

Pre-Finalization Services Tier I Assessor Training



Ohio Child Welfare Training Program

1

Agenda




- Introductions
- Why are Services Critical?
- Attachment
- Normal Stages of Adjustment
- Barriers to Adjustment
- The Caseworker's Role
- Disruption
- Conclusion

2

GOALS OF PRE-FINALIZATION SERVICES


- EDUCATION ABOUT STRESSES/CHANGES
- HELP FAMILY PREPARE/ADJUST/MANAGE CHANGES
- ATTACHMENT COACHING
- DEVELOPMENT OF ENTITLEMENT
- CRISIS PREVENTION
- REFERRAL INFORMATION
- CRISIS INTERVENTION
- PREP FOR SHORT/LONG TERM CHALLENGES



3


ATTACHMENT IS.....

“An affectionate bond between two individuals that endures through time and space and serves to join them emotionally.”
Kennel, et. Al., 1976



4


WHAT



ABOUT
CULTURE?

5

Claiming is...




...the process of assimilating the child into the family and assisting the child in feeling a sense of “belonging” to the family.

6



Adoption begins a process of change for the adopted child and the entire adoptive family.”

7



When a child is added to the family “mobile”, a period of imbalance occurs.


8

PHASES OF ADJUSTMENT
Becoming a family...

Dating/ Getting acquainted

Honeymoon/ Anticipation


Ambivalence/ Resistance



Reciprocal Interaction/ Accommodation

Bond Solidification/ Re-stabilization

9

 **Barriers to Adjustment**
The Child's Perspective


1) Unfinished Business-Dealing with Separation & Loss



10

Ambiguous Loss

Refers to a feeling of grief or distress combined with confusion about the lost person or relationship



- When person is physically present, but emotionally absent
- When a person is physically absent, but emotionally present

11

 **Barriers to Adjustment**
The Child's Perspective

1) Unfinished Business-Dealing with Separation & Loss

2) Lack of Preparation

3) Attachment Problems

4) Cultural Issues



12

Barriers to Adjustment
The Parents' Perspective




1) Unmet Needs and Expectations



13


Ten Common Parental Expectations



1. Our love will be enough.
2. We (I) will feel love and connection to this child quickly.
3. This child will step into our family system and easily learn how to function within our "rules," goals, and ambitions.
4. This child's needs will be just like those of our biological children

14

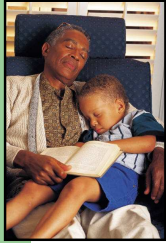
Ten Common Parental Expectations



5. Our biological children will embrace this new child as a sibling.
6. Our child will fit well into our extended family and be welcomed by them.
7. My friends and acquaintances will validate my role as parent in our child's life and support us through the adoption process and beyond.

15

Ten Common Parental Expectations



16

8. Our child will see us as his family and forget about his birth family and his past.
9. We/I can do for this child what was not done for me, or I will not do to this child what was done to me.
10. I will never feel any regrets or ambivalence in adopting this child with a traumatic past.

Barriers to Adjustment *The Parents' Perspective*



- 1) Unmet Needs and Expectations
- 2) Marital Problems
- 3) Incomplete Resolution of Loss within the Parents' Own Lives
- 4) Cultural Issues
- 5) Lack of Parental Preparation
- 6) Sibling Conflicts

17

Pre-Finalization Service Provision



- Community Resources
- Home Visits
- Crisis Prevention Services

18

Using Community Resources.....

- Model skills necessary to access services
- Normalize the use of services
- Empower the parents
- Access services with culture and community



19

Pre-Finalization Service Provision



- Community Resources
- Home Visits
- Crisis Prevention Services


20

Objectives of Home Visits



- Develop/strengthen collaborative relationship
- Review child and family's adjustment
- Help parents' respond to child
- Identify/assess problems and concerns
- Help parents learn to talk with child about past
- Provide positive feedback
- Provide timely info on process, services/supports
- Observe family's interactions/progress in the attachment process
- Re-assess parents' expectations for selves and child


21



Visitation Rule: 5101:2-48-17

- Face-to-face visit within **first seven days** of placement
- One face-to-face visit with child and adoptive parent(s) **within first 30 days**, not including visit within the first seven days
- After the first 30 days, a **minimum of one face-to-face visit with the child and family every 30 days**

22



If there are other household members in the home, the frequency of visits will be:

- One face-to-face visit **every 60 days**
- At a minimum, **two face-to-face visits prior to finalization** with any household member whose permanent residence is the adoptive home

23



Home Visits

At Placement: Placement to 60 days
Early: 60 days to 120 days
Mid: 120 days to before Finalization
At Finalization: Last visit(s) to Closure

24

Pre-Finalization Service Provision



- Community Resources
- Home Visits
- Crisis Prevention Services

25

Crisis Prevention Services



- Do "eyeball" social work
- Confront the issue or concern
- Avoid over-reacting or under-reacting

26

DISRUPTION: Before Finalization

Infants- 1.9%

Special Needs- 10-15%

DISPLACEMENT: Interruption/
Termination

DISSOLUTION: After Finalization

Total- 1-2% of all adoptions

27

Common Reasons for Disruption



- Unrealistic Expectations
- Mismatch
- Inadequate Preparation
- Lack of Post Placement Services
- Lack of Family Supports and Resources
- Lack of Empathy/Incomplete Attachments
- Family System Strain and Overload
- Insurmountable Obstacles
- Unpredictable Circumstances/Events

28

Emotional Stages of Placement Breakdown

Placement breakdown is a journey through a series of emotions. These emotions are connected to concrete events, but it is the emotions, not the event that demarcate the stages of adoption/foster care disruption.

WHAT ARE THOSE EMOTIONAL STAGES?

29

EMOTIONAL STAGES OF PLACEMENT BREAKDOWN

Denial

Parents ignore early predictions, or unconsciously overlook the severity and duration of the difficulties the child is experiencing in school, neighborhood and family.

30

EMOTIONAL STAGES OF PLACEMENT BREAKDOWN

Frustration and Anger

These are emotions that well up:

- When one's efforts are thwarted,
- When one's presence is resented,
- When one's opinions and values are ridiculed
- When one's energies are exasperated!

31

EMOTIONAL STAGES OF PLACEMENT BREAKDOWN

Wasted potential

Effect on permanent children

Negative changes within themselves, spouse and family

ANGER

Feelings of helplessness and rejection

Feelings of inadequacies and failure

32


EMOTIONAL STAGES OF PLACEMENT BREAKDOWN

GUILT

About what would parents feel guilty?

33


Stages of Disruption



- STAGE 0: Honeymoon
- STAGE 1: Diminishing Pleasures
- STAGE 2: Child Seen as the Problem
- STAGE 3: Going Public
- STAGE 4: The Turning Point
- STAGE 5: The Deadline or Ultimatum
- STAGE 6: The Crisis
- STAGE 7: The Decision to Disrupt
- STAGE 8: The Aftermath


34

Parental Considerations in Adoption Disruption



35

CRISIS INTERVENTION



WHAT'S THE PROBLEM??

- Normal developmental behavior
- Long term impact of CA/N/SV/Sep
- Cultural differences
- Adoption issues

**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION,
NOT THE PROBLEM!**

36

DEVELOP A SHORT TERM PLAN FOR RELIEF

CONDUCT AN INDEPTH ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW INFORMATION WITH OTHERS

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT AN INTERVENTION PLAN




37

You gotta know....


**When to hold 'em,
Know when to fold 'em**

**Know when to walk
away, and
Know when to run!**



38

Your Intervention Plan...



Read Handout #15, *Case Scenario*. In your small groups:

- Identify which stage of adjustment the family is experiencing.
- Use Handout #16, *Case Scenario Work Sheet* to record your responses to the questions raised in the scenario.

39

