

NWF Health Network Policy & Procedure

Series: 400 Child Welfare Services

Policy Name: Fatherhood Initiative

Policy Number: 429

Origination Date: Board Meeting of 04/25/2024

Referenced: Initial Intake Screening
Peer Contact Form
Recovery Capital Plan of Support

Policy Purpose

NWF Health Network's (NWFHN) Fatherhood Initiative is designed to enhance the engagement of fathers with children involved in the dependency process. This is to be accomplished through engaging and encouraging the father, advocating for the father, developing a Recovery Capitol Plan of Support with the father, introducing the father to appropriate Interactive Journaling, and acting as a liaison with the Dependency Case Manager as needed.

Procedure

A. Service Eligibility

The eligible population to be served by Fatherhood Peer Specialist are fathers involved with Dependency Case Management whose legal jurisdiction is in C1, C2, C14, and Madison and Taylor Counties.

B. Caseload Expectation

Fatherhood Peer Specialists (FPS) shall not have more than 15 open cases.

C. Case Acceptance

1. Dependency cases must be referred within (3) months of opening to case management services and must have a goal of reunification.
2. Cases accepted for inclusion for Fatherhood Peer services will be prioritized as follows:
 - a. 1st Priority: The father is incarcerated in a county jail in C1, C2, C14, Madison County, or Taylor County, and is expected to be included in the Dependency Case Plan.
 - b. 2nd Priority: The father has been incarcerated within the last 6 months, and resides in C1, C2, C14, Madison County, or Taylor County, and is expected to be included in the Dependency Case Plan.
 - c. 3rd Priority: The father has a history of incarceration (including as a juvenile in a detention center), and resides in C1, C2, C14, Madison County, or Taylor County, and is expected to be included in the Dependency Case Plan.

D. Fatherhood Peer Specialist Responsibilities

1. Once a referral has been received, the FPS will contact the referring dependency case manager within two (2) business days and:

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- a. Confirm the case is within the 3 months of the dependency case opening,
 - b. Obtain information of the father's location and any contact information available, and
 - c. Discuss the status of the case and expectations of the father.
2. Within two (2) business days of contact with the case manager the FPS will make diligent efforts to contact the father and will continue each working day until contact is made or it is determined the referral must be rejected due to inability to contact.
3. During initial contact the FPS will:
 - a. Explain the program and the role of the FPS,
 - b. Assess the father's willingness to participate,
 - c. Assess the needs of the father, and
 - d. Develop a Recovery Capital Plan of Support.

Completing all these activities may require more than one visit and ongoing encouragement by the FPS.
4. The FPS will document all contact or related work with the father within two (2) business days and email this information to the Dependency Case Manager.
 - a. Contacts will be documented via the FPS's Smartsheet access by:
 - i. Completing the Initial Intake Screening at first contact, and
 - ii. Completing the Peer Contact Form for all subsequent contacts.
5. The FPS will meet with the father at least once per week while the father is incarcerated and on an agreed-upon interval once released from incarceration.
6. The FPS will communicate with the Dependency Case Manager at a minimum of once per week.