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PA #: 22CM-12

Placement Stability FST Meetings

This practice point is to remind staff regarding our responsibility to hold an FST when there is a concern for a placement disruption, or within 72 hours after the placement disrupts. When a provider approaches the caseworker with concerns regarding a child's placement – the worker should call for a FST meeting. The current placement provider **must** be invited to participate in the meeting along with the other team members. The purpose of the placement stability FST is to:

- Help stabilize the child in the current placement by considering the factors contributing to the request for change of placement and addressing those specific factors with the placement provider;
- Assess the child's placement needs, the needs of the placement provider, and identify additional supports or services to maintain the placement;
- Discuss the need for a different placement only if the current placement cannot be maintained, and evaluate service and treatment needs prior to selecting the next placement provider;
- Determine the most appropriate placement for the child and ensure that the receiving placement provider has all the information about the child and child's family (per Section 210.566 RSMo) as well as the services identified by the Placement Stability FST prior to the transition;
- Discuss the child's educational needs and work with local school districts to ensure the child remains in the current school district when possible. Educational stability should be a priority when assessing the child's placement needs and making placement decisions; and
- Reduce the amount of placements for the child and increase child stability.

Placement stability is part of our Program Improvement Plan, and all placement changes should be made in the best interest of the child, while meeting their needs. It is essential to invite the resource home's licensing worker to this meeting as well. The following resources, including Intensive In-Home Services, can be provided to placement providers upon the child's placement, and revisited at each home visit – before there is a concern.

Missouri Kinship Navigator Program – 1-833-KIN-4KID (1-833-546-4543) is operated by ParentLink warm-line staff who are trained to assist relative caregivers in identifying, locating, and accessing programs and services to meet the physical and emotional needs of the children they are raising, as well as any needs of the relative/kinship caregiver. For additional information on specific services, resources and locations, visit the ParentLink Kinship Navigator website <https://education.missouri.edu/navigators/>

In addition to Kinship Navigator – All providers and youth are eligible for support from **Regional Family Resource Centers**. This can include in-home therapeutic services, respite care, training, and much more. You can find out more information by clicking [HERE](#).