

# Beliefs and Guiding Principles

*Division for Children, Youth and Families  
Division for Juvenile Justice Services*



## New Hampshire Practice Model

*This practice model was developed with support from the Northeast and Caribbean Implementation Center (NCIC), a service of the Children's Bureau, a member of the T/TA Network.*



NH Department of Health and Human Services  
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/>

# Beliefs and Guiding Principles

## Prevention reduces child abuse and neglect.

- We promote prevention services that assist families with developing social networks and concrete supports in their communities.
- We educate families and the community to promote awareness of child abuse and neglect.
- We partner with the community to develop and enhance prevention initiatives and services.

## All children/youth should be safe.

- Parents are responsible for the safety of their children.
- We work in partnership with families and communities to keep children and youth safe.
- Ongoing safety and risk assessments are used to ensure the safety and well being of children and youth.
- We value and consider children, youth and families voices in decisions regarding their safety.
- We remove children from their home only when necessary.



## Everyone deserves to be treated with courtesy and respect.

- We clearly explain our purpose, role, responsibilities, concerns and decisions.
- We communicate with empathy and respect.
- We work collaboratively with children, youth, families and community resources while maintaining confidentiality.
- Children, youth and families are to be understood within the context of their own family rules, traditions, values and culture.
- We listen to children and youth and their voices are heard, valued and considered.

## All children/youth need and deserve permanency.

### DCYF

- Permanency planning begins immediately and is ongoing.
- Permanency begins with the goal of maintaining children with their families, followed by reunification, adoption, guardianship or another permanent planned living arrangement.
- It is our responsibility to identify, preserve and promote long-term connections for children and youth.
- We recognize that stability does not equal permanency.
- Concurrent planning is essential in achieving timely permanency.
- Children and youth will be matched with adoptive families that are willing to commit unconditionally.

### DJJS

- We will strengthen our partnerships with families, communities, schools, other state agencies and judicial and legislative authorities to prevent children from entering the juvenile justice system.
- It is our role to help identify and advocate for family and community connections for each youth.
- Permanency for youth begins at the first contact with the family.
- It is our role to support youth in their efforts to maintain and strengthen connections to family and community.
- Community safety is always assessed when developing a permanency plan.
- We assist youth in establishing enduring positive relationships that provide stability, belonging and a sense of self.
- Accessible services will be coordinated to allow the youth, families and their supportive connections to be fully involved in the treatment process.



## All children, youth and families deserve a life of well-being.

- We partner with families and the community to identify and provide services for the specific needs of individual children, youth and families.
- We collaborate with families and the educational system to ensure that all children and youth receive educational and transitional opportunities to meet their specific needs.
- We prepare youth for adulthood by partnering them with their connections and community supports.
- We support opportunities for children, youth and families to have “normal” life experiences.

## All families have strengths.

- We share responsibility with the family and community to help families identify their strengths and needs.
- We recognize that families and individuals have the capacity and ability to make positive changes in their lives.
- We acknowledge that family members know the most about their own families.
- Families are best served when they are actively engaged, their voices are heard, valued and considered with regard to all decisions.



## All children/youth belong with their family.

- We maintain children and youth in their own home when we can do so safely.
- We explore, promote and maintain family and community connections throughout our involvement with families.
- We explore relatives and natural connections for placement and ongoing support, when children cannot be maintained in their own home.