

Wisconsin Foundation Training for Foster Parents

Participant Handouts

Module 1: Partners in Permanency



Wisconsin Child Welfare
Professional Development System
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership
Dedicated to professional development

Module 1: Partners in Permanency

Learning Objectives

1. The parent or caregiver can describe the roles of the members of the child's team, and can advocate for the child's best interests within the scope of his/her role.
2. The parent or caregiver can explain the value of teaming with the birth family as well as other members of the team.
3. The parent or caregiver knows the major milestones of the history of child welfare in Wisconsin and in the United States which leads to efforts at increased permanency for children.
4. The parent or caregiver can define trauma and the impact that a trauma history has on a child in foster care.

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Presentation of Terms and Definitions
- III. History of Foster Care
- IV. The Importance of the Team Approach to FosterCare
- V. Advantages and Disadvantages of the Team Approach
- VI. Introduction to Trauma

Handouts

- Child Welfare Acronyms and Abbreviations
- Child Welfare Historical Timeline
- Caseworker Scenario
- Case Study

Child Welfare Acronyms and Abbreviations

The department has a child who we would like you to consider for placement in your home. On the surface, this looks a bit like a JIPS case but it's really a CHIPS. Johnny Jones is on a TPC at this time. There is some potential for a TPR especially considering the ongoing CPS contact. The social worker has determined that he's an ICWA kid. You will be given the MA card and can expect a visit from the CASA.

The GAL wants an AODA assessment for mom and would like us to coordinate with Economic Support for W2.

Johnny is scheduled for an IEP and was tested for LD, ID, and even EBD. From his behavior at school, it seems that he's ADD for sure and possibly even ADHD. He doesn't need IL services yet but we should start planning for that.

JIPS	
CHIPS	
TPC	
TPR	
CPS	
ICWA	
MA	
CASA	
GAL	
AODA	
W2	
IEP	
LD	
ID	
EBD	
ADD	
ADHD	
IL	

Glossary of Child Welfare Terms

In social work, as in other professions, there is a tendency to speak in quotations "in code"; to use words and phrases that are either unique to the profession or have a different meaning than normally attributed to it. The following is a list of some of the terms and phrases you may hear in reference to your child and his/her associations with Social Services or the Juvenile Justice System.

A	
AA	Alcoholics Anonymous
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder: A neurologically based disability in which the person has extreme difficulty in focusing and sustaining attention
ADHD	Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder
Adjudication:	A judgment or decree that the juvenile is delinquent or in need of protection or services. (Formal Adjudication: A decision made by the court to exercise jurisdiction and to have a plan for the juvenile and/or family.)
Administrative Review	A review held every six months for children in foster care, conducted by a review panel of members who are independent of the county child welfare agency.
Administrative Review Panel	Consists of members of the community who are appointed by the Department of Social Services and approved by the court. They are responsible for the annual review of permanency plan. This review usually occurs midway through the one-year period between the judicial reviews of the placement.
Admission	A plea admitting to some or all of the facts contained in the petition. Similar to a guilty plea in adult court.
AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children (old term)
ALANON	Family Support for Alcoholics
Allegations	Things that are reported as being true but not yet proven.
AODA	Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse: Often associated with the word "assessment", which refers to an evaluation to determine the usage of abuse of alcohol or other drugs
AODA assessment	An evaluation to determine the person's use/abuse of alcohol or other drugs
B	
Behavioral Records	Student records that include psychological tests, personality evaluations, records of conversations, any written statements concerning a student's behavior, achievement and/or ability tests, health records, and any other student records that are not progress records.
Best Interests	A concept applied to decisions concerning children and juveniles. Consideration is given to what is best for the child regardless of what the child or others might say they want.
Beyond a Reasonable Doubt	The burden of proof in a delinquency case. A judge must be satisfied that there is no reasonable doubt that the juvenile did the act.
Biological Family or birth family	Refers to the parents and children related by birth to the child

Birth to Three Program	A program for children under the age of 3 who show delays in physical, mental, or speech development (also called Zero to Three).
C	
CAN	Child Abuse and Neglect: Refers to the reporting of the suspicion of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect to a child. These reports are made to the Department of Human Services. Some professionals and paraprofessionals who regularly work with children are required to report any abuse or neglect they suspect may have happened to a child. They are referred to as "mandated reporters".
CANS	Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Tool: an assessment done for every child in out-of-home care to determine treatment interventions for the child based on their unique needs and strengths.
Capias	An order, like a warrant, by a judge to have a juvenile taken into custody and brought before the court.
CARES	Client Assistance for Reemployment and Economic Support
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate: A court appointed volunteer who is appointed by the court and reports directly to the court, to provide continuing monitoring of a child abuse and neglect case
CCF	Children Come First: This program provides a case manager who coordinates all the services to be provided to a family.
CCI	Child Caring Institution: A facility operated by a Child Welfare Agency licensed by the state for the care and maintenance of children. Sec 48.02(2c) Sometimes referred to as "residential treatment". Refers to a placement option where children or juveniles live in a large, more institution-like setting. These facilities provide intensive treatment and are usually utilized with children or juveniles who demonstrate severe behavioral or emotional difficulties.
CESA	Cooperative Educational Service Agency: A service group hired by the local school district and the state superintendent designed to serve educational needs.
Chapter 48	The part of Wisconsin Law that addresses children in need of protection or services (CHIPS) also referred to as the Children's Code.
Chapter 938	The part of Wisconsin Law that addresses juveniles (delinquent's and JIPS) also referred to as the Juvenile Code.
CHIPS	Child in Need of Protection or Services : A designation of children through the age of 17 who are in need of services because they are victims, of at risk or becoming victims, of physical or sexual abuse or of neglect. Also applies to children in need of special care and treatment or require adoption services.
CIP	Community Integration Program
Citation	An order issued by law enforcement to appear in court. Can be issued for both ordinance violations and criminal acts
Community Service	A requirement to perform a certain number of hours of work without pay.

Confidential	Information that only the parties may know unless the court orders otherwise or release of information is signed.
Consent Decree (CD)	A settlement where parents, juveniles and Department of Human Services agree to abide by certain rules and conditions. This puts the case on hold to allow the family and/or the juvenile to correct the problems that lead to the referral. The case can be put on hold for up to one year with the possible extension of an additional six months. All parties must agree to the terms in the written document before the court approves it. Any party can request that the Consent Decree is terminated early at which time the case would resume in court at the point in the process at which it was put on hold.
Contempt	A request (motion) to decide if a party has failed to abide by certain rules and to consequence such failure.
Counsel	(1) An attorney; (2) to meet with a therapist or social worker to work on personal issues and address problems.
County Human Services or Social Services Department (HSD, DSS)	The county agency responsible for providing child protective services.
COP	Community Options Program
Court Intake Worker	A person authorized to carry out the provisions of Section 48.067 of the Wisconsin Children's Code in investigation of reports of child abuse and neglect.
Court Order	Oral or written statement that tells what the judge has directed the parties to do.
CPS	Child Protective Services
Criminal Code	The part of the Wisconsin Law that establishes and defines the crimes that can be prosecuted in the state as well as the potential penalties for committing each crime.
Custody	The right to control where a juvenile goes or what the juvenile does.
CW	Child Welfare
D	
DA	District Attorney: A lawyer who represents the interest of the state in court. Also referred to as the "Prosecutor".
DCF	Department of Children and Families (State of Wisconsin)
DHS	Department of Health Services (State of Wisconsin)
DD	Developmentally Disabled
Defense Attorney	A lawyer who represents the individual and does what he/she requests. The defense attorney's function is to explain the law to his/her client and to advocate for him/her.
Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA)	An out-of-court voluntary agreement with all involved parties where everyone agrees to abide by certain rules or conditions. If the juvenile and family abide by these rules and conditions the juvenile will not be referred to the District Attorney for the criminal offense. A Deferred Prosecution Agreement can last for up to one year and must be approved by the District Attorney.
Delinquent	A juvenile who is 10 years of age or older who has violated any state or federal law unless the crime(s) result in either waiver into or automatic jurisdiction to

	adult court. Does not include civil or municipal ordinance or traffic, boating, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle violations.
Denial	A plea denying the facts of the petition. Similar to a not guilty plea in adult court.
DPI	Department of Public Instruction: The state education agency in Wisconsin
DD	Developmentally Disabled: Having a severe, chronic disabling condition attributable to a mental and/or physical impairment manifested before age 22 and likely to continue indefinitely, resulting in substantial limitation of function and requiring special services.
Dismiss	A legal decision, which stops a case.
Disposition	The court ordered plan that requires the juvenile and family to do or to refrain from doing something and that states what services will be provided to the juvenile and family. Also refers to the hearing during which the order is made.
Dispositional Report	A report written by the social worker that gives the background of the case, describes the family and gives recommendations to the judge to consider.
DOC	Department of Corrections
DVR	Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
E	
ED	Emotional Damage: Harm to a child's psychological or intellectual functioning, evidenced to a severe degree by: anxiety; depression; withdrawal; outward aggressive behavior; or a substantial and observable change in behavior, emotional response or cognition that is not within the normal range for the child's age and stage of development. Sec. 48.02(5) (j)
EBD	Emotional Behavioral Disability
ED	Emergency Detention
EEN	Exceptional Educational Need: The determination by a multidisciplinary team (M-Team) of a need for special education services due to a handicapping condition.
Emancipation	A rarely used and narrowly defined concept that, contrary to common belief, does not refer to making a child an adult in most instances. It applies more toward the ending of parental rights and duties.
eWisACWIS	Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System
Expunge	To erase adjudication.
Extension	A court order continuing court involvement with the parties.
F	
Fact Finding	A hearing conducted before a judge to see if allegations are true. Sometimes referred to as a trial.
Family Interaction	Refers to visits between children in out-of-home placements and their biological family. Depending on the circumstances, these visits may be supervised by a social worker or an individual designated by the social worker.
FAS	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
FC	Foster Care
FCF	Family and Children First
FFA	Foster Family Assessment
FFP	Federal Financial Participation
Foster Parent Face	An information sheet for foster parents with child health facts.

Sheet	
Family based services	Services targeted at families who are at risk of having children placed out of the home.
Family Preservation and Support Committee	A committee of county, tribal and private agencies involved in a grant project assessing community needs.
Foster Family	Refers to the foster parents, their biological children and the other foster children living in the child's or juvenile's foster home.
Foster Home	A placement option in a family home licensed by the Department of Children and Families.
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education: The provision in Wisconsin law that guarantees that a free appropriate public education be available to all children regardless of disability.
FSP	Family Support Program
G	
GH	Group Home: A facility licensed for the "care and maintenance of 5-8 children. Section 48.02(7). A placement option usually existing in a homelike setting that provides treatment and behavior modification for children and juveniles. Group homes are usually staffed 24 hours by live in house parents or by staff who work in shifts. A group home cannot have more than eight children at one time
GAL	Guardian Ad Litem: An attorney appointed by the court to represent the best interests a child age 10 or under, and in some cases, for juveniles older than age 10 whose circumstances suggest that such representation is necessary.
Guardianship	A legal status providing protection, care and management of the person or property, or both, of a person who is a minor, or who is incapable of managing his/her own affairs; a court-appointed person who assumes the duty and authority to make important decisions for the child or juvenile. This does not result in the parents relinquishing legal custody or parental rights.
H	
Habitual Truancy	Applies to a student who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of 5 days out of 10 consecutive days in a school semester, or part or all of 10 or more days in a school semester.
Health Check Screening	A comprehensive medical exam required for all foster children, performed by a doctor or the county nurse.
HI	Hearing Impaired: Loss of hearing which may delay learning or make learning very difficult.
Home Detention	An alternative to removal from home that requires the juvenile to remain in his/her home at all times except for specified activities (e.g. school, counseling, community service). Used in circumstances in which a juvenile is being held in temporary physical custody, as a sanction or a dispositional alternative. May also be initiated by voluntary placement.
Homebound Instruction-Program Type	A program serving students with exceptional educational needs (EEN) while at home or in a hospital, sanitarium or convalescent home
HSD	County Human Services Department

ICPC	Interstate Compact for Placement of Children
ICW	Indian Child Welfare
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act
ID	Intellectual Disability : Intelligence far below average which slows the child's learning and affects the way a child acts.
IDEA	Individuals With Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individualized Education Plan: A written plan stating goals and objectives which establishes the educational program for a child identified as having exceptional educational needs in a public school district.
IFSP	Individual Family Service Plan (Birth to Three Program): A plan required under Part H of IDEA for eligible infants and toddlers.
ILP	Independent Living Program: A program for foster children age 14 and over to help teach them living skills, budgeting, job seeking skills and other skills needed for independence.
Independent CAN Investigation Agreement	An agreement with another county to conduct a CAN investigation on a foster home or county employee where there is a conflict of interest
Independent Living Plan	A plan required for all children age 16 and over who are in substitute care for obtaining the skills needed for independence.
Intake Inquiry	An interview process that is used by a social worker to make recommendations to the court concerning a juvenile. Notice is sent to a juvenile and parents or guardians to schedule the interview. The juvenile or parents can bring an attorney to this interview.
Intake Worker	Social worker, trained in Chapter 48 and 938, who completes the intake inquiry process. See Court Intake Worker
Intensive In-Home Family Treatment	Refers to a family counseling that occurs in the home. Often used in situations where the family issues are more complicated and treatment can best be achieved in the home setting.
Interagency Agreement	A formal agreement between two service providers which specifies the roles and responsibilities of all parties to the agreement, describes the services to be provided and outlines procedures for the administration and evaluation of each component included in the agreement.
JCI	Juvenile Correctional Institution
JIPS	Juvenile In Need of Protection or Services: A designation for juveniles who are in need of services due to behavior that does not represent a violation of the Criminal Code. This can include out of control behavior in the home, or status offenses. Also applies to children under the age of 10 who commit a delinquent act.
JJ	Juvenile Justice
Judgment	An obligation or debt that constitutes a lien against a person's property or unpaid restitution. Is in effect for up to 20 years.
Jurisdiction	The right or power of the court to intervene for the child, juvenile, or family.

Juvenile	In reference to Chapter 938, a person who is less than 18 years of age, except for purposes of investigation or prosecuting a person who is alleged to have violated a state or federal criminal law or any civil law or municipal ordinance. "Juvenile" does not include a person who has attained 17 years of age.
Juvenile Correctional Facility	An out-of-home placement in a locked facility controlled by the Department of Corrections.
Juvenile Court	Deals with matters concerning children and juveniles under Chapter 48 and 938.
K	
Kinship Care Program	A program to provide financial assistance to relatives caring for children
L	
LD	Learning Disability: Difficulty in learning because something in a child's brain works differently
LEA	Local Education Agency (Public School District)
LRE	Least Restrictive Environment: A concept applied to decisions concerning placement. Consideration is given by the court to placing the child in a setting that most closely resembles normal home life while adequately addressing the child's needs.
M	
MA	Medical Assistance: A program, based on eligibility, that pays for most necessary medical care.
MI	Mentally Ill
Multidisciplinary Team (M-Team)	A team of at least two school district professionals to assess if a student has exceptional education needs (EEN), one of whom is licensed in the area
N	
Non-Secure Custody	Temporary in-home placement or out-of-home placement in a facility that is not locked (e.g. Shelter Care). Usually refers to situations where temporary physical custody is imposed.
O	
OHI	Other Health Impaired: Medical problems that make it necessary for special education.
OJT	On-the-Job Training
OT	Occupational Therapy or Occupational Therapist
P	
Parent Aide	A contract employee who assists parents with parenting skills
Party	A person who is named in the petition, such as parents, juveniles, Human Services and attorneys.
PDD	Pervasive Developmental Disorder
PEC	Parent Educational Committee.
Permanency Plan	A plan required for any child who is placed out-of-home, to be completed within 60 days of the out-of-home placement unless the child is returned to the home within that time. It is a plan developed by the Department of Human Services that is signed to ensure that a child or juvenile, who is placed outside of the home, is reunified with his or her family whenever appropriate, or quickly attains a placement home that can provide long term stability.

Petition	Formal court paper that describes why the court should become involved in the case and why the child is in need of protection and services or the juvenile is delinquent
Physical Custody	Having actual control of a child in the absence of a court order granting legal custody to the physical custodian.
PH	Physically handicapped: A physical difference that may make it necessary for special education
Plea	When the party admits or denies the truth of the petition.
Psychological Evaluation	An assessment through the use of group and/or individual tests to determine the level of functioning in three areas: (1) cognitive – how much one knows in certain areas or how one thinks; (2) affective – pertaining to feelings or emotions; and (3) perceptual motor control – coordination and appropriate responses from all parts of the body.
Public Defender	An attorney employed by the State Public Defender's Office to represent a child or a juvenile. A child or a juvenile can elect to be represented by their attorney at his/her expense. In some limited situations a Public Defender can also be appointed to represent a parent.
PT	Physical Therapy or Physical Therapist
R	
Referral	1. Information which triggers involvement by the Department of Human Services. 2. A social worker's recommendation to a client that specific services be utilized and the sharing of information with the service provider.
Release of Information	The consent of a party to allow the release of information about themselves or their family to occur between service providers.
Restitution	Payment to the victim from the juvenile for property damages or injuries.
Revocation	The process used to end a Deferred Prosecution Agreement or Consent Decree and continue further court involvement.
Runaway	A juvenile or child who leaves home or another location without consent.
S	
Sanctions	Consequences for violations of court ordered rules. Sanctions could include secure and non-secure detention, home detention, community service and loss of driving or hunting/fishing privileges.
Secure Detention	An out-of-home placement in a locked facility for the temporary holding of juveniles.
Service Provider	An agency or individual who provides a service to a child, family or Human Services (e.g. counseling, parent education, etc.).
Shelter Care	A non-secure place of temporary care and physical custody for juveniles.
SLD	Specific Learning Disability
SLP	Speech and Language Pathologist
SED	Severe Emotional Disability
SSD	Social Security Disability
Status Offense	Misconduct that is unique to children. This includes behaviors that are illegal only because the person is a minor, such as running away from home, curfew violations, underage drinking, truancy and habitual disobedience.

SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Social Security Income
SSI-E	Exceptional payment to support SSI
Status Offender	Children who are runaways, truants or uncontrolled
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
Substantial Risk	The existence of conditions that suggest a high probability that a child could be harmed or that the child or juvenile could harm others.
Substitute Care	Care provided to a child in an out-of-home placement.
Supervised Independent Living	Court permission for a child 17 years or older to live alone or with friends under supervision.
T	
TBI	Traumatic Brain Injury: A brain injury through an accident which delays what the child can learn
TPC	Temporary Physical Custody: A temporary holding of the child by the DHS in a non-secure place or a secure detention facility; short term emergency holding of a child or juvenile until further court action.
Termination	The end of a case, which is usually at the end of one year, unless the judge specifies a shorter time period or unless an extension is requested and granted.
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights: Pursuant to a court order, all rights, powers, privileges, immunities, duties and obligations existing between parent and child are permanently severed. Sec. 48.40(2). A judgement which ends the parental duty and/or authority. Used if a child or juvenile has been removed from the parental home and conditions in the home exist which prevent a return of the child or juvenile. Frees the child or juvenile for adoption (if adoptable) or, if over 16 years, for independent living.
TFC	Treatment (or Therapeutic) Foster Care: A foster home specially licensed to provide maintenance and structures, professional treatment by trained individuals, including the treatment foster parents.
Trial	A fact finding hearing.
Truancy	Absence from school without an acceptable excuse.
V	
VI	Visually Impaired: An impairment of vision even with glasses that delays what a child can learn.
Visitation	See "Family Interaction".
VPA	Voluntary Placement Agreement: An agreement entered into by the parent(s) and the Department of Social Services which allows for a child's or juvenile's placement out of the home for not more than six months. If placement needs to continue, it must be brought before the court.
W	
W-2 or W-2 Program	"Wisconsin Works", a program that replaced the old AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) Program.
Waive	To give up certain rights, such as to an attorney or time limits.
Waiver to Adult Court	A process to determine if a juvenile's delinquency case should be heard in adult court rather than juvenile court.

Waiver of Temporary Physical Custody Hearing	A form signed by a parent or guardian waiving their right to a Physical Custody Hearing.
WFAPA	Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parents Association
WICWA	Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act
Y	
Youth Services Network	A committee of county, tribal and private agencies connected with youth and children.

American Child Welfare Timeline

- 1628 The “Stubborn Child Act” enacted in Massachusetts provided that a stubborn or rebellious child could be put to death.
- 1874 A volunteer caseworker in New York City learned about an eight-year-old girl named Maryellen who was frequently beaten. Because there were no laws to prevent maltreatment of children, the case was taken to court under laws protecting animals with the help of Henry Birgh of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- 1950’s Professionals began to recognize that the needs of children could be better met in family settings than in institutions, and foster family homes began to replace orphanages as the primary child placement resource.
- 1955 Wisconsin established a new **Children’s Code, Chapter 48**, to codify an array of laws relating to children. Jurisdiction was given over children who were delinquent, dependent, neglected, and those needing termination of parental rights (TPR) and adoption. Each county was required to furnish to the juvenile court judge at least one person to provide services in the area of supervision and social casework.
- Chapter 48 sets the laws and guidelines for which child welfare workers must operate from when working with children and families.
- 1978 The Indian Child Welfare Act assigned sole responsibility to tribal governments for child welfare and adoption decisions for children of Native American descent.

- 1994 The Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA), federal legislation that prohibited the use of race, color or national origin as the sole factors used in making placement decisions for children.
- 1996 The Interethnic Placement Act (IEPA) amended MEPA stating that placement decisions for children cannot be denied or delayed due to considerations of race, color, or national origin.
- 1997 The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) further strengthened the child welfare system's responsibility to provide a timely, permanent family for children in care; it directs that, unless there is an exception, a termination of parental rights petition shall be filed if a child has been placed outside his or her own home for 15 of the most recent 22 months.
- Prior to this Act, children sometimes lingered in foster care for years (called foster care drift) with no plan for permanency.
- 1999 The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 established the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. This program incorporates and expands the former Independent Living Program (ILP) and expands services for youth ages 18-21 who have exited care at age 18 or after, but have not reached age 21. Independent living services are provided to young people to assist them as they transition to adulthood.
- Several research studies show that youth from foster care have difficulty transitioning into adulthood, with higher rates of homelessness, incarceration and unemployment. Independent living services are important to assist these youth have successful outcomes.
- 2008 The Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 amends the Social Security Act to connect and support relative caregivers, improve outcomes for children in foster care, provide for Tribal foster care and adoption access, improve incentives for adoptions, and for other purposes.
- Among the things Wisconsin implemented to comply with the act:
- required agencies to exercise due diligence to identify and provide notice to all adult relatives of the child regarding that removal and provide information

regarding options for becoming a placement option or otherwise participating in the child's life, and access to payments or services for such participation.

- that reasonable efforts must be made to place siblings removed from their home in the same placement, unless joint placement would be contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings. In the case of siblings not jointly placed, reasonable efforts must be made for frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between the siblings, unless such visitation or interactions would be contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings.

- 2009 The Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act was codified, enacting the federal Indian Child Welfare Act.
- 2011 Mandated foster parent training began in Wisconsin. Research shows that when foster parents are prepared and supported there are fewer placement disruptions for children.
- 2014 The Federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act was passed to will help reduce the incidence of sex trafficking among youth in foster care, assist in creating normalcy for youth in foster care, increase the speed with which permanency for foster youth is achieved, and increase the amount of child support for families.
- 2016 WI Act 128 was signed by Governor Walker to confirm to this new Federal Act. Through Act 128:
- DCF developed a plan for responding to and serving child sex trafficking victims which includes policies and procedures for better serving, reporting and tracking victims of sex trafficking.
 - Requires that transition plans be developed for any youth over the age of 14, lowering the age criterion from the current level of age 15, and that the plan be developed in consultation with the child.
 - Established The Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard which allows out-of-home care providers to make decisions to permit children in their care to participate in age or developmentally-appropriate activities based on the cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral capacities of the child. This standard promotes normalcy for children in out-of-home care by allowing them to pursue their interests, engage in the same activities as their peers, build skills for their future, and promote a trusting, caring relationship with the out-of-home care provider(s), while still keeping the health, safety, and best interests of the child as the priority.

Caseworker Scenario

It is Monday morning and you are a child protective services and foster care caseworker. Here are items on your "To Do" list this week. You have 40 hours. Prioritize tasks. Why did you choose this order? Who or what has to wait?

1. A relative has called to express an interest in providing care for a niece in foster care. You will need to expedite the homestudy process; you will need to visit her home and begin the process as soon as possible because there is a court hearing next week. (3.5 hours total)
2. Home visits are needed to recertify the Smiths, Johnsons, and Williams (if you don't do this this week they will be unlicensed, and you will have to remove the children from the foster home). You must make one visit to each family. Each visit and travel time will require 3.5 hours. (10.5 hours total)
3. Facilitate the pre-placement training class. Factor in preparation time, room setup, and class time. (6 hours total)
4. Four prospective families want homestudy visits this week. Each visit, including travel time, will require 3.5 hours. (14 hours total)
5. You have 20 requests for personal references to mail out. It takes about 10 minutes to process and log each request. (3 hours, 20 minutes total)
6. You have four Semi-Annual Administrative Reviews to attend. Each takes about an hour. MANDATORY (4 hours total)
7. You have two court hearings to attend. Each will take four to five hours. MANDATORY (8-10 hours total)
8. You must help supervise visits with three sibling groups and their birth parents. The visits, including child transportation, will each require two hours. MANDATORY (6 hours total)
9. The Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) or Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Johnny Jones wants to meet with you about the case plan. MANDATORY (1 hour total)
10. You have a weekly department meeting and your supervisory conference. MANDATORY (2 hours total)
11. You have three homestudy assessment forms to complete. The visits are finished, but you need to complete the paperwork. You will need approximately six hours to write each assessment. (18 hours total)

Case Study

Alice Turner, a 26-year-old single mother, has six children, ages two to ten years of age. The five youngest are in two different foster homes, and the oldest is in a residential treatment facility for emotionally disturbed children.

The children entered foster care four months ago because the mother, who suffers from anxiety and depression, chronically neglected the children and left them with no adult supervision.

Billy, who is 10 years old, sees a psychiatrist biweekly. Billy is destructive and hyperactive. He has significant learning problems and is in a special education class at school. Billy is making poor progress academically, but the caseworker, mother, and psychiatrist have not met with the school personnel to adjust his Individualized Education Plan. Furthermore, the psychiatrist provides monthly written reports to the caseworker about Billy's progress in counseling, but Alice has never met with the psychiatrist.

The court ordered supervised visitation because Alice has made threats to kidnap the children. Since the children have been in placement, they have visited intermittently with their mother at the agency (a case aide from the agency transports the children and supervises the visits), but visits have never been coordinated so that the children can see each other. The children have not telephoned each other, and they frequently ask the caseworker about their brothers and sisters. One foster parent has decided that Alice should be able to see her children more often and has dropped three of the children off at Alice's home twice for the afternoon. The caseworker and the court do not know about these visits. The two sets of foster parents have not talked with each other, and one foster family has not met or talked to Alice. The mother, in fact, does not know where her two youngest children are living. The foster mother for the two youngest children has identified some developmental delay in one of the children. Agency staff have not talked with the foster mother about her concerns, and no services to address these delays have been added to the case plan.

The caseworker has developed the case plan without input from the mother or the foster families. The semiannual Permanency Plan Review will be held in a few weeks, but the caseworker has forgotten to invite the foster parents.

A great aunt (Wanda) cared for the children on and off for many years when the mother was unable to care for them. The children talk about her all the time. The caseworker does not seem to be aware of her importance to the children.

The guardian ad litem for the six Turner children believes that the agency should pursue adoption planning in this case. The caseworker and her supervisor are planning to reunify the Turner family. There is significant disagreement between the guardian ad litem and the caseworker about the minimum standard for reunification. Finally, Alice's case plan says she must locate suitable housing, but she has been too depressed to follow through with a plan to find housing she can afford, particularly since her benefits were cut off 90 days after the removal of the children.

Questions:

1. What's wrong with this picture? Underline problem areas of team functioning in the case study.
2. What strategies would you use to correct the underlined problem areas to benefit the Turner children?