

Child Welfare Policy
Session 10
Foster Care Services:
Family Foster Care and
Residential Care

Foster Care

Policy and Programming Issues in the Delivery of Family and Children's Services

**Foster Care Services
Family Foster Care
Residential Care**

Film: "Foster Parents Speak"

Required Reading:

Overview of Family Foster Care

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/foster-care/?top=122>

Residential Care

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2018/06/14/giving-group-homes-a-21st-century-makeover>

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Foster Care

Policies and Practices Related to Foster Care

- History and Purpose
- Definitions of Foster Care
- Different types of Foster Care

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Definition of Foster Care

Foster care is a temporary, court-ordered placement system where a child or youth is cared for by someone other than their biological parent, typically a foster parent or in a residential program, when their parents are unable to provide a safe and nurturing environment. The goal is usually reunification with the birth family, but in some cases, adoption or another permanency pathway may be the best option for the child's long-term well-being

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Elements of Foster Care

Temporary and Court-Ordered:

Foster care is not a permanent placement but a temporary solution to address the immediate needs of a child/youth whose parents cannot provide care.

Out-of-Home Care:

Children/Youth in foster care live away from their biological parents in a variety of settings, including foster family homes, group homes, or other residential facilities.

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Elements of Foster Care

Supervision and Support:

Child welfare agencies and the courts oversee the placement, monitor the child's well-being, and provide support services to both the child and the foster parents.

Focus on Permanency:

While reunification with the birth family is the primary goal, foster care can also lead to adoption, guardianship, or other forms of permanent placement when reunification is not possible or in the child's best interest.

Legal Definition:

The legal definition of "in foster care" under the Fostering Connections Act includes 24-hour substitute care provided by a child welfare agency, regardless of whether the care is in a licensed foster home or another type of facility

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History Foster Care

- ❖ English Poor Laws
- ❖ Pauper Children vs Orphan Children
- ❖ Charles Loring Brace – Orphan Trains
- ❖ Social Services Involvement
- ❖ Federal Gov't Involvement
- ❖ Residential Services
- ❖ Family Based Foster Care
- ❖ Kinship Care

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Types of Foster Care

1. Emergency Foster Care:

Provides immediate safe housing for a child or young person in a crisis.

May be needed when a child/youth is at immediate risk or when a placement needs to be found quickly.

Placements are typically short-term, but can sometimes be longer.

2. Short-Term Foster Care:

Provides temporary care for a child/youth separated from their birth family, often while efforts to reunite the family are underway.

Placements can range from days to a few years.

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Types of Foster Care

3. Long-Term Foster Care:

Offers a stable and permanent home for children who are unlikely to return to their birth families or who cannot be adopted.

Requires a long-term commitment from the foster family.

4. Residential Care:

Offers a range of higher level care in congregate settings.

AOBH – Agency Operated Boarding Homes 4-6 children

SILP – Supervised Independent Living Programs – 2 youth

Group Homes – Community settings of 8-12 youth

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Types of Foster Care

4. Residential Care:

Offers a range of higher level care in congregate settings.

RTC – Residential Treatment Centers

RTF – Residential Treatment Facilities – Office of Mental Health

Psychiatric Hospitalization – In patient Treatment

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Types of Foster Care

5. Respite Foster Care:

Provides temporary care for a child or young person, allowing foster parents a break.

Can be a scheduled break or an on-call service.

6. Kinship Foster Care:

- Involves family members (relatives or close friends) providing care for a child when their birth parents are unable to do so.
- Often preferred because it maintains a child's connection to their family and community.

Questions?

What was your knowledge of Foster Care Services before this class?

How has your knowledge changed?

What has your experience been with foster care services?

Film

"Foster Parents Speak"

*Real Talk about Partnership and Community
from Foster Parents who have chosen to care
for the nation's foster children/youth*

Next Class- Youth Issues

**Youth Permanency
Services for Youth
Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs
Juvenile Justice Services**

Film: "Aging Out"

Required Reading:

Youth Permanency Toolkit

http://www.nccwe.org/toolkits/youth-permanency/what_is_youth_permanency.html

Voices of LGBTQ Youth

<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/lgbtq-youth-voices-trauma-lives-promise>

Runaway and Homeless Youth

<https://www.rhyttac.net/about>

Juvenile Justice System

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_juvenile_justice_system

