

## 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

# Concurrent Planning



## Concurrent Planning at Center For Family Connections

Concurrent Planning is mandated for all states, but it can be very difficult to execute.

CFFC's Concurrent Planning package involves working with a case from the outset with consultation, birth family support, parent/caregiver support, and sessions with extended family, while working to find an alternative plan for permanency if the return to family is not a clear goal within 18 months.

An Entrustment Ceremony is part of the termination and conveys the wishes for permanence by all adults in the life of the child or children.

## Concurrent Planning: Program

- Consultation
- Parent/Caregiver Support Program
- Birthfamily Support Program
- Entrustment Ceremony

## Concurrent Planning: Expected Outcomes

Expected outcomes of CFFC's Concurrent Planning Program include:

- Children experience fewer placements.
- Children have an understanding that all their parents and parent figures are working together for the child's own wellbeing.
- Children spend less time in temporary placements and see their parents and kin working together to find the best and safest place for them.
- More children are able to be reunited with their birth families or placed in kinship placements when appropriate, and connections that are made in the process lead to ongoing contact when it is healthy, safe, and in the best interest of the child to keep those connections.
- Alternative permanent placements are achieved more quickly once it has been decided that reunification is not the permanency plan for a child, and prospective parents are immediately introduced and led to develop a real relationship with the appropriate birth family members who will remain contacts for the child throughout his/her life.
- At the Entrustment Ceremony, the birth family members clearly state that they are now becoming extended family forever, and that the adoptive family will be the primary parents for life.