

HOME TO STAY SERVICES



“As Heartland for Children moves towards a focus on family engagement within our system of care, the following model was designed for the Peace River Center Home To Stay program. The model deliberately provides for a range of standards, whenever possible, in order to allow flexibility to meet the individual needs of each family. The program components are listed and are based on research or on strong models of Intensive Family Reunification Programs (IFPS). Many of the proposed model components have been used successfully in IFPS programs and are geared towards improving the quality of services delivered to our families.”

Target Population

Families in which the child(ren) have been in out-of-home placement generally for 3+ months; at least one parent is willing to reunify; and the case plan is to reunify the child with the parent.

Time Frame to Meet with Family

The Home to Stay Program will facilitate an initial Family Team Conference (FTC) with the family, Case Management Organization (CMO), GAP Program, and any natural supports and/or other service providers in the family's home approximately 60 days prior to the reunification of children.

Worker Availability

A Home to Stay worker will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from the initial FTC until the final case closure from the program. The after hours number is 863.670.9857.

Parent-Child Visitation and Time Frame to Return Child Home

The CMO will plan to return the child(ren) home within approximately 60 days of the initial FTC, with court approval. Regular visits will have already taken place and intensity will be increasing prior to the child's return home.



Family Assessments

An overall assessment of the family must be completed to measure the level of family functioning. It is critical for the worker to link all assessments to case planning, goal setting, determination of needed services, monitoring the family's progress, and evaluation. This will be a key component during the initial FTC and will formulate the resulting Action Plan. The assessment which will be used is the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (NCFAS).

Direct Service Hours

The total direct service hours for face-to-face and telephone contact with the family will range from 36 to 144 hours or more during the program and will be based solely on the individual needs of each family.

Length of Intervention

The range of service length is generally eight to 10 months (60 days pre-reunification and 6+ months post reunification) but will be dependent upon the needs of each individual family.

Concrete Services

Funds are available to provide the family with basic needs (rent, utilities, food, car repair, etc.). The average amount is \$300 to \$500 per family.

Booster Services

All families will continue to receive booster services for a period of time following judicial case closure. The length and intensity of these services will be determined at a five month post reunification FTC facilitated by the Home to Stay Program.



Staff Qualifications

The Home to Stay worker will have a master's degree in social work or related field or a bachelor's degree in social work or related field with 2 years experience in family-centered practice. All staff members will be trained to facilitate FTCs. All staff will receive initial and ongoing training in Family Centered Practice.

Caseload

Each worker will not have a predetermined caseload limit.

Referrals

No referrals will be turned away or refused due to full caseloads.

Referrals are accepted via fax 863.733.4491 directly to Program manager at least 60 days prior to reunification.

Contact

Andrew Fleming, BSW
Home to Stay Manager
AFleming@PeaceRiverCenter.org
Office: 863.519.0575 ext. 7010
Cell: 863.512.0549

Tiffani Fritzsche, LMHC, CBHCMS
Children's Services Manager
Office: 863.519.0575 ext. 6235

After Hours On-Call Number:
863.670.9857

Peace River Center
Home to Stay
P.O. Box 1559
Bartow, FL 33831



For after hours crisis, call:
Crisis Line: 863.519.3744
Toll Free: 800.627.5906

For Access to Care call:
863.248.3311



It is the policy of Peace River Center to provide equal opportunity in employment and the provision of services to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, religion, veteran status, disability, genetic information or genetic identity or other protected classifications.

Rv. 05/20

