

## Indiana

### Waiver Demonstration Inclusion Decision Making Guide March 2010

#### Waiver Demonstration Referral Directions for FCM's:

FCM's *should* refer a child for Waiver Demonstration inclusion to their immediate Supervisor when:

1. AB/NE allegations are substantiated; and,
2. The need for services is evident and necessary for the child to remain safely in their own home setting, or,
3. The child is being detained, but is likely to return home shortly (within 60 days or less).

The perceived need for the child's inclusion in the Demonstration must be supported and documented by the FCM's utilization of Risk and Needs assessment tools. The Risk Assessment (and/or Risk Re-assessment) is a mandatory requirement for a child's initial and ongoing participation in Indiana's Waiver Demonstration. This requirement is supported by ICWIS programming. The Needs assessment can be useful in better defining the areas of need for the child/family. This assessment is a normal part of ongoing/continuing service provision; as well as mandatory for substantiated reports of AB/NE.

When both of the first two conditions exist and the child can safely remain in their own home, refer the child for Demonstration inclusion and provide the necessary in-home services. If this child is at imminent Risk for removal, and Intensive Preservation Services are available, include the child in the Demonstration.

When all three (3) conditions exist, and Intensive Reunification Services are available, include the child in the Demonstration.

When the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) conditions exist, the child *may* be appropriate for the Demonstration.

***If condition one (1) does not exist, do not refer to the Demonstration.***

***If the child is detained and condition three (3) does not exist, do not refer to the Demonstration.***

## **Assessing children in substitute care for Waiver Demonstration inclusion:**

### **Child Welfare Supervisors:**

Work with your assigned staff employee to identify good waiver candidates at the time of child and family team meeting or the case plan meeting. Review the Needs/Risk Assessment to insure the family is willing to actively participate in the necessary home care services for the identified child to promote permanency.

### **When the permanency goal is reunification:**

Help determine the child's appropriateness for inclusion in the Waiver Demonstration by assessing the following two (2) variables:

- 1) Has the child's parent participated significantly in the visitation process while the child has been in substitute care?
- 2) Does the child have a stable home environment to which they can return?

**When both of these conditions exist, refer the child to the Demonstration and provide Intensive Reunification Services to the child/family.**

If only condition one (1) exists, the child *may* be appropriate for referral to the Demonstration. Assess for causal as to why there have been barriers to the visitation process before considering referral to the Demonstration. Ask yourself if the barriers can be alleviated with additional service provision (For example: Mom has no dependable transportation and her car could be repaired; in order to promote regular visitation.)

If only condition two (2) exists, the child *may* be appropriate for referral to the Demonstration, following the application of transitional services to stabilize the home environment.

**If neither conditions one (1) or two (2) exist. Do not refer.**

### **When the permanency goal is something other than reunification:**

Reassess the child's current permanency goal for appropriateness and potential success.

- Identify the barriers to meeting the child's need for permanency (For example: The pre-adoptive parents won't finalize their adoption petition because the

wheelchair necessary for their special needs child is not covered by the child's Medicaid.)

- Review and assess the child's current service provision for potential changes necessary to meet the child's permanency goal.

**If you determine that by providing unique/creative services, the opportunity to get the child to permanency exists, refer the child to the Demonstration.**

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