

ATTACHMENT A

FAMILY PRESERVATION GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding Principles are:

1. Safety of the child, family members and community/tribe is paramount and is assessed continuously. The welfare and safety of children and all family members must be maintained while strengthening and preserving the family. Safety/crisis planning is proactive, responsive and child/family centered.
2. Services focus on the family as a whole and are family-driven. Children/youth and their families are full partners in all phases of the intervention. Services are designed to promote family preservation or reunification.
3. Services are easily accessible and are provided in the least restrictive and most normative setting possible such as in the home, school or other community-based settings. Services are convenient to a parent/caregiver's schedule and are delivered in a manner that respects cultural and community differences.
4. Services are flexible and responsive to the unique, real needs of each child and family.
5. Services are designed to enhance trust and respect.
6. Interventions are strengths-based, focusing on competence instead of weaknesses.
7. Services are comprehensive, collaborative and community-based. Addressing the child/youth's and family's strengths, needs and adaptability while emphasizing the involvement/participation of natural supports within the community.
8. Services promote lasting individual and family self-sufficiency and are designed to assist the child and family to return to a level of functioning where natural supports are strengthened and/or reliance on formal system involvement is reduced.
9. Services are intensive enough to meet the family's needs, keep children/youth safe, and maintain children/youth in the least restrictive environment. The level of intensity needed to achieve these goals may vary greatly between preventative and crisis services.
10. Services are both culturally relevant and culturally specific, integrating the child/youth and family within their own natural community/tribe.