Chapter 388-32 WAC

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES TO PREVENT OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT AND ACHIEVE FAMILY RECONCILIATION

WAC

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HOME SUPPORT SERVICES BY CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION

WAC 388-32-0005 What are home support services? The department's children's administration (CA) offers home support services (HSS), within available funds, to provide supportive, culturally appropriate, skill-building services in partnership with CA's client families. Only CA staff may provide the services in the family home or other appropriate setting and must provide the services as part of a comprehensive case plan. The department does not contract for this service.

(1) CA typically offers HSS during the normal work week but may provide HSS on weekends and beyond normal working hours.

(2) Child and family resource specialists (CFRS) have primary responsibility to provide HSS, which may include the following services:

(a) Teach and demonstrate basic physical and emotional care of children, including child development and developmentally appropriate child discipline;

(b) Teach homemaking and other life skills, including housekeeping, nutrition and food preparation, personal hygiene, financial budgeting, time management and home organization, with consideration given to the family's cultural environment;

(c) Help families obtain basic needs by networking families with appropriate supportive community resources; e.g., housing, clothing and food banks, health care services, and educational and employment services;

(d) Provide emotional support to families and build self-esteem in family members; aid family members in developing appropriate interpersonal and social skills;

(e) Provide client transportation/supervision of visits on a nonroutine, short-term basis;

(f) Observe family functioning, assisting the social worker to identify family strengths as well as areas needing intervention or improvement, providing reports and assessments to the assigned social worker on the family's progress in skill-building, family functioning, and other areas defined in the case plan;

(g) Participate in child protection teams, multidisciplinary teams, interagency case staffings, and family intervention meetings;

(h) Provide court testimony when requested by the attorney representing DSHS or when subpoenaed.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.13.031. 01-08-047, § 388-32-0005, filed 3/30/01, effective 4/30/01.]

WAC 388-32-0010 What are the eligibility criteria for HSS? Children's administration uses the following criteria to determine eligibility for HSS, within available funding:

(1) The family must be a current recipient of CA services.

(2) The case plan for the family must document the need for teaching, skill-building, community networking, or visitation.

(3) HSS does not provide long-term maintenance for a family, is not a housekeeping service, and is not interchangeable with CHORE services, which are provided by the department's aging and adult services administration.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.13.031. 01-08-047, § 388-32-0010, filed 3/30/01, effective 4/30/01.]

HOME BASED SERVICES BY COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

WAC 388-32-0015 What are home based services and under what circumstances may the department provide the services to the child's parent or relative caregiver? (1) Home based services (HBS) are designed to prevent or improve conditions that may result in out-of-home placement. Children's administration (CA) provides these services in the context of a comprehensive case plan. CA purchases services from community providers within available funds for this purpose. Services may include:

(a) Basic goods and services; e.g., food, clothing, shelter, furniture, health care, utilities, transportation

(b) Paraprofessional services; e.g., parent aides;

(c) Parent training;

(e) In-home counseling or assistance to prevent out-of-home placement.

(2) For a family or individual to receive HBS, the following conditions must be met:

(a) The client has a case open for child protective services (CPS), child welfare services (CWS), or family reconciliation services (FRS);

(b) The department may provide services to the family of origin, relatives, or foster families when the intent of HBS is

to maintain or reunify a permanent or long-term stable home for the child;

(c) The family is willing and able to cooperate with HBS services; and

(d) In the assigned social worker's judgment, the child may be safely maintained in the home or be safely returned to the home within the next three months with provision of HBS.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.13.031. 01-08-047, § 388-32-0015, filed 3/30/01, effective 4/30/01.]

FAMILY RECONCILIATION SERVICES

WAC 388-32-0020 What is the purpose of the family reconciliation services program? (1) The purpose of family reconciliation services (FRS) is to achieve reconciliation between the parent and child, to reunify the family, and to maintain and strengthen the family unit to avoid the necessity of out-of-home placement of children.

(2) The department provides these services, within available funds, to:

(a) Alleviate personal or family situations that present a serious and imminent threat to the health or stability of the child or family and that do not meet the definition of child abuse or neglect; and

(b) Maintain families intact whenever possible.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 74.13.031. 01-08-047, § 388-32-0020, filed 3/30/01, effective 4/30/01.]

WAC 388-32-0025 Who may receive FRS services? (1) CA provides FRS to adolescents, thirteen through seventeen years of age, and their families, in instances where the adolescent has runaway and/or is in conflict with his/her family. These populations are defined as follows:

"Families in conflict" means families in which personal or family situations present a serious and imminent threat to the health or stability of the child, which may include an at-risk youth, or family.

"Runaways" means youths who are absent from home for a period of time without parental permission. Services are to actual runaways and not to threatened runaways, unless the threatened runaways meet the definition of families in conflict.

(2) FRS is not provided for any of the following situations, unless the family is seeking an at-risk youth or a child-in-need-of-services (CHINS) family assessment:

(a) The identified youth has not reached his/her thirteenth birthday, or the youth is eighteen years of age or older;

(b) Chronic or long-term multiproblem situations requiring long-term interventions;

(c) Custody and marital disputes unless the dispute creates a conflict between the child and parent with physical custody;

(d) Families currently receiving counseling services related to the parent-child conflict/relationship from other agencies;

(e) Child abuse and neglect cases, unless those cases meet the definition of family in conflict; or

(f) Youth receiving foster care or group care services or follow up to those services.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 13.32A RCW, RCW 74.08.090, 74.13.031, 2002 c 371. 03-19-051, § 388-32-0025, filed 9/11/03, effective 9/11/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.13.031. 01-08-047, § 388-32-0025, filed 3/30/01, effective 4/30/01.]

WAC 388-32-0030 What FRS services does the department provide? The assigned social worker provides services to develop skills and supports within families to resolve family conflicts, achieve a reconciliation between parent and child, and to avoid out-of-home placement. The services may include, but are not limited to, referral to services for suicide prevention, psychiatric or other medical care, or psychological, financial, legal, educational, or other social services, as appropriate to the needs of the child and family. Typically FRS is limited to a ninety-day period. Children's administration (CA) provides intake/assessment services (IAS).

(1) Youth and/or their families who call or self-present at children's administration central intake or a local office requesting FRS services must be provided assistance in contacting the appropriate children's administration's intake services to make a formal request for FRS services.

(a) The FRS social worker must contact the family within twenty-four hours of their assignment to the case, to schedule an appointment to begin the phase I family interview process. These FRS phase I sessions are intended to defuse the immediate potential for violence, assess problems, and explore options leading to problem resolution.

(b) CA or its contractors may provide FRS phase II crisis counseling services.

(2) Families eligible for FRS phase II crisis counseling are those who, in the opinion of the family and the CA social worker, require more intensive services than those provided through phase I services.

(a) Families must make a commitment to participate in the FRS phase II crisis counseling service and must not concurrently be receiving similar counseling services through other agencies or practitioners. At a minimum, there must be a parent and a child willing to participate. FRS phase II crisis counseling assists the family to develop skills and supports in order to resolve conflicts.

(b) FRS phase II crisis counseling services may not exceed twelve hours within forty-five days unless it is provided using a CA approved model that is based on research demonstrating effectiveness.

(c) The assigned counselor helps the family develop skills and supports to resolve conflicts. The counselor may refer to resources including medical, legal, ongoing counseling and CPS for problem resolution.

(d) FRS phase II crisis counseling services are available a maximum of twice in a lifetime for any one family. The family must include a parent/guardian who has legal custody of the youth.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 13.32A.040, 74.13.031, and 74.08.090. 06-11-080, § 388-32-0030, filed 5/16/06, effective 6/16/06. Statutory Authority: Chapter 13.32A RCW, RCW 74.08.090, 74.13.031, 2002 c 371. 03-19-051, § 388-32-0030, filed 9/11/03, effective 9/11/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.13.031. 01-08-047, § 388-32-0030, filed 3/30/01, effective 4/30/01.]