

About Center For Family Connections

At a fundamental level, Center For Family Connections' (CFFC) mission is to help children feel safe, seen, and valued, and to help them adjust to the challenges of being, or having been, moved from one family to another. Many of the children CFFC serves have spent years in countless foster homes, orphanages, residential centers, or hospitals. CFFC constructs families, reconstructs families, refurbishes and restores families. The experienced clinicians understand the interactions and needs of complex families and provide the skills, tools and talent required to build stronger and healthier family units.

CFFC believes that the need to honor connections is an essential part of family life.

CFFC is an educational and clinical resource center that addresses the developmental, structural, and systemic issues related to adoption, foster care, kinship care, divorce and other complex blended families. CFFC serves individuals and families affected by adoption and foster care, as well as the people with whom they are connected, by offering training, education, advocacy, and clinical treatment.

CFFC serves a broad and diverse constituency nationally and internationally as well as in Greater Boston. From its founding, the staff has grown from 2 to 15, enabling CFFC clinicians to help more individuals and families. In the past year, CFFC served about 1,500 people on-site, and about 5,000 parents and professionals in national and international trainings and seminars. About 30% of CFFC's clients were low income; 30% were African American, 10% Latino, 15% Asian, and 45% Caucasian. CFFC's pro bono services to low-income clients are valued at approximately \$100,000 annually. Many of CFFC's clients reside in areas in DSS's Greater Boston and Metro regions.

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Center For Family Connections
presents

a Family Network Service

for

The Department of Social Services

Transition & Reunification



Transition & Reunification

The Transition and Reunification Program is intended to support positive youth development and wellbeing and reduce the need for further placement. These transition and reunification services will be of value to adoption workers and other providers as well as birth, foster, and adoptive parents and kin.

The Program is aimed at increasing permanency and family connections while reducing the incidence of disrupted placements for children. An additional goal of this Program is to improve life outcomes such as wellbeing and safety for young adults who, at 18, are transitioning out of the foster care system without ever having been permanently placed with a family. The participation of providers, kin, prospective adopters, as well as fostering parents and/or recently adoptive parents in this transition and reunification model intervention will increase the number of successful permanent placements.

This Program is for children/youth transitioning from any type of living environment (foster care, kin, residential, adoptive, etc.) to another as well as for children/youth transitioning to a new status within the same home (i.e. a child who is adopted by his/her foster parents).

Transition & Reunification: Program

The Transition and Reunion program consists of five major elements. This program offers flexibility of integrating family therapy, individual therapy, group therapy, collaboration with providers, development of a network of community support, and family group conferencing into a model of treatment that is specifically tailored to the individual child/youth and his/her family.

1. Initial Provider and Family Meetings

These meetings include caregivers/providers from the present living environment as well as providers and family to whom the child is transitioning or with whom he/she is reuniting.

2. Initial Child/Youth Meeting

The child/young adult who is transitioning and will take part in a Family Group Contribution (FGC) initially meets individually with a clinician to prepare for the FGC.

3. Family Group Contribution

4. Follow Ups

5. Wrap Around Care

Additional support services will be available to the child and family such as individual and/or family therapy, training, coaching and group therapy programs for the parents and support groups for the children.

Transition & Reunification: Outcomes

- Supports providers, family members and the child develop a reunification plan.
- Offers a transitional/permanent system of support in the child's/youth's community.
- Facilitates the transfer of provider knowledge, skills and interventions that are supportive to the child in placement to the providers with whom the child is being reunified or newly placed.
- Fosters understanding and support for the child's newly developed coping skills so they can be further reinforced at home.
- Develops a network to serve as the extended (or "chosen") family to youth aging out.
- Provides support for the in home reinforcement of activities of daily living learned in placement.
- Strengthen youth's confidence in their own abilities and living skills, realizing that no human being is ever truly "independent"
- Empowers youth and family through the involvement in their own permanency planning.
- Strengthens caregivers' confidence in their ability to connect, understand and provide for the child in a manner that is encouraging of the child's strengths and supportive of the child's ability to overcome challenges.
- Provides adults with the tools to help children and youth maintain healthy relationships.
- Improves opportunities for permanency for children by increasing family involvement.
- Reduces use of out of home placements through stronger, long-lasting community supports.
- Helps youth and families develop attachments that continue into adulthood.
- Promotes placement stability by supporting important relationships before and after placement. Involves foster parents, kin, teachers, coaches and others and expands their capacity to deal with challenging teens.
- Involves family members and community collaterals in case decision making.