

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

September 4, 2008

MEMORANDUM**What's Inside:**

Addition of
Strengthening
Families philosophical
information to Child
Welfare Manual

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce policy enhancements to the Child Welfare Manual that address the Children's Division philosophical base regarding Strengthening Families.

The Strengthening Families approach concentrates on using protective factors for families in their homes and communities. This begins by shifting the focus from family risks and deficits to family strengths and resiliency. This is done by utilizing effective prevention strategies in existing systems.

The five protective factors are the foundation of the Strengthening Families approach. A focus on protective factors does not ignore the relevance of risk factors instead it gives parents what they need to parent effectively, even under stress. The five protective factors are: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Time of Need, and Social and Emotional Development of children.

Utilizing the five protective factors in the Strengthening Families approach promotes healthy child development and reduces the incidence of child abuse and neglect. A primary philosophy of Strengthening Families is referring people to people, not people to services. This is accomplished by knowing the community and resources available.

NECESSARY ACTION:

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:

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PROGRAM MANAGER:

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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS:

[PHILOSOPHICAL BASE OF CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE](#)

FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS:

N/A

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS and RESOURCES:

N/A

RELATED STATUTE:

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE:

N/A

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS:

N/A

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP):

N/A

SACWIS REQUIREMENTS:

N/A