

Community Resources

Background Notes

Providing protection to children and services to their families is much too big a job for child welfare to tackle alone. We rely on several resources in our communities to assist us in this endeavor. While DHS Child Welfare is the agency that is ultimately responsible for child safety, it is important to engage and consult with extended family members, community members and professionals to assist us in developing case plans and providing services to children and families. It is important to be able to identify resources for the diverse needs of the families we serve. Developing working relationships with your community partners will ensure your clients get the appropriate services they need in a timely fashion. Matching the unique needs of a family to the resources in the community is the art of casework. In addition removing barriers to accessing resources is crucial to successful family outcomes.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Start to create a list of service providers in your community. Talk with caseworkers in your office to find out if there is a resource manual in your office or if workers have created their own. Borrow examples from others; there is no need to reinvent the wheel.
- Formal and informal resources are keys to successful casework. Ask your coworker what informal resources they utilize.
- Contact at least three resources from the following list and learn how to best access their services.

Discoveries:

- *What are the barriers to accessing resources for your families?*
- *What do your coworkers do that assists in accessing resources?*
- *What resources did you find that are either more effective for your families?*
- *What can you do to facilitate your families getting the help they need?*

Tasks / Assignments:

- ❑ Obtain information on the services they provide and the name and phone number of a worker you have met or talked with. You can even arrange to take a tour of their facility. It is so much more helpful to clients if you have first hand knowledge of a program when making a referral.

Domestic Violence Shelter

WIC (women, infant, children)

Health Department

Parenting Program

Drug/Alcohol Treatment Center

Community Action Agency

Housing Department

Self-Sufficiency

Healthy Start

Head Start

Psychologist

Child Therapist

Sex Offender Treatment Program

Early Intervention

Child Abuse Assessment Center

Faith Based Organizations

Discoveries:

- *What did you learn about your local resources?*
- *How did you organize your knowledge of resources?*
- *How will your knowledge of resources make you more effective with the children and families that you serve?*

