

WHAT HAVE WE **WEEDED** OUT IN CASE REVIEW? SOME GOOD WORK HAS **SPRUNG** UP!



ITEM 9: CONCERTED EFFORTS MADE TO MAINTAIN CONNECTIONS

to neighborhood, community, faith, extended family, Tribe, school, friends...and parents after services end.



17-year old has been in care since age 15 and has had 13 placement changes

Despite services to parents being terminated, the social worker accurately assessed that it was best for the youth's well-being to keep connections to both parents (and extended family) and made concerted efforts to do so.

Even though the youth was placed 350 miles away, the social worker made sure visitation occurred between him and his mother and younger sibling (who live together), and father and paternal grandmother (who live together). Within the first 4.5 months of moving to this placement, two extended visits occurred. During each of these visits, the youth stayed at mother's home and then the father's home, which are a couple hours apart from one another. This afforded ample time for him to spend with each of his parents, his sibling, extended family and family friends.

These visits required extensive coordination and planning between the mother, the youth, the group home and the agency. In order to ensure the visits occurred, the social worker even provided some of the transportation herself.

During case review interviews, the mother and the youth both stated that the social worker provided them with the support they needed to make these visits happen easily. They indicated that these visits were important to ensure they maintained their relationship and appreciated the social worker's efforts.



6-year old has been in care since age 3 and has had 3 placement changes

The child experienced three placements with the goal of adoption. Her current adoptive family is on track to finalize and the social worker ensured that this family supported maintaining connections for the child with her two former placements. Although she experienced placement changes with families that could not commit to adoption, the social worker recognized that the child would benefit from continued contacts with them.

The child had developed bonds with both other families, one of which is a relative. The social worker made concerted efforts to ensure continued coordination of ongoing visits and contacts with both former placements, as well as a half-sibling who is in a guardianship with another family. She took an active role in coordinating and supporting continued contact with both relative and non-relatives as she recognized this was best for the child.

The social worker consistently encouraged the adoptive family to have ongoing contact with the child's paternal aunt and her family, where the child had been placed. The social worker maintained contact with the prior placements and ensured that the adoptive family had their contact information. As a result, the adoptive family coordinated an out-of-county visit with the paternal aunt to celebrate the child's upcoming birthday. During interviews, the families expressed how excited the child was about this visit and how much it meant to her.

Green Thumb Tips!



- ◆ In order to preserve connections we need to know what the connections are or were, which means we need to ask from the beginning, and continue to asking throughout the life of the case.
- ◆ Case review requires we consider who/what is important to the child/youth, and not just what is legally required by Court and regulations.
- ◆ Per CDSS connections to consider include, language, customs/rituals and extended family, even if the child was removed at birth.

