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CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY Approved by: Roque Gerald Agency Director Date: December 7, 2010		REVISION HISTORY: November 1, 2010
LATEST REVISION: March 19, 2012	EFFECTIVE DATE: December 7, 2010	

I. AUTHORITY	The Director of the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) adopts this policy to be consistent with the Agency's mission and applicable federal and District of Columbia laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act of 1974 and its implementing regulations, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008,Title 4 of the DC Code, provisions in Title 29 of the DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR), and the Modified Final Order and the Amended Implementation Plan in <i>LaShawn A. v. Fenty</i> .
II. APPLICABILITY	All CFSA staff and contract agency personnel.
III. RATIONALE	Families who come into contact with the District's child welfare system face numerous and often daunting and complex challenges. Their needs usually cut across the service array, frequently including treatment for substance abuse, mental health issues, domestic violence, and/or assistance with economic support, childcare, and/or housing. Although CFSA retains ultimate responsibility for serving these families and ensuring child safety, permanency, and well being, this is not a charge that can be accomplished alone. In order to successfully achieve the Agency's stated mission, CFSA must establish a strong teaming partnership with the family itself, thus allowing for the most direct route to understanding service needs. The Agency must also team with neighboring communities, as well as other agencies (both public and private). Recognizing the importance of a coordinated and comprehensive approach for fulfilling its charge, CFSA has responded with a uniquely tailored alliance that incorporates the District's neighborhood-based Healthy Families/Thriving Community (HFTC) Collaboratives. The resulting <i>Partnership for Community-Based Services</i> (PCBS) has been designed to strategically co-locate public child welfare staff at each Collaborative site so as to enable cross-agency and cross-system coordination on behalf of families and children. Through the services and supports offered by the HFTC Collaboratives, PCBS is equally and most importantly designed to maintain children at home with their families. Whether case management is held solely by CFSA or shared through PCBS, teaming with the family is considered the primary strategy for effective delivery of in-home services.

IV. POLICY	directly with families community-connect that reinforces safe adoptive, guardians permanency within the Agency's core p are shared collectiv agencies and the H Collaboratives, CFS the <i>Partnership for</i> states that every ch viable opportunity to and supported by h cohesive child welfa CFSA and the HFT competence and de This policy address (within six months of management respo PCBS. <i>Note: as a re units in the In-Home and social workers)</i> more detailed description	e Child and Family Services Agency (CF s in order to provide a child-centered, far red, strength-based and solution-focused ty for children living at home, including b ship, and custodial homes where children the last six months. In-home service del practice values*. In accordance with these ely with CFSA's contracted partners, i.e ealth Families/Thriving Communities (Hi SA and the HFTC Collaboratives have m <i>Community-Based Services</i> (PCBS). The ild in the District of Columbia shall be pro- b live in a safe, stable, permanent home ealthy families, strong communities, and are system of care. It is further the comb C Collaboratives to serve District familie ependable responsiveness, as well as que es in-home cases for which CFSA and p of a child reaching permanency) hold sol nsibility, in addition to cases that are tea esult of PCBS implementation, all 10 CF e and Permanency Administrations (inclu- have been co-located at the HFTC Coll riptions of the core practice values and t e PCBS, please refer to the In-Home Pro- sa.dc.gov/.	mily-focused, d service array biological, n have reached ivery must reflect se values, which ., the private FTC) nutually developed the PCBS mission rovided with a , and be nurtured d a coordinated, nined policy of s with cultural uality practice. private agencies e case amed through FSA In-Home uding supervisors laboratives. * For the philosophical
V. CONTENTS	 A. Teaming B. Engaging Famil C. Assessing Famil D. Case Planning E. Quality Home V F. Safe Case Clos G. Supervision H. Quality Assurantian 	ilies isitation ure	
VI. ATTACHMENTS	A. Definitions		
	B. Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative Form		
VII. PROCEDURES	Procedure A: Tea	aming	
	By its very design, the <i>Partnership for Community-Based Services</i> (PCBS) demonstrates CFSA's and the HFTC Collaboratives' commitment to the principles of teaming (<i>see Appendix A, Definitions</i>). These principles shall be wholly applied to families, contracted private agencies, external stakeholders such as other District and federal agencies, and other helping professionals and community and faith-based organizations. The teaming principles ensure successful case planning and positive outcomes for children who are served by the child welfare system while still remaining safe and cared for at home.		
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	1.	welfare system identify one or r	nildren living at home while being served shall have a dedicated case planning tea nore of the following potential teaming re capacity and reinforce the family's efforts es:	am that helps sources to serve
		a. Maternal an parenting	d paternal relatives and/or other kin who	can assist in
		b. Fictive kin (a relationship	see Appendix A, Definitions) who can mo	odel a nurturing
		c. Other individ	duals of the family's choosing	
		accessible o	port networks such as faith-based orgar community resources that will sustain con formal case closure	
	2.	Collaboratives a expected to pro plan objectives	amily's relationship with CFSA as well as and/or contracted private agencies, all te actively support the stated goals of the fa (including provision of supportive service d responsibilities of the other team memb	am members are amily, the case es), and the
	3.		s shall hold each other accountable for th aintaining a successful "helping relations Definitions).	
		written docu	ional helping relationship may be facilita ment that is drafted with the family, and ed roles for each member of the team.	
		be responsi planning an	process, it is important to establish a team ble for representing the family when nec d mobilizing team members during the se entification, access, evaluation, and utiliz	essary, as well as ervice process,
		c. It is advisab member.	le to partner the team leader with a willin	g and able family
			nd plans for the child should be left in the members as much as possible and whe	
	4.	(or more freque assess the effect	o convene multidisciplinary team meeting ntly as necessary as determined by the ctiveness of the case plan, usefulness of nd progress towards safe case closure.	eam leaders) to
	5.	behaviors are e	eaming effort, the following core activities xpected of all in-home social workers rep boratives, and/or contracted private age	presenting CFSA,
			h the family to build a strong, trusting, properties relationship.	oductive, and
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	b) The	family may also self-refer to the HFTC 0	Collaboratives.
			todian or legal guardian) and/or after cou	
			d has reached permanency (i.e., after a c nified with his or her family, adopted, or a	
		mor	oths for families with low and moderate ri	sk factors after a
		• •	ate agencies shall continue providing se	rvices for 6
		amilies a as appro	and individual family members self-advo	cate for services
			(FSWs), and the CFSA in-home and/or poplicable) social workers make concerted	.
	i. It	t is impo	ortant that the CFSA and Collaborative fa	
			or families throughout the life of the families we families throughout the life of the families of the families	ily's involvement
	C	others a	s to the time and location	
	r	neeting,	n any individual team member may also i , s/he should first contact the CFSA in-ho social worker for scheduling the meeting	ome or private
	8	and prev	r team members to formulate a plan to a vent a possible placement into foster card	э.
	i a	ncrease applicab	am members determine that the risk to o ed, the CFSA in-home or private agency le) social worker may initiate a team me	(when eting in an effort
	•	•	d facilitating family meetings.	hildron haa
	safet seleo appr	ty, and t ction, us opriate.	to promote engagement of the children a se, and evaluation (e.g., effectiveness) of	nd family in the
	being	g, and p	ly strengths and helping to achieve their permanency goals. family twice a month (at a minimum) to e	
	e. Guid	ling fam	ily members to explore creative strategie	es for maximizing
		••	the family's efforts towards safe case clo on of the family's capacity to "own" the de	
	ii. A	Active pa	articipation in the coordination of services	s that further
			nment of time frames for achieving the go ddition to achieving goals of individual fai	
	solut imple	tions thr ementat	individual family members to generate to ough active participation in the developn ion of the case plan. Such empowermen I to the following activities:	nent and
	their	challen	orts on helping the family to identify under ges, as well as identifying services to he s and overcome the associated challeng	lp them address
	but c	consiste	at messages conveyed to the family are not the family are not throughout the life of the family's involet system.	

	ii. Families should	be helped to self-advocate whe	n dealing with one
	or more of the fo	llowing external team members	:
	<i>i i</i>	iders, particularly with respect to enges, and/or strengths	o any changing
	b) Other agence	ies (both public and private)	
	c) Schools		
	d) Businesses		
	Procedure B: Engaging	Families	
	management and should al determination. As part of th agency (when applicable) s CFSA the HFTC Collaborat developing a positive rappo with families. Every team m likely to achieve safety, sta	nost essential part of strength-b ways be pursued with compassi e engagement process, in-home ocial workers along with FSWs ives, all must be actively respon rt and sustaining an effective we ember should keep in mind that pility, and well-being when the e imary, best practice standard.	ionate e and private representing sible for orking relationship families are more
	CFSA and the Collabo	workers teaming with FSWs rep pratives shall engage the identifi mediate household within 7 day	ed maltreated
	and/or Collaborati extent than the so sharing any result b. Every effort shall l	stances provide an opportunity f ve FSW to engage a family earli cial worker, the FSW shall be re ing information with that social w be made to include fathers and/o embers in the engagement proce	er or to a greater sponsible for vorker. or extended
		nts shall also be included (as ap	
	d. If the location of the	he father (or mother) is unknown uct a search within 30 days of ca	
		social worker's efforts to locate s/he shall consult the assigned ion.	
	attitudes to successfu case, including cases	embrace specific approaches an Ily engage families from the ons where the child has reached pe nese attitudes shall include but r nes:	et of an in-home rmanency within
		upporting mothers, fathers, and e efforts to nurture each child in t	
	 Respecting divers political opinions, 	ity among cultures, religions, ge etc.	nder preferences,
	c. Respecting arrival and meetings.	and departure times for all sche	eduled interviews
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	d.	•	in the innate desire of family members t each child in the family unit.	o want the very
		•	a positive rapport for engaging families s I to the following activities for social work	
	a.	language	that all communication is respectfully de and in terms that are familiar to the fam a language translator when necessary.	
	b.	respect a	behavior to help families in general to in nd understanding, but specifically helpin s their feelings using strength-based, so	g family members
	C.	awarenes	ntly employing active listening skills, i.e., as to what is being said as well as "listen ather than stated directly.	
	d.	Soliciting	and valuing input and opinions from the	family.
	e.	Treating dignity.	every family member, including children,	with respect and
	f.	personal	ing and maximizing use of the family's b values in order to build and sustain the hip (see Appendix A, Definitions).	•
	g.	Maintaini	ng awareness and respect for diversity (see #2.b above).
	h.		rating authentic understanding and conc struggles.	ern for the family's
	i.	•	families to recognize their own resilience to meet current needs and to solve cu	•
	j.	and demo	edging the families' accomplishments and onstrating confidence in the family's abili e struggles.	
	k.		edging that families have the capacity an od decisions for their children.	d innate ability to
	I.	Maintaini relationsh	ng a compassionate presence throughounip.	ut the helping
			ing families during an interview, team me onsistent focus on potential solutions.	embers shall
	Proced	ure C: As	ssessing Families	
			ment is a teaming process involving all a	
			on-resident caregivers (whenever possible on collaborative staff, and private agency	
	circumst	ances whe	ere ongoing case management occurs a	fter a child has
		•	ncy). When properly executed, family ass with an extensive understanding of the f	•
	situation		encing circumstances, underlying issues	s, strengths and
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Ca	apabiliti	es, and presenting challenges and concerns. The assessment
fu fo id as m th ou	irther he or helpin lentifyin ssessm nade and ne child ngoing a	elps the team as a whole to identify the most appropriate services of the family to recognize and build upon their strengths as well as g services and strategies for overcoming particular challenges. The ent process incorporates the family's input when decisions are d continues throughout the duration of the family's relationship with welfare system. <i>Note: private agencies shall adhere to the following</i> assessment guidelines throughout any ongoing case management hild has reached permanency and/or until safe case closure.
3	whe	e following assessment activities shall occur as appropriate, and en applicable, serve to inform the Structured Decision Making M™) assessment process:
	a.	Use of engagement tools such as open-ended questions and active listening skills.
	b.	Completion of a family social history, particularly providing information on the parents or caregivers.
	C.	Non-intrusive inspection of the home's physical environment, e.g., observing potential or existing hazards, safe operation of utilities, sanitary conditions, sufficient provision of food, etc.
	d.	Identification of natural supports, e.g., maternal and paternal relatives, fictive and non-fictive kin, community-based resources, etc.
	e.	General assessment of family dynamics, including parent-child interactions, parent responsiveness to the child's basic needs, and identification of underlying issues, i.e., the <i>source(s)</i> of risk factors, not just presenting behaviors.
	f.	In addition to immediate, practical needs (e.g., food, housing, medical care, etc.), the assessment shall include significant and/or relevant family history.
		• The CFSA in-home and the private agency (when/or as applicable) social worker shall inquire and request during transfer staffings that the Child Protective Services (CPS) investigative social worker provide any information related to past case history involvement with CFSA.
	g.	Use of other pertinent information (past or present) either immediately available and/or gathered throughout the assessment process.
		• The Collaborative and/or CFSA FSW shall seek additional information and/or professional contacts to inform the assessment, including but not limited to school or personnel records, substance abuse evaluations, medical reports, mental health assessments, etc.

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	determine the risk level (i.e., low, moderate, high, or intensive) and to determine the necessary frequency of ongoing contact with the family.
	 a. In-home staff should use approved assessment tools such as the Structured Decision Making® (SDM™) tool, genograms, family group decision conferences, etc. b. The results of the risk and safety assessments shall be used to
6.	CFSA in-home and private agency (as applicable) staff shall continually assess for safety and risk factors throughout the family's involvement with the District's child welfare system, starting with the initial contact and ending with a safe case closure.
5.	A family's concrete needs should be addressed as soon as possible.
4.	Imminent safety issues must be addressed without delay, including supportive services as necessary, e.g., counseling, coaching, and/or education.
	d. Families shall receive assistance for mobilizing their strengths and accomplishments in order to raise the family's level of functioning.
	c. Social workers shall determine service availability and accessibility, particularly services that will help to improve safety, stability and the well-being of children in the home.
	 b. CFSA in-home and private agency (as applicable) social workers, along with CFSA and Collaborative FSWs shall integrate the family's perspective of its own strengths and needs into all documented clinical observations.
	a. It is important that the family's strengths and accomplishments be recognized throughout the assessment process and throughout their relationship with the child welfare system.
3.	Together the team shall explore and assess the family's current situation, including strengths, accomplishments, concerns, parenting issues, safety risks, and specific needs (e.g., financial assistance, housing, employment, etc.).
	c. Family members shall be informed that while the assessment tools will not be completed in their presence, the results of all assessments will be shared with them during their involvement as team members with the ongoing development of the case plan.
	b. Family members shall be advised that continuous assessments will inform the case planning process and the information being gathered during each assessment is also purposed for guiding the case planning process.
	a. The Collaborative and/or CFSA FSW, and CFSA and/or private agency social workers (as applicable) shall provide the family with an overview and explanation of the purpose of the assessment, including safety and risk assessments.
2.	The entire team shall have an initial, open discussion regarding the assessment process.

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 c. The CFSA in-home social worker is responsible for completing SDM™ assessments every 90 days.
d. In addition to the initial assessment, needs and strengths shall be assessed every six months and shall include supportive information from the family as well as from the Collaborative and/or CFSA FSW.
 7. As noted in 2.c above, the results of assessments shall be openly discussed with the family during team meetings, including cases where the private agency social worker is providing time-limited case management services for children who have reached permanency. a. Open discussion of assessments shall provide the family and/or individual family members with the opportunity to voice different perspectives, opinions, and/or alternative ideas in regards to the assessment and/or needs and services.
b. In the event that a family or family member disagrees or differs in opinion with the results of any given assessment, including identified needs and/or services, the family's concerns shall be routed through the CFSA and Collaborative supervisors.
 After a review by the assigned supervisors, the family shall be invited to further discuss their concerns with the assigned supervisors.
 If a family chooses not to engage in services, the following steps shall be taken.
 The CFSA, Collaborative, and/or private agency (as applicable) staff may discuss during group supervision alternative methods for engaging the family.
ii. The CFSA, Collaborative, and/or private agency (as applicable) staff may propose to the family that a family group conference or team meeting be held for purposes of discussing mutually satisfactory alternatives.
d. Removal is the last resort to ensure a child's safety.
Procedure D: Case Planning
In-home cases include a family case plan, not just an individual child's case plan. By including family members in the process, CFSA reinforces a strength-based, empowerment-focused strategy that gives the family respectful authority to define and monitor goals for themselves. Additionally, it allows the family to consider and appreciate its own unique strengths, needs, psychological stressors, support networks, and coping skills for determining positive outcomes. This type of cooperative case planning is a vital aspect of CFSA's commitment to best practices and generally includes teaming between CFSA staff and the HFTC Collaborative staff. It is important to note, however, that not all in-home cases are planned jointly between CFSA and the Collaboratives. In addition, when applicable, private agency staff shall involve the family in case planning until such time as that private agency's case management responsibilities have ended.

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1.	When CFSA and HFTC Collaborative staff team on a case, one comprehensive case plan shall be established to ensure families are receiving consistent services.
2.	For teamed cases, coordination of case management responsibilities must be established between CFSA and the Collaborative staff prior to case planning.
	 a. The CFSA in-home social worker shall take primary responsibility for the following activities:
	i. Review of investigation summaries and family history.
	ii. Handling any emergency placement needs, if necessary.
	 Notifying family members and/or collaterals of names and contact information of the assigned CFSA social worker and the assigned Collaborative FSW.
	iv. Explaining to family members any current court involvement (if applicable), as well as providing assistance with navigating the judicial system in general, if necessary.
	 Meeting with staff from other agencies involved in the case to ensure that all team members are working toward the same goal.
	 Vi. Updating the case plan, contact information, and demographics in FACES as needed, or at a minimum of <i>every six months</i>.
	vii. Including the latest Structured Decision Making (SDM [™]) assessment information and interventions and/or services in the case plan.
	viii.Ensuring the case plan is effective in meeting the needs of the family.
	ix. Filing a copy of the case plan signed by the parents (or caregivers) in the official hard record file.
	x. Taking the lead for safe case closure for high or intensive cases.
	 Scheduling a meeting for multidisciplinary team members to review the safe case closure summary.
	 b. The CFSA and/or Collaborative FSW shall take primary responsibility for the following activities:
	 Monitoring the agreed-upon services through the Collaboratives' case management information system, Efforts to Outcomes (ETO[™]) (see Appendix A, Definitions).
	ii. Tailoring interventions to encourage active family participation and an effective use of resources.
	iii. Providing updated information to CFSA team members regarding progress and/or impediments toward goal achievement and/or safe case closure.
	iv. Taking the lead in the case closure process for families assessed at a low-to-moderate risk for future abuse or neglect.

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	C.		A and Collaborative staff shall be equally ng activities:	responsible for
		i. Comm	nunicating to families that information sha	all be shared
			ing that services for all family members a	are identified in the
		iii. Ensuri	ing that mothers and fathers understand, ss a copy of the case plan.	sign, and
		•	ing the case plan every 90 days until the	casa is closed
		v. Identif	ying support networks that will provide a ter-care services after formal case closu	ttention, support
			pation in the final case review cycle prior	
	co ma Ca CF	e teamed fan ference at other and fa ollaborative SA and the	amily case plan shall be generated durin tended by family representatives (includi ther*), the CFSA in-home social worker, FSW, and the appropriate supervisory s assigned Collaborative. *See Procedur on engaging fathers in the case planning p	ng the child's the CFSA and/or taff from both e <i>B.1b-d for more</i>
	a.	within 30 d	ng conference shall be conducted with a days of the case opening in order to iden or service provision.	
	b.		r's team shall meet quarterly at a minimu aspects of the case:	m to review the
		approp	nt status and progress of the case, incluc priateness, effectiveness, comprehensive nsiveness and timeliness of interventions	eness,
		ii. Progre	ess towards short-term goals and long-te	rm case planning.
	far	mily's streng	ers shall collectively develop a detailed evelop a detailed evelop and stressors for inclusion in the cas activities shall be incorporated:	
	a.	supports,	n of the resources available to the family extended family members, etc.) and way amily's goals.	
	b.	including t	on of family patterns that contribute to str he identification of specific high-risk beh ssociated with the behaviors.	-
	C.	Identificati family fron	ion and emphasis on behavior patterns t n harm.	hat insulate the
	d.	Methods f members.	or increasing patterns of cooperation bet	ween family
	e.	and stabili	ment of current protective capacities that ity, including protective capacities of indi- the family as a unit, and community rese	vidual family
	f.		and resourceful development of new prot	
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			an shall be written in clear, everyday lang f the following components.	guage, and include
		Clearly de	fined roles, tasks, and responsibilities fo including service providers.	r all team
	b	Identifiable	e tie-ins with the results of the SDM™ as	sessment.
	C.		for and record of the dates and the purp he family and the in-home social worker ive FSW.	
	d		trategies for how the family will embark of and mitigation of challenges and stresso	
	e	(and/or ind successfu	list of individualized goals and objective dividual family members) want and need I, long-term changes and positive outcor ealistic, attainable, and measurable.	to achieve
	f.	to increas strengther	of the services and service goals that w e stability and safety of children, includin ning the family's goals, and serving the fa child abuse and neglect.	g assistance for
	g		melines for and a record of progress for and service goals and objectives.	the achievement
	h	re-evaluat	the family's accomplishment of objective ing services and/or strategies if objective as expected.	
	i.	A long-rar	ge prevention plan <i>(see # 6 below</i>).	
	р	revention pla Prior to clo be at low worker sh	ers shall collectively develop a long-range an for family safety, stability, and well-bei osing an in-home case where the family or moderate risk for child maltreatment, t all encourage the family to reach out for	ng. is determined to he CFSA social
	b	Families s services tl	Collaboratives. hall be informed that they have the abilit hat are not related to abuse or neglect, e with payment of utilities, etc.	
	C.	CFSA chil applicable	encies that are case managing on a time dren who have reached permanency sha) the family to the HFTC Collaboratives the e child's permanency.	all refer (as
		•	ivate agency social worker shall inform t services through self-referral.	he family of their
		ii. The private agencies shall ensure a continuity of services as needed by sending referrals directly to the appropriate Collaborative two weeks prior to a change in the private agency's case management responsibility and submit a copy of the referral to CFSA's Collaborative Liaison Office.		ropriate ne private submit a copy of
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7. In the event that a family's in-home case with an intensive or high risk assessment includes a child in out-of-home care, and a petition for adoption has been filed on behalf of that child, the family's in-home case shall remain open with the In-Home and Permanency Administration in order for the family to receive community-based (i.e., HFTC Collaborative) intervention services that can serve to support and stabilize the family.
Procedure E: Quality Home Visitation
CFSA is committed to maintaining family connections through quality home visitations. Such visitation not only increases the statistical probability for sustainable reunification, but it opens wide the doors of effective communication, partnership building with families, and understanding and embracing cultural differences. Visitation also provides social workers and the family with an opportunity to share authentic feedback with regards to the family's progress and sense of accomplishment in their efforts to achieve service goals. By meeting with family members face-to-face in the most comfortable environment, i.e., the family situation and the extent to which children's needs are being met. For more details on home visit requirements, including the mandate for developing a schedule, social workers should refer to CFSA's policy on <u>Visitation</u> .
 Social workers shall conduct twice-monthly visits for all in-home cases, including cases where a child has reached permanency within the last six months. At least one visit must be in the home.
2. In addition to the guidelines on teaming and engagement listed under <i>Procedures A</i> and <i>B</i> of this policy, social workers shall further build their mutual relationship with the family by utilizing open-ended questions and solution-focused interviewing techniques during home visits, as well as promoting parental self sufficiency, independence, empowerment and stability.
 As noted in <i>Procedure C - Assessing Families</i>, at each visit, staff shall be responsible for assessing safety and risk factors, including such factors in the neighborhood and community environment that may impact a child's sense of safety in the home and/or well-being. a. Social workers shall document visits both electronically and in hard copy records (<i>within 48 hours of contact with family</i>).
b. In the event the social worker observes abuse or neglect during a home visitation, s/he is required as a mandated reporter to report the incident to the CFSA Hotline.
i. In the event of imminent danger, the in-home social worker may remove the child but must still report the maltreatment to the Hotline. <i>Note: a private agency worker is not legally</i> <i>authorized and may not remove a child under any</i> <i>circumstance but must call the Hotline to report the incident.</i>

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	inve man prov inve iii. In th and the s	in-home social worker shall cooperate w stigation insofar as s/he has played the r dated reporter, as well as in-home socia ide pertinent information prior to the onse stigation. e event that the relationship between the the family is compromised as a result of social worker shall consult with his or her ction.	ole of the I worker who can et of the e social worker the Hotline report,
	identifying inc	hall be made during home visitations to o lividuals who may be able to function in a reinforce the family's efforts to achieve p	a supportive
		ons shall follow guidelines specified in th el, including the following activities:	e In-Home
		ing, modeling, encouraging, and reinforc g and communication skills.	ing positive
	b. Facilitat develop	ng parental understanding of the stages ment.	of child
	c. Ensuring infant.	g preventive measures for new mothers	caring for an
	Procedure F: S	afe Case Closure	
	As in other aspects of case management, safe case closure requires the active involvement of family members, particularly in regards to the family's preparedness and confidence to handle normal and future challenges and/or the unexpected presence of additional risk factors. At the time of closure, the family must be independently connected to an adequate network of supportive services. Please note that none of the following procedures are exhaustive and each CFSA or private agency (when applicable) social worker, along with the CFSA and/or Collaborative FSW shall use his or her professional judgment according to the individual needs of the children and families on their caseloads. <i>Safe case closure must ensure that the risks for entry or re-entry have been dramatically reduced or even eradicated</i> .		
	with the CFSA family meeting openly discus closure, includ	d/or private agency social worker (when A and/or Collaborative FSW shall schedu gs within 30 days of the pending closure s all aspects and procedures necessary ding progress of the treatment plan and s be most recent case review.	le one or more date in order to for a safe case
		A social worker shall take the lead for PC initially assessed as high or intensive ris	
	 b. The Collaborative staff shall take the lead for PCBS-teamed cases that were initially assessed as low or moderate risk. 		
	c. Safe case Collabora	closure shall not occur until the appropr tive, and (when applicable) private agence a formal consultation with the social work	iate CFSA, cy supervisor has
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The following qualifiers must be met to justify safe case closure for families that have received in-home services:
a. Each child of appropriate age has been individually interviewed.
 Assistance has been provided to the family for securing appropriate support services.
c. The family has successfully achieved their personal goals as well as any other treatment goals identified in the case plan.
 The risk of future abuse or neglect has been significantly diminished or eliminated.
 There have been no substantiated reports of abuse or neglect within the past 90 days.
 In the event that a new allegation has been reported to the Hotline, the investigative social worker shall contact the in-home or private agency (when applicable) social worker prior to the onset of the investigation (whenever possible) in order to gather any information that may be pertinent to the investigative process.
 Whenever possible, the in-home social worker shall jointly assess the allegations with the investigative social worker. Note: if the in-home or private agency social worker is unavailable for a pre-investigation consultation or a joint assessment of the allegations, the investigative social worker shall proceed as usual, and contact the social worker as soon as possible thereafter to inform them of any relevant information that may help to address concerns or case plan for the family.
 The family consistently demonstrates an acceptable risk level of as defined by the SDM risk assessment tool.
g. If an in-home case is going to be referred to the HFTC Collaboratives for after-care services, the family in partnership with CFSA, the Collaborative, and/or private agency staff (when applicable) must participate as a team in a transfer staffing.
 h. If the case was initially opened due to reported substance abuse by the parent, closure can only occur under the following circumstances. i. The parent demonstrates obvious improvement and desire to maintain quality, parenting skills. ii. There is clear documentation in the case record with regards to
 iii. The SDM™ level of risk to the child's safety and well-being is determined to be low-to-moderate.
 If the family has moved out-of-jurisdiction, closure can occur under the following the circumstances.
 If known, the appropriate community-based agency and/or family services agency in the new jurisdiction shall be contacted by the in-home social worker.

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ii. The in-home social worker shall alert the new jurisdiction of the family's relocation.
iii. If location of the family's new resident is unknown, the need for a diligent search shall be determined in consultation with the social worker's supervisor.
 Some safe case closure procedures may vary as a result of the disposition decision made by the CPS Administration prior to referral to the In-Home and Permanency Administration for services.
a. For unfounded disposition decisions where the case is being referred to the Collaboratives for services and the SDM [™] assessment tool has determined the family to be at low and moderate risk, the following criteria must be fulfilled prior to case closure:
i. All children are remaining in the home.
ii. There is no court involvement.
iii. The parent has agreed to services and has signed an Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Healthy Families Thriving Community Collaborative form (see Attachment C).
Note: The CPS investigation must have been completed prior to the referral for services.
b. For unfounded cases in which the family does not engage with CFSA but is referred to the Collaboratives for services, and where the SDM [™] assessment tool has determined the family to be at high or intensive risk, the following criteria must be fulfilled prior to case closure by the in-home social worker:
 Within the first 30-day period of the case being open, the in- home social worker has attempted a minimum of 3 home visits to engage the family in services.
ii. The in-home social worker has sent a certified letter to the family's home informing them that they have been referred to CFSA's In-Home and Permanency Administration for services.
iii. The 30-day period ends without contact from the family.
c. If a substantiated disposition decision has been made and the case has been opened but the family has not made itself available to receive services, the case may be closed after 90 days <i>only under</i> <i>the following stipulations:</i>
 No one is home or the family cannot be located, and the in- home social worker has made the following attempts to contact the family:
 A notification letter (neglect only) has been left at the family's residence.

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		-	
		b)	A school visit has taken place (if school is unknown, contact DCPS Attendance Office).
		c)	Interview of neighbors, resident managers, or landlords have occurred to confirm family address.
		d)	A minimum of two (2) additional home visits after or before normal work hours has taken place.
		e)	A certified letter has been sent to the family requesting their cooperation.
		f)	The in-home social worker has conducted a search to locate the family (see the Agency's <u>Diligent Search Policy</u> for more details regarding family finding).
	ii		ne family has refused to cooperate, and the in-home social orker has completed the following activities:
		a)	Contact with supervisor for consultation.
		b)	Attempted contact with victim at another location (e.g. school or daycare).
		c)	Contact with Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for safety assistance.
		d)	Contact with the Office of the Attorney General for legal advice.
		e)	Completion of a Pre-Petition Custody Order, if required.
	follov	wing s	nated FSW shall assume primary responsibility for the afe case closure activities for low-to-moderate risk level cases the HFTC Collaboratives:
	i	identi	milies that have received services and achieved their fied goals, the case shall be closed upon completion of the ing procedures:
		fa	SW reviews case file with his/her supervisor to ensure that amily goals have been completed and case closure is appropriate.
		р	SW begins the termination of services and case closure process with family, which consists of home visits, letter process or respondence, and telephone calls.
	i		SW reviews the family's case for a final time in the case eview cycle.
	i	k a te n	Supervisor reviews closing summary and case file. Note: based on this review, the supervisor shall use his or her clinical and/or administrative discretion to initiate a final team meeting o ensure that all services are in place and there are no last minute concerns for completion of the safe case closure process.
			milies that have refused services, the case shall be closed after completion of the following procedures:
			The FSW has conferred with his or her supervisor to discuss he family.

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			east three home visits have been attemp cheduled).	ted (scheduled and
		infor	er regular or certified letters have been s ming them of their service options and r ly's response.	-
		telep	referring CFSA social worker has been ohone and/or email of the difficulty in eng eceiving services.	•
			/ and CFSA social worker have attempte to engage the family.	ed a joint home
		effor	family refused services or did not response ts within the first 30 days of Collaborativ onsibility.	
	bet app	ween the (plicable be	losure summary shall be developed in p CFSA and the Collaborative supervisor, tween the Collaborative and the private	and when agency supervisor.
	a.	in FACES	ng information (whenever applicable) sh .net for all case summaries, regardless n decision:	
		i. How	the case came to CFSA's attention.	
		ii. Case	history, including service provision.	
		iii. Desc closu	ription of the family's current condition a re.	nd reason for case
			of the family's goals, including progress vements.	and
		v. An ad need	ccount of the family's ongoing strengths s.	and present
		vi. A low tools.	r-to-moderate risk assessment as detern	nined by SDM™
		vii. Probl days.	ems, issues, or concerns that surfaced	within the last 90
			f support systems and resources that ar e family.	e currently in place
			w-up plan regarding service recommend	lations.
		x. Closi	ng letter to family and service providers.	
		xi. No ne	ew allegations reported.	
		•	ature of social worker, supervisor, and fa sentative.	mily
	b.	meeting to	me social worker shall be responsible fo allow multidisciplinary team members ture summary.	
	WO		Ilaborative supervisors shall provide the a review and evaluation of the case's ma	
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Procedure G: Supervision				
Supervisors and program managers play a pivotal role in the professional development of front-line staff and in the quality of service that front-line staff provides to children and families on the caseload. It is imperative that supervision be a strength-based, teaming process that ensures all social workers are receiving clinical feedback and helpful strategies for engaging families. Supervision is also a propitious opportunity for role modeling behavior, advancing the tenets of the Agency's Practice Model, and reinforcing the knowledge base and skill sets provided to social workers during pre- and in-service training. The supervisory structure, and its associated activities and goals, are paralleled by the program manager when supervising the supervisor.				
1. All supervisors shall schedule the supervision of their direct reports with the intent to produce the following positive outcomes:				
a. Clarity of a social worker's roles and responsibilities.				
b. Development of social worker skills and professional growth.				
c. Increased competency in the social worker's ability to engage, assess, and implement a strength-based, family-centered approach to case work, particularly as a reflection of the Agency's Practice Model and quality improvement.				
 Reinforcement of the importance of accurate and timely data entry into FACES (including updated demographic information). 				
e. Recognition that the Structured Decision Making tools (i.e., risk and safety assessments), the Family Team Meetings (FTM), and the Family Group Conferences (FGC) are essential processes for making informed decisions regarding in-home case planning and safe case closure.				
 CFSA supervisors shall complete the following supervisory tasks within 7 days of a new or transferred in-home case assignment: 				
 Initiation and scheduling of the first joint staffing with the Collaborative supervisor, the CFSA social worker, and the CFSA and/or Collaborative FSW when applicable. 				
 b. Preparing and submitting an agenda to all participants at least 24 hours (or one business day) in advance of the initial staffing. i. The agenda shall include identifying roles for both the CFSA inhome social worker and the CFSA and/or Collaborative FSW, including self-preparation for fulfilling teaming and joint decisionmaking responsibilities (see Procedure A: Teaming). ii. Case plans (see Procedure D: Case Planning) shall be reviewed and thoroughly discussed, including an estimated time line for safe case closure. 				

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3.	Supervisors shall hold themselves accountable for completion of the following tasks specific to the supervision of ongoing cases.
	a. Scheduling weekly supervision (at least 1 hour per session) for each individual social worker in the unit, and ensuring availability outside of supervision as needed.
	 Preparing the agenda or requiring staff to bring an agenda that includes the number of cases to be reviewed during the scheduled supervision.
	c. Holding in-depth discussions on each case plan.
	i. Providing clinical feedback.
	Ensuring the case plan is appropriate and that family needs are being met.
	iii. Ensuring that appropriate management support and resources are provided to support each family's goals.
	iv. Helping to identify cases where momentum or family engagement is problematic.
	 Assisting social workers to use solution-focused and strength- based approaches for engaging and working with the family.
	d. Ensuring that social workers are assessing for safety at each visit.
	e. Documenting each case consultation in FACES.net.
	f. Scheduling case peer reviews (per the Collaboratives' schedule or at a minimum bi-monthly), clinical staffings (as necessary) and team meetings to assist with problem-solving (as needed).
	g. Making monthly (at a minimum) inquiries regarding individual family situations, in particular the family's current needs, if any, for up-to- date service provisions.
	h. Utilizing the FACES and the Collaboratives' case management information system Efforts-to-Outcomes (ETO [™]) systems (see Appendix A, Definitions) to review safety and risk assessments, visitation contact summaries, the court calendar when applicable, and case plan expirations.
	 As appropriate, CFSA and Collaborative supervisors shall share hard copy case notes from FACES and ETO respectively.
	i. Attending the same key training courses as those attended by CFSA in-home and Collaborative staff in order to support and reinforce the learning objectives of the in-home and Collaborative team members.
	j. Reinforcing the application of training (Transfer of Learning, see <i>Appendix A, Definitions</i>) to the actual child welfare practice.

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	 CFSA and Collaborative (as applicable) supervisors must ensure that in- home social workers with regular on-going cases accomplish the following case-carrying tasks:
	 Accurate and timely updating of information in FACES and the ETO system.
	 b. Proactive teaming with families and with whomever the family deems as an integral part of the team. c. Working closely with community providers and all members of the family to identify both the family and the community resources necessary for setting and achieving family goals.
	 Acting as facilitators between multiple community providers and the family's support network.
	e. Incorporating collaborative processes in case practice, such as case peer reviews, clinical staffings, FTMs, and FGCs.
	 As part of the teaming process, CFSA supervisors shall proactively ensure the following activities are completed in partnership with the Collaborative supervisors:
	a. Joint supervision to encourage information sharing on techniques for engagement and for creating individualized case plans.
	b. Review of case documentation, including initial contact notes.
	 Identification of cases where there are significant areas of concern for family progress and/or lack of clear direction for joint case peer reviews.
	 Review of case progress to ensure that goals and objectives are linked to positive outcomes for families and safe case closure.
	Joint supervision shall incorporate the following guidelines and procedures:
	a. When teaming on a case, the in-home social worker and the FSW shall meet at least monthly with their supervisors to review the family's progress.
	 b. The CFSA and Collaborative supervisors will ensure that the monthly joint supervision sessions are scheduled such that everyone is available to participate.
	c. In the event that a conflict regarding a joint decision between the CFSA social worker and the Collaborative FSW cannot be resolved, authority shall be applied as follows:
	 The CFSA supervisor (or when applicable, program manager) shall have the final decision-making authority for team recommendations for families active within CFSA.
	When the family is not active within CFSA, the assigned Collaborative supervisor or director shall have final decision- making authority.
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Pi	Procedure H: Quality Assurance				
1.	Client satisfaction surveys shall be provided to families during each team meeting as part of the ongoing engagement process and for purposes of soliciting feedback that is useful for the evaluation.				
2.	CFSA and Collaborative staff shall encourage the family to complete a survey that evaluates their satisfaction with services, including the stated procedures for helping the family to meet their own goals and stated goals of the case plan.				
	a. Families shall be informed that they are not required to sign their names on surveys, and that each survey shall be held in confidence with regards to personal and/or identifying information.				
	 All completed surveys shall be dated and signed by the in-home social worker. 				
	c. Surveys shall be reviewed and submitted by the assigned CFSA supervisor to the Quality Assurance administration for evaluation.				

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DEFINITIONS

Assessment: the evaluation and identification of a family's current level of functioning, including the family's strengths and/or service needs, and/or any current risks of abuse and/or neglect of children in the home. A combination of several tools may be needed to complete a successful assessment, including but not limited to the Structured Decision Making® (SDM) tool in FACES.Net. For more information on structured decision making, please refer to www.childwelfare.gov, the Child Welfare Information Gateway.

Efforts to Outcomes (ETO[™]): the Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives case management equivalent to CFSA's FACES.net. ETO is a software system designed by *Social Solutions* that collects quantitative and qualitative information in a uniform manner; gives social workers a holistic view of participants and their needs; allows easy referrals to appropriate programs; measures participants progress as well as results at the staff, program, and site level; tracks volunteer recruitment, performance, and retention; and meets reporting and compliance needs in an automated fashion.

Engagement: the process of building a collaborative working relationship between the family and the in-home social worker in order to meet the identified and individualized service plan goals of the family. Engagement is based on honesty, empathy, mutual respect, unconditional positive regard, respect for diversity, a collaborative service planning process, and an ability to understand and work through a family's resistance to receive services.

Fictive Kin: individuals who are unrelated either by birth or marriage but who have an emotionally significant relationship with the child or children in such manner as to take on the characteristics of a family relationship.

Home Visitation: face-to-face contact with an individual or family within that individual's or family's own residence. In addition to providing the family with an opportunity to learn about available services and assistance for stability and well-being, the home visitation process provides an opportunity for both CFSA and Collaborative staff to assess the family.

Mandated Reporter: an individual whose professional status (e.g., employment as a social worker, physician, teacher, or counselor) legally requires him or her to report all suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate state agency. **ALL CFSA, Collaborative, and private agency staff members are mandated reporters.** For more information and/or to complete the online mandated reporter training, please refer to the DC Mandated Reporter website: www.dc.mandatedreporter.org.

Principles of Teaming: 1) A team reflects and demonstrates a shared and/or collective vision, 2) a team promotes empowerment of all members, 3) a team demonstrates shared decision making, 4) a team demonstrates synergy – the whole is more than the sum of the parts, 5) a team highly regards diversity as a necessary part of creativity and collaboration, 6) a team fosters the full inclusion and participation of people impacted by its actions, 7) a team facilitates the self-determination and personal growth of itself and its individual members, 8) a team is responsive to its authentic (ecological) context, 9) a team reflects and demonstrates a dynamic and fluid quality - from Stodden, R. A., Brown, S. E., Galloway, L. M., Mrazek, S., & Noy, L. (2004). *Essential tools: Interagency transition team development and facilitation.* Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota, Institute on Community Integration, National Center on Secondary Education and Transition.

Safe-Case Closure: a case is considered "safe" for closure once a family has demonstrated the appropriate competencies (as defined by the case plan) and can solve problems related to daily living and parenting using their own skills or external supports.

Shared Decision-Making: all parties are included in the making of choices that are consistent with the mission of safety, permanence and well-being for each child and their family or caregiver(s).

Supervision: a structured (i.e., scheduled) one-to-one (or group) interactive process between the social worker(s) and an assigned supervisor that is meaningful, rational, effective, and focused on giving staff the coaching, training, support and feedback they need to serve children and families with exemplary and professional skill sets. Supervision may sometimes occur on a "walk-in" basis in the event of emergency circumstances.

Teaming: CFSA and Collaborative staff working together to build a professional helping relationship with families to prevent the placement of children into foster care.

Training: a learning process whereby an expert or experienced person provides relevant information to staff to teach new skills, philosophies, and/or protocols. Training is used to develop the abilities and to further the professional and personal growth of employees.

Transfer of Learning (TOL): in the context of the child welfare professional's learning process, TOL refers to the application of skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes that were learned during pre- and inservice classroom instruction to the on-the-job learning experience of actual child welfare practice.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Child and Family Services Agency



Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives

Si usted no entiende el idioma Inglés, favor de pedir esta forma en Español.

Instructions

- The "Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Healthy Families Thriving Community Collaborative" (Authorization) is used by Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) staff to authorize the referral of a client to a Healthy Families Thriving Community Collaborative (Collaborative) for services. It also permits CFSA to provide non-health related information about the client to the Collaborative.
- The Authorization may be signed by an individual who is referred for individual services (for example, a former foster child who aged out of foster care) or by a parent or guardian on behalf of herself/himself and the minor children. If there are questions about who can sign, contact the Office of General Counsel.
- If medical or medical or dental information also needs to be sent to the Collaborative, use the "Authorization to Disclose Medical or Dental Information" to permit that disclosure. Similarly, if mental health or substance abuse information also needs to be sent to the Collaborative, use the "Authorization to Disclose Mental Health and Substance Abuse Information".
- If the client is Spanish-speaking and does not read English, give her or him the Spanish version of this Authorization.
- If a client is physically unable to complete the Authorization, CFSA staff may complete the Authorization under the direction of the client, as long as the client signs or marks the Authorization.
- The Authorization must be witnessed by the CFSA social worker.
- When the case is sent to the Collaborative, the signed and witnessed Authorization should be sent along with the completed "Case Referral Form to the Collaborative".

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Child and Family Services Agency



Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives

Si usted no entiende el idioma Inglés, favor de pedir esta forma en Español

See Attached Instructions

I. I	Refe	ral to	o Col	laboi	rative
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1. I,	, hereby authorize the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) to refer
Name of Individual, Parent or Guardian	
the individuals named below to the	Collaborative (Collaborative).
Name	e of Collaborative
2. The purpose of the referral is:	
	·

II. Individual(s) being Referred *If additional individuals are being referred, please identify them on the attached Continuation Sheet. This includes identifying the spouse/significant other and all children in the family who are being referred.*

1. Name:						
Last			First		Middle	•
D.O.B			Social Security No.			
Race:			Gender: Male	Female (Circle One)	
Current Address: _						
	No. & Street	City		State		Dates of Residency
Telephone Numbe	er:					

III. Information to be Released Use additional pages if necessary.

1. To enable the Collaborative to serve me/us, I further authorize CFSA to disclose information to the Collaborative
as follows
Attachment B: Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives

Attachment B: Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives Page 2 of 4

IV. Signature

- I understand that this Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Healthy Families Thriving Community Collaborative (Authorization) permits the release of both oral information and documents.
- I understand that the information used or disclosed on the basis of this Authorization may not be disclosed again by the recipient except by my express authorization or otherwise in accordance with applicable law.
- I understand that I may revoke this Authorization at any time by giving my written revocation to:

DC Child and Family Services Agency attn: ______, Social Worker 200 I Street SE Washington, DC 20003

- I understand that revocation of this Authorization will *not* affect any action CFSA took in reliance of this Authorization before it received written notice of my revocation.
- I understand that this Authorization will expire six (6) months from the date on which I sign it, and that I may sign a new Authorization for an additional six (6) month period.
- I have received a copy of this Authorization.

Individual's Signature	Date
Name printed	_
Address:	
Telephone Number:	
	Part II: Parent Legal guardian Self (if over 18 years egal guardian or self (and over 18 years of age), discuss with
Witness:	

Social Worker's Signature

Social Worker's Name Printed

200 I Street, SE
 Washington, DC 20003 www.cfsa.dc.gov

Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Health Families Thriving Community Collaborative CONTINUATION SHEET: Individual(s) being Referred

II. Individual(s) being Referred *If additional individuals are being referred, please identify them on this continuation sheet. Use as many copies of the sheet as needed.*

2. Name:	First	Middle	
D.O.B	Social Security No.		_
Race:	Gender: Male	Female (Circle One)	
Current Address:			
No. & Street City		State	Dates of Residency
Telephone Number:			
3. Name:			
Last	First	Middle	
D.O.B	Social Security No.		_
Race:	Gender: Male	Female (Circle One)	
Current Address:			
No. & Street City		State	Dates of Residency
Telephone Number:			
4. Name:			
Last First		Middle	
D.O.B	Social Security No.		_
Race:	Gender: Male	Female (Circle One)	
Current Address:			
No. & Street City		State	Dates of Residency
Telephone Number:			
5. Name: Last First		Middle	
D.O.B	Social Security No.		_
Race:	Gender: Male	Female (Circle One)	
Current Address:			

Attachment B: Authorization to Refer and Disclose Information to Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives Page 4 of 4 Program – In-Home Services Policy