

Concurrent Planning

Background Notes

Separation of children from their birth families is a serious, traumatic experience for both children and parents. The state of Oregon takes separation of children and parents very seriously. In order to facilitate and streamline the movement of children to permanent homes, Oregon expects cases to include "concurrent planning". This method of casework actually involves the development of two separate plans. The first goal is almost always to work toward returning the child to a safe parent. A concurrent plan could be adoption, guardianship, placement with a fit and willing relative or another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA) if unable to return to a parent.

Working the two plans concurrently, or at the same time, improves the chances of children having permanent homes in a timely fashion. If the agency first waits to see if parents can ameliorate the initial concerns and then develops a backup plan if the primary goal of is not successful there is a loss of precious time in the life of a child. One of the key tasks in developing a concurrent plan is the identification and evaluation of a permanent resource. Contacting relatives and involving them in long term planning for the children is central to this task.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Read the [Legal Permanency, Concurrent Planning, and Use of Permanency Committee](#) rule.
- Attend a permanency committee in your district and observe several cases being presented. Afterwards talk to the workers about how long it took to decide on a plan and how they chose the plan.
- Ask your Supervisor to help you find a case, which has a well developed concurrent plan to read.

Reference:

Division 70:

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/division_70.pdf

Discoveries:

- *What factors were key to choosing the concurrent goal?*
- *How long did it take to choose a concurrent goal?*
- *Is the current goal the appropriate goal in your opinion?*
- *When was the current goal reviewed?*