

Engagement Block Field Activity: Exploring Family, Extended Family, Community, Tribal Connections, and Relationships

Learning Objectives

Field Activity: Exploring Family, Extended Family, Community, Tribal Connections, and Relationships (2 hours)

Knowledge

- K1.** The trainee will identify where information about family members and relationships is recorded in CWS/CMS.
- K2.** The trainee will identify the benefit of engaging a child, youth, parent/caregiver, family, and tribe in gathering information about family members for the purpose of identifying permanent connections and a safety network.
- K3.** The trainee will identify the role of culture and cultural identity when gathering information about permanent connections.

Skill

- S1.** The trainee will be able to review a case file to obtain/confirm information about family members to identify permanent connections and a safety network.
- S2.** The trainee will be able to:
 - a) Develop a genogram, eco-map or safety circle on an active case **OR**
 - b) Develop a genogram, eco-map or safety circle from a case file review
- S3.** The trainee will demonstrate their knowledge of the family's Native American ancestry and/or cultural identity through one of the following options:
 - a) Case file review
 - b) Inquiry with the family

Values

- V1.** The trainee will seek to identify and document family relationships, extended family, community connections, and tribal connections as ways to help children and youth develop and maintain their sense of identity and connection to a family and community.

Activity

Practice Area: Engagement

California Core Practice Model Practice Behaviors: 4 (a-g), 5 (a-d), 6 (a-c)

Estimated Time Required: 3 hours

Related eLearning/classroom:

- ☐ Respect, Courtesy, and Skillful Use of Authority
- ☐ Interviewing
- ☐ Engagement and Interviewing

Description of Activity:

Utilizing an active case or case file review, the trainee will develop a genogram, eco-map, or safety circle to help identify family, extended family, community, and tribal connection that may serve as support people and permanent connections for children, youth, and families.

Ecomap example to be found under Supplemental Materials

Before the practice opportunity

Field Advisor Responsibility:

- p Review Ecomap, Genogram and Safety Circle concepts to ensure familiarity with the tools.
- p Work with the social worker to determine if the activity will be completed using an active case or a case file review. If using an active case, select a case with the social worker for the activity. Ideally, this would be a family for which an Ecomap, Genogram, or Safety Circle has not been previously completed. If using a case file review, ensure that the social worker has access to the physical case and the CWS/CMS caserecord.
- p Discuss county practice and/or what is the best tool for this specific family/circumstance.
- p Review any cultural and/or language considerations when planning for the activity.
- p Review where or how the family information will be obtained.
 - o What are some possible information sources for obtaining the information?
 - CWS/CMS
 - Child, youth, parents, family members, extended family members, and tribal connections
 - Service providers
 - Other
 - o If working with an active case, when and how will this be discussed with the family?
 - Family Team Meeting or other case planning type of meeting
 - Individual conversations with child, youth, parents, family members, extended family members, and tribal connections
 - Other
- p If working with an active case, discuss how the Ecomap, Genogram, or Safety Circle will be explained to the child, youth, parent, family, extended family, and tribal connections. Encourage the social worker to practice how they will describe the selected tool and its purpose using language that is understandable to the all.
- p If the social worker is utilizing a family team meeting or other case planning type of meeting for this activity, determine if the field advisor will be attending the meeting. If attending the meeting to observe the social worker's practice, determine the role of the field advisor in the meeting (observer or participant).

Social Worker Responsibility:

- p Through discussion with the field advisor determine if the activity will be completed using an active case or a case file review. If using an active case, select a case with the field advisor for the activity. Ideally, this would be a family for which an Ecomap, Genogram, or Safety Circle has not been previously completed. If using a case file review, select a family with the field advisor for the activity.
- p Discuss any cultural and/or language considerations for completing the activity.
- p Review the family's case file and CWS/CMS to determine the family dynamics and information for the tool. This should include child/family strengths, needs, people, culture, supports, etc. If completing this activity with an active case, some of this information may be know prior to talking with the family and some of the information may come from the family and others during the activity.
- p If utilizing a family team meeting or other case planning type of meeting for this activity, discuss with the field advisor if they will be attending the meeting and what role they will be in during the meeting (participant or observer).
- p If you are planning to use an active case for the activity, be sure to do the following:

- Practice how you will describe the selected tool and its purpose using language that is understandable to the all.
- Contact the family about who should be invited to the meeting (if applicable).
- Identify time/date/location of the meeting in partnership with the family to include family voice and choice (if applicable).
- Identify with the family the purpose and context of the meeting (if applicable).

During the practice opportunity

Social Worker Responsibility:

- p Complete the identified tool (Ecomap, Genogram, or Safety Circle) to explore family, extended family, community, tribal connections, and relationships.
- p If utilizing a family team meeting or other case planning type of meeting, be sure to do the following:
 - Explain the purpose of the meeting and the information that will be discussed in language that is understandable to all.
 - Facilitate introductions and create group agreements.
 - Ask about any cultural considerations. Is there anything the team should know before developing the Ecomap, Genogram, or Safety Circle? Does the family have any Native American ancestry?
 - Explore if there is anyone not at the meeting who should be.
 - After completing the tool, review it with the team and check to see if there is any information missing.
- p If you have identified missing information during the completion of the tool, develop a plan/next steps for obtaining the missing information.

Field Advisor Responsibility:

- p Be available to answer questions the social worker may have.
- p If participating in or observing a family team meeting or other case planning type of meeting, take note of the following:
 - How did the social worker engage with the family?
 - Did the social worker discuss cultural consideration and cultural identity with the family?
 - Did the social worker ask about Native American ancestry or heritage?
 - Did the social worker work with the family and team to identify relatives, extended family members, and other support people?

After the practice opportunity

Field Advisor Responsibility:

- p Review the completed tool and CWS/CMS documentation with the social worker. Provide feedback about the accuracy of the information and the completion of the tool.
- p Identify any information that may be missing on the completed tool. Develop a plan with the social worker to obtain the missing information (if appropriate).
- p If the social worker completed the tool on an active case using a family team meeting or another case planning type of meeting, review the following:
 - What strategies did they use to engage the family?
 - What is your awareness of the family's culture or cultural identity?

- What could you do to improve this next time (either with this family or another family)?
- What are any next steps with the family?
- p Provide feedback to the social worker about what was observed during the family team meeting or other case planning type of meeting (if applicable).

Social Worker Responsibility:

- p Document the information from the completed tool in CWS/CMS.
- p Review the completed tool and the CWS/CMS documentation with the field advisor.
- p Reflect on what worked well, what you are worried about, and what you could have done differently for this activity.
- p Discuss with the field advisor how you are going to use what you learned from the activity going forward in your work with families.
- p In a follow-up visit, debrief with the family (if applicable). Use this as an opportunity to learn more about the family.