

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND CONTRACTED STAFF

FROM: DAVID B. KURT, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Resources for Parents related to Adoption/Guardianship/TPR

DISCUSSION:

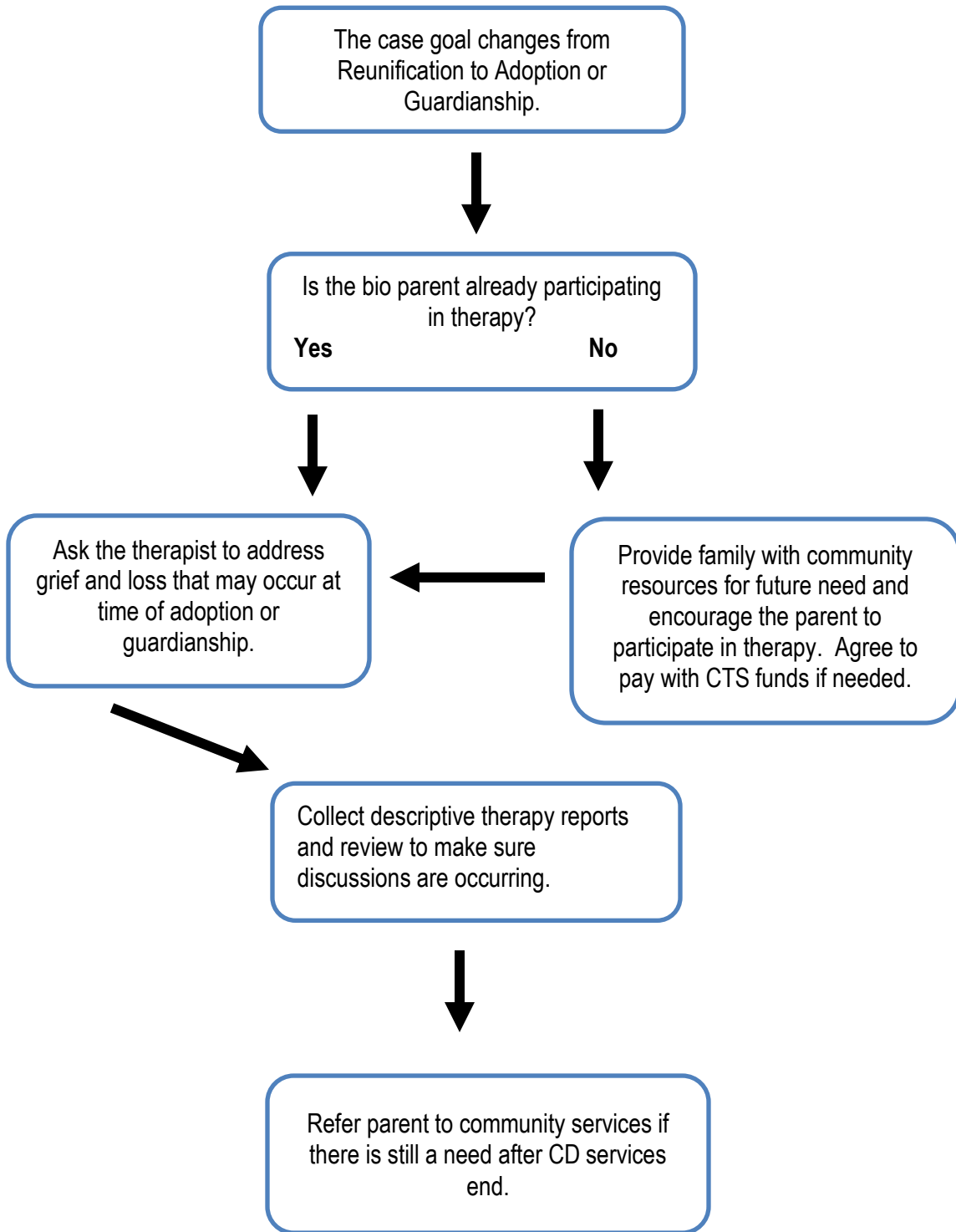
The purpose of this memorandum is to remind staff that grief affects individuals in many different ways and for many different reasons. The loss of a parental relationship due to adoption/guardianship is no exception. Children and their biological parents may experience a wide range of emotional reactions to the case goal changing from reunification to adoption/guardianship. This same emotional response may emerge following the completion of the goal or at the time of termination of parental rights. The CWM has been updated to reflect this engagement discussion with the biological parents for case planning.

In order to help parents cope with this, case managers must connect parents with resources to help them process through their emotional response. The parent's handbook, CS304, has been updated and the new version is available on E-Forms. It is not unusual for parents to already be participating in some type of therapy or counseling, so providing them with services that focus on grief and loss throughout the life of the case shall be considered. This is the best resource to help them cope through this life changing event. In cases where parents are not participating with counseling or therapy, this is a great time to reengage the parent in the case through trauma informed language and providing community resources for their potential loss. In the event that Children's Division is authorizing and paying for these services, the case manager should ask the provider to address the possible grief that the parent may experience and detail that communication in their report. As a reminder, all reasonable efforts shall be made with parents up until termination of parental rights occur.

Along with providing the biological parent(s) with resources for counseling throughout the life of the case, TPR, and adoption or guardianship, the worker shall inform them of their right to register with the Adoption Information Registry via CD-51b if they wish to indicate a desire to be contacted by the adult adoptee after the age of 18.

As always, the case manager should document in detail that these discussions have occurred; through FACES entry and court reports.

The following flow chart is to assist case managers with the process for supporting parents to address their grief through resources in the community:



This MEMO was developed in conjunction with Jackson County.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff. 2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below. 3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
PDS CONTACT Vickie Stoneberger 573-751-0311 Vickie.Stoneberger@dss.mo.gov	MANAGER CONTACT Amy Martin 573-526-8040 Amy.L.Marting@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS CWM Section 4, chapter 6, subsection 5	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS Parent Handbook, CS-304	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES (List or put N/A if not applicable.)	
RELATED STATUTE (List or put N/A if not applicable.)	