

6.3 – Triangle Family Services – Reunification Services

Chapter-Permanency



	Countywide		Department: Human Services	X	Division: Child Welfare
Supersedes: Prior Versions				Effective Date: 11/15/2019	
Authority: List relevant statute and/or policy					
Originating Department/Division/Section: Human Services/Child Welfare/Section (Child Protective Services, Continuous Quality Improvement, Permanency, Administration, etc.)					

I. Purpose: To provide Reunification Services to caregivers of children ages birth to 17 that are in Wake County Human Services custody. This applies to new cases as well as reunification cases that have been open less than 15-months. All services must be rendered within the initial 15 months of reunification. The Reunification Services will include parental assessment and coordination of services, specifically;

- Completion of a Parental Psychosocial Assessment and ACE's Questionnaire with recommendations
- Facilitation of access to recommended services that are provided by Triangle Family Services by the Reunification Specialist

The suite of services that may be recommended and provided by Triangle Family Services include;

- Mental Health Services/Interventions
- The Nurturing Parent evidenced-based curriculum
- Preventing, Responding, Education and Parenting (PREP)
- Developing Opportunities for a Safe Environment (D.O.S.E)
- Anger Management
- Homeless Engagement Services
- Financial Counseling
- Co-Parenting Group
- Transportation Assistance

The services will assist to;

- Identify Social Determinants of Health that impede reunification and develop recommendations to alleviate such barriers
- Identify the impact of ACE's on caregiver's health and wellbeing and develop recommendations to address identified challenges
- Strengthen/support the reunification process
- Increase early service engagement
- Increase rates of reunification
- Condense service delivery
- Improve removal caretaker's parental capacity
- Decrease length of stay in foster care
- The contract also mirrors the NC Healthy Opportunities Pilot which seeks to evaluate a systematic approach to integrating and financing evidenced based non-medical services into the delivery of healthcare.

II. Description of Standard:

Child Welfare is responsible for addressing allegations of Abuse, Neglect and Dependency. When children can no longer remain safely in their homes a petition for custody may be filed. This action may also have a negative impact on caregivers who are also Medicaid recipients.

Permanency Planning Social Workers are to assist caregivers in alleviating and correcting the unsafe conditions that led to the child(ren) being removed from the home.

- Location: S:\Protocols-WCHS Official Approved\Child Welfare

III. Definitions:

- A. WCHS – Wake County Human Services
- B. PPSW – Permanency Planning Social Worker
- C. TFS – Triangle Family Services
- D. LOS – Length of Stay
- E. PPAT – Permanency Planning Action Team

IV. Applicability/Exceptions:

This protocol is applicable to Permanency Planning Social Workers with Wake County Human Services, Child Welfare Division. Permanency Planning Social Workers are not able to recommend a child/youth be reunified with the removal caretaker until they have successfully completed all court ordered recommendations and addressed all safety concerns. This includes;

- Removal caretaker's compliance with their Out of Home Service Agreement
- Engagement in and/or completion of services
- Demonstration of improved parenting skills during visitation with the child(ren)
- Alleviating all unsafe conditions that led to the removal of the child/youth from the home
- Sustaining improved parental capacity

V. Fiscal/Resource Impact

Wake County agrees to pay the Provider for approved services provided, up to and not to exceed the maximum contract amount of Eighty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$80,000.00) during the term of this agreement, with no minimum payment guarantee. This amount consists of Federal funds (CFDA# 93.556) and may include other state and local funds.

- Identify the costs (FTE, existing staff resources, hardgoods, indirect), revenues, matches or any changes in the distribution of funds even if such change has a total zero effect for any entity that falls within the category. If this protocol requires the county to devote resources without receiving additional funding, please explain why the protocol is required and what consultation has occurred with those who will need to devote resources. If this protocol creates greater efficiency, indicate cost savings.

VI. Data Description

- LOS Data Review
- PPAT
- Outcomes for Permanency

VII. Protocol Responsibility and Management:

- A. This protocol is reviewed annually by the Division of Child Welfare, Continuous Quality Improvement Section.

VIII. Subject Matter Consultants:

- A. Triangle Family Services
- B. Wake County Attorney
- C. Child Welfare Management Team

IX. References:

- A. eWakeTalent
[Provide Link When Possible](#)
- B. HR Policy
- C. State Policy
- D. State Statute
- E. Healthy Opportunities Pilot - NC
- F. Federal Legislation

X. Related Documents:

- A. [Provide Link When Possible](#)

XI. Appendix/Form:

- A. [Provide Link When Possible](#)

XII. History

Effective Date	Version	Section(s) Revised	Author/Reviewer
11/01/2019	First		Toni Bush

1. Wake County Human Services files petition and is granted legal custody of child/youth.



2. PP SW emails completed referral to Triangle Family Services - Reunification Specialist within 48 hours of case Assignment.



3. Reunification Specialist will contact removal caretaker to coordinate appointment for Psychosocial Assessment / ACE's Questionnaire



4. Triangle Family Services will complete Psychosocial Assessment, ACE's Questionnaire and make recommendations for services.



5. Reunification Specialist will email a copy of the completed Psychosocial Assessment to assigned PP SW



6. Reunification Specialist will facilitate access to onsite recommended services

7. PP SW will maintain contact with Reunification Specialist to monitor service compliance and invite to CFT's, PPAT's and court as needed