Family Connection Grant Project

Abstract/Summary

Grantee Name: OnTrack Inc.
Grantee City and State: Medford, Oregon
Grant Project Title: Family Connection: Achieving Permanency through Reunification
Family Connection Program Area: Residential Family Treatment

Summary of Grant Project

In partnership with Child Welfare, Jackson County Circuit Courts, CASA and the Family Nurturing Center, OnTrack, Inc. will offer comprehensive services to expedite reunification of families where children have had to be removed temporarily because of safety threats caused by or contributed to by parental substance abuse. Interventions will occur at the earliest possible moment to minimize separation trauma. Front end services will be offered to Child Welfare-involved families at Shelter hearings that occur within 24-hours of founded abuse, and service plans will be presented to judges during these first court appearances.

Visitation plans will be implemented immediately wherever possible. Visits may initially be scheduled at Family Connections, OnTrack’s parenting time center, but will move toward routine and daily visitation as quickly as possible. Foster parents willing to participate in mentoring biological parents through routine involvement with the child will be recruited. Whenever possible, visitation will begin in a routine fashion to preserve the parent-child bond essential to achieve permanency and to interrupt the intergenerational cycle of abuse.

Supervised housing, case management, therapeutic child services and whole family and dyadic family treatment will be utilized to bring about these outcomes. A family therapist and bonding specialist will work to improve family attachments. Efforts to locate and reconnect families as resources for children and their families will be undertaken. Case management will assist families in overcoming barriers to permanency and self sufficiency. Evaluation will compare a control group of families who were handled in the usual way to determine the efficacy of this new model of serving families in the foster care system.

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