Organizational Self Study on Parent-Child and Sibling Visits

1. Does your agency have a practice model or a policy that directs case managers in articulating to the foster parent the purpose and importance of visits between children and youth in foster care and:

	Yes	No	Rating Count
Their parents or primary caregivers?	**82.1% (46)**	17.9% (10)	56
Their siblings?	**78.9% (45)**	21.1% (12)	57
Extended family?	**71.4% (40)**	28.6% (16)	56
In post permanency situations?	**58.9% (33)**	41.1% (23)	56
Other significant people in the child's/youth's life?	**73.7% (42)**	26.3% (15)	57
		answered question	**57**
		skipped question	**0**

2. If yes, to all or any of the above, please provide an example or cite to the policy that guides case managers in this regard.

	Response Count
	42

	answered question	42
	skipped question	15

3. Does your agency have a practice or a written policy regarding the following?

	Yes	No	Rating Count
Visits among siblings when they are not placed together but within your agency?	**70.2% (40)**	29.8% (17)	57
Visits among siblings when they are not placed together and are not within your agency?	**70.2% (40)**	29.8% (17)	57
When first visit should occur between siblings who are not placed together?	30.4% (17)	**69.6% (39)**	56
Inviting siblings who are not placed together to school performances, athletic events, or other events that the child may participate in?	29.8% (17)	**70.2% (40)**	57
Frequency of sibling visits?	**66.1% (37)**	33.9% (19)	56
Length of sibling visits?	32.7% (18)	**67.3% (37)**	55
Recognition of a right of parents to visit their children/youth unless the court has ordered otherwise?	**81.8% (45)**	18.2% (10)	55
Length of visits with parents?	33.9% (19)	**66.1% (37)**	56
Supervision of visits?	**64.3% (36)**	35.7% (20)	56
Foster parents supervising visits between the foster child and the biological family?	38.6% (22)	**61.4% (35)**	57

Foster parents interacting with biological family?	45.6% (26)	**54.4% (31)**	57
Foster parent sharing contact information with the biological family?	47.4% (27)	**52.6% (30)**	57
Foster parents allowing the biological family to visit at the foster home?	49.1% (28)	**50.9% (29)**	57
Foster families transporting children to the visits with their biological family?	**73.7% (42)**	26.3% (15)	57
Transportation to facilitate visits generally?	**82.5% (47)**	17.5% (10)	57
Involvement of others?	**57.9% (33)**	42.1% (24)	57
Post visit work with children, siblings, and foster parents	42.6% (23)	**57.4% (31)**	54
	If yes, to all or any of the above, please provide an example or cite to the policy.		41

	answered question	**57**
	skipped question	**0**

4. Does your agency develop written visitation plans?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		**59.6%**	**34**
No		40.4%	23
		answered question	57
		skipped question	0

5. If so, who are they shared with? :

	Yes	No	Rating Count
Parents	42.5% (17)	**57.5% (23)**	40
Kin	23.5% (8)	**76.5% (26)**	34
Caseworkers	**76.9% (40)**	23.1% (12)	52
Foster parents	**73.5% (36)**	26.5% (13)	49
Youth	**72.9% (35)**	27.1% (13)	48
Other (please specify)			24
		answered question	57
		skipped question	0

6. Does your agency develop the written plan with input from any of the above?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		64.9%	37
No		35.1%	20
		answered question	57
		skipped question	0

7. For the questions below, please provide a yes or no answer as to whether visits should occur.

	Yes	No	Rating Count
Parent is drug and alcohol user, and their usage is a basis for the removal. The parent uses during the case, but does not show up to visits high or drunk. Should visits occur anyway?	**62.5% (35)**	37.5% (21)	56
Parent has relinquished custody to DFPS as the only way to gain access to mental health services. Should the parent be allowed to visit the child?	**80.4% (45)**	19.6% (11)	56
Parent has relinquished custody to DFPS because they cannot maintain the child at home for whatever reason – not related to the need for mental health services. Should the parent be allowed to visit the child?	**73.2% (41)**	26.8% (15)	56
Parent is inconsistent in showing up for visitation, but always alerts the caseworker either way. Should the parent be allowed to visit the child?	**84.2% (48)**	15.8% (9)	57
Parent is inconsistent in showing up for visitation, but rarely alerts the caseworker that they won't make the visit. Should the parent be allowed to visit the child?	36.4% (20)	**63.6% (35)**	55

Parent consistently brings junk food and soda pop for the child to eat during visits. There is no safety threat. Should parent be allowed to have unsupervised visits?	78.6% (44)	21.4% (12)	56
Parent ignores the child or does not interact with the child during the visit, but there is no safety threat. Should the parent be allowed to have unsupervised visits?	28.6% (16)	71.4% (40)	56
57		answered question	57
0		skipped question	0

8. RESPONSIBILITIES IN PARENT-CHILD VISITING Who has each of the following responsibilities? Please check the appropriate box.

	CPS	Child Placing Agency	Foster Parent	Volunteer	Responsibility unclear in policy or practice	Rating Count
Preparing the child for visits	61.4% (35)	70.2% (40)	**89.5% (51)**	5.3% (3)	7.0% (4)	57
Preparing birth parents/siblings for visits	**89.1% (49)**	30.9% (17)	36.4% (20)	3.6% (2)	10.9% (6)	55
Preparing foster parents for visits	50.9% (29)	**77.2% (44)**	17.5% (10)	1.8% (1)	7.0% (4)	57
Coordinating the logistics of visits	**89.5% (51)**	59.6% (34)	59.6% (34)	3.5% (2)	5.3% (3)	57
Transportation to visit	64.3% (36)	60.7% (34)	**80.4% (45)**	8.9% (5)	3.6% (2)	56
Consulting with other professionals regarding ensuring safe visits based on the parent's or child's condition or special needs	**83.9% (47)**	67.9% (38)	44.6% (25)	5.4% (3)	8.9% (5)	56
Post-visit work with the child	49.1% (28)	73.7% (42)	**75.4% (43)**	3.5% (2)	3.5% (2)	57
Post-visit work with the birth parent (s)	**91.2% (52)**	15.8% (9)	7.0% (4)	3.5% (2)	8.8% (5)	57
Post-visit work with sibling(s)	**82.1% (46)**	41.1% (23)	39.3% (22)	1.8% (1)	8.9% (5)	56
Post-visit work with foster parents	46.4% (26)	**82.1% (46)**	26.8% (15)	1.8% (1)	7.1% (4)	56
					answered question	**57**
					skipped question	**0**

9. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT What type of professional development activities are used to build staff's knowledge, skills and abilities about parent-child and sibling visiting practice? Check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Classroom training	**80.7%**	**46**
Online training	43.9%	25
Teleconferences	21.1%	12
Webcasts	17.5%	10
Supervision	78.9%	45
Clinical consultation	54.4%	31
Technical assistance	28.1%	16
Coaching	50.9%	29
Mentoring	56.1%	32
Other (please specify)		6
answered question		**57**
skipped question		**0**

10. On which of the following are case managers trained? Check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Preparing children and foster parents for visits	73.7%	42
Importance of visitation for a child who has been separated from their family	84.2%	48
Expected behaviors from a child after a visit	**86.0%**	**49**
Supervision of visits	61.4%	35
Roles and responsibilities in visits	66.7%	38
Helping children and foster parents after a visit	75.4%	43
	answered question	**57**
	skipped question	**0**

11. Are supervisors trained in visiting policy and practice?

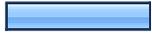|		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		68.4%	39
No		31.6%	18
	If yes, how are they trained?		24
		answered question	57
		skipped question	0

12. Do foster parents receive training on parent-child and sibling visiting?

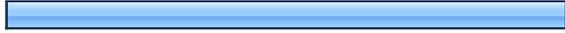|		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		71.9%	41
No		28.1%	16
		answered question	57
		skipped question	0

13. If yes, what is covered in the training? Check all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Importance of parent-child and sibling visits		**97.7%**	**42**
Helping a child prepare for a visit		88.4%	38
Roles and responsibilities in visits		88.4%	38
Helping a child after a visit		90.7%	39
Other (please specify)			8
	answered question		43
	skipped question		14

14. AGENCY STRENGTHS What do you see as CPS's strengths? Check all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Practice and policy commitment to visits between children/youth and their parents, siblings, extended family and other significant people in the child's life		**56.1%**	**32**
Implementation of visiting plans		47.4%	27
Supervised visiting		43.9%	25
Casework/clinical skills in preparing children/youth, siblings, foster parents and others for successful visits		17.5%	10
Casework/clinical skills in post-visit work with, children/youth, siblings, foster parents and others		12.3%	7
Use of innovative visiting practices (examples: foster parent/birth parent mentoring)		5.3%	3
Other		19.3%	11
		answered question	57
		skipped question	0

15. AGENCY CHALLENGES Which of the following challenge your agency in developing and implementing strong visiting policies and practices? Check all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Organizational culture		15.8%	9
Inconsistent or incomplete visiting policies		33.3%	19
Lack of a clearly defined visiting practice		38.6%	22
Caseload size/workload demand		28.1%	16
Transportation		49.1%	28
Staff turnover		33.3%	19
Lack of professional development opportunities		8.8%	5
Limited supervisory skills in providing staff with on-the-job training in visiting practice		21.1%	12
Lack of coordination with CPS		**82.5%**	**47**
Cultural competence issues		7.0%	4
Other (please specify)			6
		answered question	**57**
		skipped question	**0**

16. What do you need to overcome these challenges?

	Response Count
	57
answered question	57
skipped question	0

17. Which of these behaviors, factors or reactions displayed after a visit, might prompt your agency to request a change in CPS's visitation plan?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Child crying after a visit		22.8%	13
Child clinging to foster parent after a visit		29.8%	17
School disruptions after a visit		**63.2%**	**36**
Child returning from visit dirty		56.1%	32
Child exhibiting anger or defiance		**63.2%**	**36**
	Other (please specify)		21

	answered question	**57**
	skipped question	**0**

18. Does your agency have a position or practice in supporting visitation between a child and their parent when the abuse or neglect that occurred to the child was?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Sexual abuse: offending parent		45.6%	26
Sexual abuse: non offending parent		56.1%	32
Physical abuse: offending parent		47.4%	27
Physical abuse: non offending parent		59.6%	34
Domestic violence:		50.9%	29
Mental health		**63.2%**	**36**
Substance abuse		54.4%	31
Physical neglect		59.6%	34
Medical neglect		57.9%	33
Refusal to accept parental responsibility		47.4%	27
	answered question		**57**
	skipped question		**0**