis?
- Does the child take any medications?
- Does the child have behavioral concerns/placement history?
- Is the child attending daycare?

### Talking Points To Use With The Child

- Who do you identify as supports? Who makes you happy, cares for you, loves you, safe person, your positive supports at school, attends events, etc.?
- Who comes to your home to visit you/your family?

### Talking Points To Use With Caretakers

- Do the caretakers have the ability to care for the child long-term, financially, emotionally, physically?

- Are the caretakers aware of potential behavioral responses to trauma the child has experienced?
- Who are the caretaker's supports? Who can they call?
- Will the caretaker assist in maintaining sibling connections?
- What is caretaker's engagement with biological family?

### **Reminder Questions For Workers**

- Does ICWA apply?
- Are siblings placed together? If no, how is sibling contact occurring outside of parent-child interactions? Has an RRTS referral been made to find a home for all of the children?
- Have we had the concurrent planning conversation with the family including permanency timeframe to achieve reunification? How does concurrent planning benefit the child?
- Has the Kinship Navigator been referred if child is in relative/fictive kin placement?
- Has the RRTS referral been made for relative/fictive kin?
- Have HHS resources been discussed with relative/fictive kin (kinship payment, kinship navigator, kinship funds, etc.)?