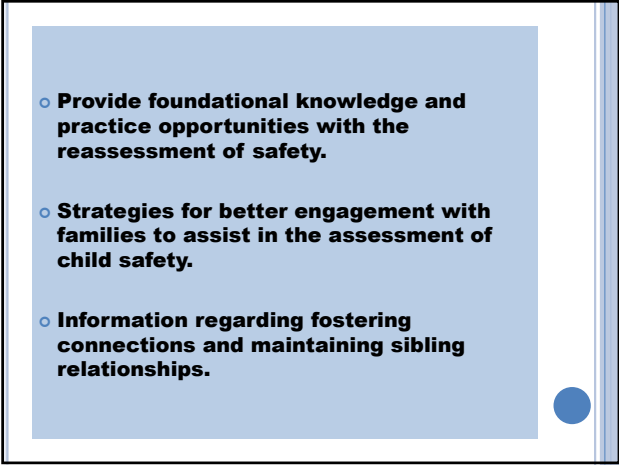


1



2



3

ENGAGING: Effectively joining with the family to establish common goals concerning child safety, well-being and permanency.

Engaging is the ongoing ability to establish and sustain a genuinely supportive relationship with the family while developing a partnership, establishing healthy boundaries and maintaining contact as mutually negotiated.

4

ASSESSING: Gathering information about reported concerns and family needs, evaluating the relevance of that information, and identifying family strengths and community resources that may be applied to address those concerns and needs.

Assessment is the process of gathering accurate, comprehensive information using relevant and credible sources of information, documenting the information using appropriate assessment tools, and objectively analyzing the information to determine the best course of action.

5

ASSESSING: IDEAL PRACTICE


- Seeks and reassesses safety and risk information at each decision point and at prescribed intervals throughout the family's involvement with the agency.

THINK



SAFETY

6



Applying Critical Thinking Skills

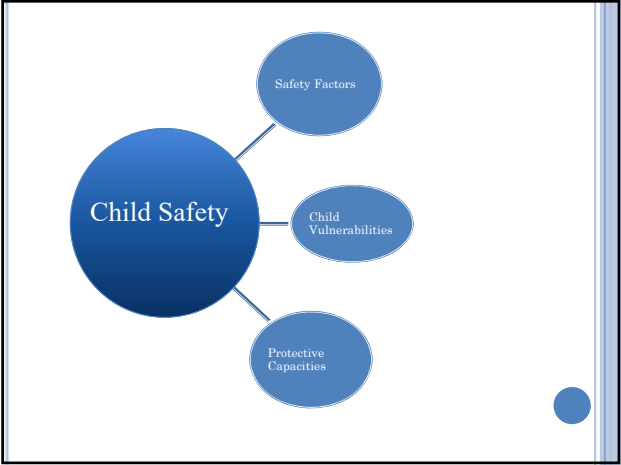
- Critical thinking involves analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating, and applying information generated by one’s conversations, observations, experiences, reflections, and reasoning. When done well, it brings “clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness” (Michael Scriven & Richard Paul for the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking Instruction).

7

SAFETY RE-ASSESSMENT

- FAMILY ASSESSMENT
- CASE REVIEW
- ONGOING CASE ASSESSMENT INVESTIGATION TOOL
- REUNIFICATION ASSESSMENT

8



9

Safety Re-assessment

1. A safety threat is not currently active.

2. If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed:

3. If a safety threat is active now:

10

Safety Re-assessment

1. A safety threat is not currently active.

a. Describe new information obtained regarding protective capacities.

b. Describe new information obtained regarding child vulnerability.

11

Safety Re-assessment

2. If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed:

a. Describe the safety threat and then summarize the information that demonstrates safety threat resolution, sufficient safety threat reduction and/or adequate protective capacities necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm.

12

Safety Re-assessment

3. If a safety threat is active now:

a. Describe the active safety threat(s), identify which children are affected, and which caregivers or other adults are involved. Describe any progress toward alleviating the safety threat(s).

b. Describe the present protective capacities of each caregiver and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed.

c. Describe the present vulnerability of each child and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed.

13

Safety Re-assessment

1. A safety threat is not currently active.

2. If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed:

3. If a safety threat is active now:

14

GROUP 1

Case Review Type	Approval Date
Case Review/Closure	03/15/2011
3 Month Case Review	01/04/2011
Semiannual Administrative Review	09/28/2010
3 Month Case Review	09/07/2010
3 Month Case Review	06/28/2010

15

2. If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Describe the safety threat and then summarize the information that demonstrates safety threat resolution, sufficient safety threat reduction and/or adequate protective capacities necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm.

Jade and Jacoby were in need of permanency. Both children had witnessed domestic violence between their mother and step-dad leading to a protection order against step-dad. The CPO was violated and step-dad was permitted back in the home. On August 01, 2010, both children were removed from their biological mother's home and placed together into foster care. On November 10, 2009, Jade was transported to her paternal Grandmother (PGM), who resides in a different county, as a pre-placement until a court hearing could be set. PGM successfully completed a home study in her county and is caring for Jade at this time. Jacoby has been placed with biological father until Mason County Children Services can complete the home study process. Both children are in safe nurturing environments with family who are willing to provide for their need of food, shelter, education, supervision, medical, psychological and social needs. Continued involvement is needed until the determination of a court hearing date to transfer custody of Jacoby to his father and Jade to PGM. At the court hearing on March 1, 2011, Jacoby's father was awarded legal custody of his son, and PGM, was awarded legal custody of Jade. During the life of this case the following services were provided to the families: Case management/case services, requests for home studies to other counties, visitation, transportation, case planning, referrals to community resources as well as ensuring the safety of the children by making monthly foster home visits.

16

GROUP 2

Case Review Type	Approval Date
Case Review/Closure	03/15/2011
3 Month Case Review	01/04/2011
Semiannual Administrative Review	09/28/2010
3 Month Case Review	09/07/2010
3 Month Case Review	06/28/2010

17

2. If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Describe the safety threat and then summarize the information that demonstrates safety threat resolution, sufficient safety threat reduction and/or adequate protective capacities necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm.

Jade and Jacoby were in need of permanency. Both children had witnessed domestic violence between their mother and step-dad leading to a protection order against step-dad. The CPO was violated and step-dad was permitted back in the home. On August 01, 2010, both children were removed from their biological mother's home and placed together into foster care. On November 10, 2009, Jade was transported to her paternal Grandmother (PGM), who resides in a different county, as a pre-placement until a court hearing could be set. PGM successfully completed a home study in her county and is caring for Jade at this time. Jacoby has been placed with biological father until Mason County Children Services can complete the home study process. Both children are in safe nurturing environments with family who are willing to provide for their need of food, shelter, education, supervision, medical, psychological and social needs.

18

GROUP 3

Case Review Type	Approval Date
Case Review/Closure	03/15/2011
3 Month Case Review	01/04/2011
Semiannual Administrative Review	09/28/2010
3 Month Case Review	09/07/2010
3 Month Case Review	06/28/2010

19

2. A safety threat is active now.

a. Describe the active safety threat(s), identify which children are affected, and which caregivers or other adults are involved.
Describe the progress toward alleviating the safety threat(s).

The natural mother had been violating the protective supervision order placed on the children. She refused several drug screens, denied Agency access to the children, Jade and Jacoby, on a monthly basis and allowed a known felon around the children. Following an Ex-Parte filed 8/31/2010 the children were placed into Foster care.

20

b. Describe the present protective capacities of each caregiver and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Jade and Jacoby are currently in an agency approved licensed foster home where their basic needs are being met. The Agency is continuing to work with their natural mother towards reunification. An Uncle from Wetzel County has come forward and is interested in caring for both children. A referral for a home study is being requested.

c. Describe the present vulnerability of each child and highlight significant changes that may have occurred since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Jacoby and Jade are able to verbalize any neglect/abuse; however, their ages make them dependent on adults to meet their basic needs. The children were removed from the natural mother and placed into foster care where all of their daily needs are met.

21

GROUP 4

Case Review Type	Approval Date
Case Review/Closure	03/15/2011
3 Month Case Review	01/04/2011
Semiannual Administrative Review	09/28/2010
3 Month Case Review	09/07/2010
3 Month Case Review	06/28/2010

22

2. If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Describe the safety threat and then summarize the information that demonstrates safety threat resolution, sufficient safety threat reduction and/or adequate protective capacities necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm.

The natural mother had been violating the protective supervision order placed over the children, Jade and Jacoby. She refused several drug screens, would not allow the Agency to have access to the children on a monthly basis and had a known felon residing in the home. The worker reviewed this information with the Agency's legal department and it was determined that the children needed to be removed from the home. The children were placed in the Agency's custody on 8/01/2010 following an Ex-Parte. The children are currently in an Agency approved foster home.

23

GROUP 5

Case Review Type	Approval Date
Case Review/Closure	03/15/2011
3 Month Case Review	01/04/2011
Semiannual Administrative Review	09/28/2010
3 Month Case Review	09/07/2010
3 Month Case Review	06/28/2010

24

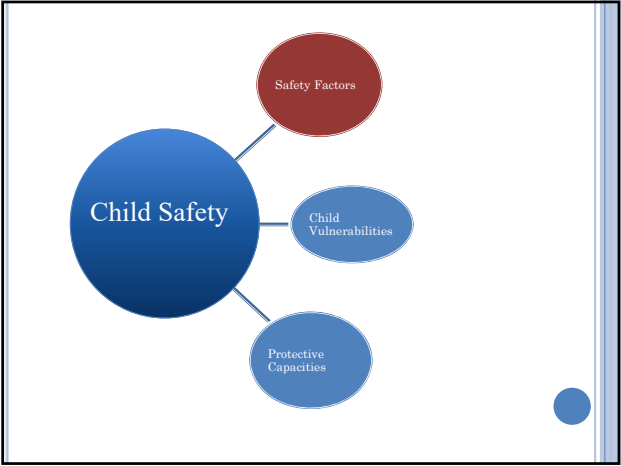
1. A SAFETY THREAT IS NOT CURRENTLY ACTIVE.

A protective supervision order was obtained over the children on May 01, 2010. The children's natural Mother's husband has been sentenced to 18 months in jail and is prohibited from having any contact with the children. The Natural Mother has agreed to comply with this agency and follow through with case plan goals to reduce the risk of harm to the children.

b. Describe new information obtained regarding child vulnerability. Include information concerning any child not interviewed for the safety assessment.

Jade and Jacoby are unable to protect themselves due to their ages. They must rely on the adults in the home to provide for their basic needs. The children have witnessed domestic violence in their home increasing their level of vulnerability.

25



26

Safety Factors
1. The family refuses access to the child or there is reason to believe the family will flee.
2. Child has inflicted physical injuries.
2a. Caretaker has an unconvincing or insufficient explanation for the child's serious, inflicted physical injury. <i>Safety factor 2a. is conditional on selecting safety factor 2.</i>
3. Any member of the family or other person having access to the child has made a credible threat, describes, or acts toward the child in extremely negative terms or has extremely unrealistic expectations of the child which would result in serious harm to a child.
4. The behavior of any member of the family or other person having access to the child is violent and/or out of control including acts of family violence that pose an immediate and serious physical and/or emotional danger to the child.
5. Drug and/or alcohol use by any member of the family or any person having access to the child places the child in immediate danger of serious harm.

27

Safety Factors

6. Behavior(s) of any member of the family or any person having access to the child is symptomatic of mental illness or disability that places the child in immediate danger of serious harm.

7. Caretaker is unwilling or unable to meet the child's immediate needs for sufficient supervision, food, clothing, and/or shelter to protect child from immediate danger of serious harm.

8. Household environmental hazards place the child in immediate danger of serious harm.

9. Caretaker is unwilling or unable to meet the child's serious physical or mental health needs.

10. Child sexual abuse/sexual exploitation is suspected, and circumstances suggest that the child may be in immediate danger of serious harm.

11. Other

28

MEET THE
PARSONS/MASTERS
FAMILY

29

2. If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Describe the safety threat and then summarize the information that demonstrates safety threat resolution, sufficient safety threat reduction and/or adequate protective capacities necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm.

There was a domestic violence incident between Sherry and her husband, John, in front of Jade and Jacoby at their home. Jade, age 7, called the police. John was arrested and charged. A court order was issued on April 20, 2010, prohibiting John from living in the home and being around the children.

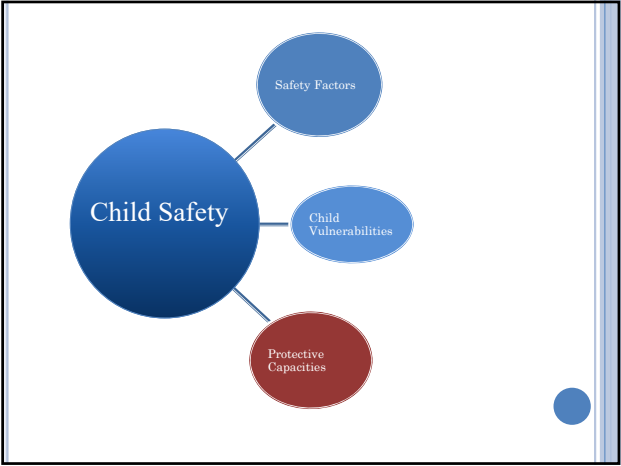
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2. If a safety threat is not currently active, but had been active at any time since the last assessment of safety was completed.

Describe the safety threat and then summarize the information that demonstrates safety threat resolution, sufficient safety threat reduction and/or adequate protective capacities necessary to protect the child(ren) from serious harm.

John Parsons was court ordered out of the home due to domestic violence with his wife, Sherry. He was ordered to wear an ankle monitor and reside temporarily at another address. However, John continued to live in the home with his wife, Sherry, and her children. On May 1, 2010, Sherry and John were involved in another domestic violence incident outside of the home. The incident did not take place in the home or in front of the children. John was placed in jail and was taken to the hospital due to her sustained injuries. The children were placed with the maternal grandmother until the safety threats were reduced. Sherry must have supervised contact with the children at this time. John is in jail, he is being held without bond.

31



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Protective Capacities

Cognitive:
Intellect, knowledge, understanding, and perception used to assist in protecting a child.

Behavioral:
Specific action and activity to assist in protecting a child.

Emotive:
Specific feelings, attitudes, and motivations that are directly associated with child protection.

33

Protective Capacities

Cognitive:
Intellect, knowledge, understanding, and perception used to assist in protecting a child.

Cognitive abilities include :

- Recognizing a child's needs (such as the basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing, social needs, psychological needs, and the need for protection from harm).
- Personal responses to various stimuli.
- Awareness of threatening family circumstances within their family system.
- Understanding the parent's responsibility to protect.
- Other examples include: being reality oriented; having an accurate perception of the child and his vulnerabilities.

34

Protective Capacities

Behavioral:
Specific action and activity to assist in protecting a child

- This category refers to specific action and activity to assist in protecting a child.
- An individual's physical capacity to intervene to protect a child.
- The ability to defer one's own needs in favor of the child.
- The skills associated with meeting the child's safety related needs.
- Other examples include being adaptive, assertive and responsive, taking action, and using impulse control.

The behavioral component must be present for a protective capacity to be sufficient to protect a child.

35

Protective Capacities

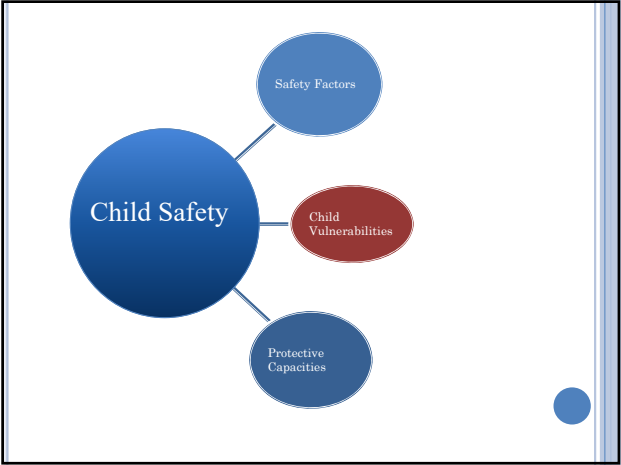
Emotive:
Specific feelings, attitudes, and motivations that are directly associated with child protection

This category refers to specific feelings, attitudes, and motivations that are directly associated with child protection.

Emotional abilities include:

- A willingness and desire to protect.
- Emotional stability.
- Resiliency.
- The form in which love is expressed and reciprocated and the nature of the parent-child attachment.
- Also included is how effectively the parent meets his/her own emotional needs.

36



37

Vulnerabilities of the Child
Ability to protect self
Age
Ability to communicate
Likelihood of serious harm
Provocativeness of the child/s behavior or temperament
Special needs: behavioral, emotional, or physical
Access to individuals who can protect the child
Family composition
Role in the family
Physical appearance, size, and robustness
Resilience and problem-solving skills
Prior victimization
Ability to recognize and report abuse/neglect

38

- CHILD’S PAST EXPERIENCES
- History of maltreatment
 - History of chronic neglect
 - Repeated victimization
 - Does not talk about past abuse/neglect
 - Passive due to ongoing maltreatment
 - Child report feeling powerless
 - Child appears fearful of anyone in the family system
 - Isolation

39

PHYSICAL

- Physical needs
- Appearance
- Size
- Physical development

40

EMOTIONAL (PERSONALITY)

- Robustness
- Passivity
- Powerless
- Adjustability
- Sensitivity
- Distractibility
- Tolerance - Frustration

41

COGNITIVE

- Emotional needs
- Disability
- Ability to problem solve
- Developmental stage
- Ability to recognize abuse/neglect

42

BEHAVIORAL

- Provocative
- Defiant
- Resists parental authority
- Seeks negative attention
- Sexually provocative behaviors
- Argumentative
- Energy level
- Behaviors

43

GROUP 3

Case Review Type	Approval Date
Case Review/Closure	03/15/2011
3 Month Case Review	01/04/2011
Semiannual Administrative Review	09/28/2010
3 Month Case Review	09/07/2010
3 Month Case Review	06/28/2010

44

3. A safety threat is active now.

a. Describe the active safety threat(s), identify which children are affected, and which caregivers or other adults are involved.
Describe the progress toward alleviating the safety threat(s).

The natural mother had been violating the protective supervision order placed on the children. She refused several drug screens, denied Agency access to the children, Jade and Jacoby, on a monthly basis and allowed a known felon around the children. Following an Ex-Parte filed 8/31/2010 the children were placed into Foster care.

45

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Jacoby and Jade are able to verbalize any neglect/abuse; however, their ages make them dependent on adults to meet their basic needs. The children were removed from the natural mother and placed into foster care where all of their daily needs are met.

46

Make Your Time Count!

Quality Contacts = Quality Assessments

47

ENGAGING:
IDEAL PRACTICE


▶ Actively involves children and parents or caregivers in all aspects of the case by using activities such as scaling, life circles, genograms, strengths and needs exercises and pointing out to the family what is going well. Uses these techniques with family members individually or together as appropriate to the case situation.



48

ENGAGING: IDEAL PRACTICE

- ▶ Uses protective authority only when necessary; engages law enforcement authority only when necessary to ensure child or worker safety, or as required by the county's memorandum of understanding (MOU).
- ▶ Recognizes and verbalizes to the family members their strengths and skills.
- ▶ Effectively uses strategies detailed in this profile to continuously explore and address family resistance and encourage participation and collaboration.



49

ENGAGING: IDEAL PRACTICE


- ▶ Listens actively to each family member and solicits perspectives from all involved (for example, by summarizing for the family members what the worker understood them to say) and encourages the family to tell their story without interruption by allowing the family members to speak more than the worker.

Listening
=
Learning

50

ENGAGING: IDEAL PRACTICE

- ▶ Actively involves children and parents or caregivers in all aspects of the case by using activities such as scaling, life circles, genograms, strengths and needs exercises and pointing out to the family what is going well. Uses these techniques with family members individually or together as appropriate to the case situation.



51

SUCCESSFUL HOME VISIT

- Effective Communication
- Partnership Building
- Ongoing assessment of:
 - Safety
 - Risk
 - Services
 - Parents' strengths and needs
 - Interaction between family members



52

PURPOSEFUL VISITS

- Responsive to Needs during Crisis
- Crisis should not drive majority of contacts
- Regular contact = observation of normative behaviors



53



OBSERVATIONS DURING VISITS

- Parental interaction with the children.
- Interaction with the family members in their home setting to identify strengths, areas of difficulty or stress.
- Parents utilizing enhanced or newly acquired skills.
- The conditions in the home and a determination of how it impacts the safety of the children.
- Other individuals visiting or residing in the home in relation to:
 - How frequent are these individuals in the home?
 - Are they living there?
 - Do they change or impact the risk levels or safety threats within the family?
 - Are these individuals a support or resource for the family?

54

SCHEDULING

- o DETERS CRISIS DRIVEN INTERVENTION
- o PARTNERSHIP PLANNING
 - DATE AND TIME
 - DURATION
 - SETTING
 - AGENDA
- o CLARIFIES THE FOCUS AND PURPOSE



55

FAMILY VALUE

- o Supportive resource
- o Assists family to identify available assets
- o Useful information



56

QUALITY CONTACTS

- o **Help Parents retain a sense of control.**
- o **Help Child retain sense of comfort.**
- o **Clarify commitment and obligations to the working relationship.**



57

QUALITY CONTACTS

- Approach each individual involved with an open mind.
- Acknowledge difficult feelings and encourage open and honest discussion of feelings.
- Be consistent, persistent, and follow through.

58

QUALITY CONTACTS

- Find out what is important.
- Use mirroring.
- Listen to the parents' explanation without correcting or arguing.

59

QUALITY CONTACTS

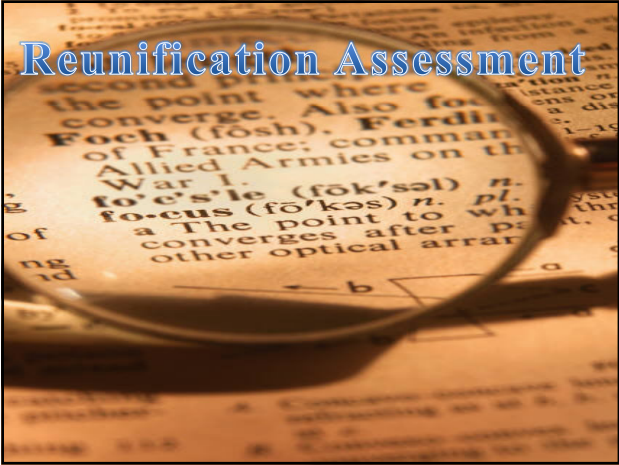
REASSESS SAFETY AND RISK

OBSERVE

LEARN FAMILY MEMBERS AND DYNAMICS

SEPARATE VISITS WITH EACH PARENT

60



61

Reunification Assessment

- Safety
 - *Original (Safety Factors)*
 - *New (Safety Factors)*
 - *Protective Capacities*
 - *Child Vulnerabilities*
- Progress
- Focus
- Services

62

Reunification Assessment

- What were the original safety issues that resulted in the child(ren)'s placement?
- Have the original safety issues been altered or reduced to a sufficient level whereby control within the family is probable?
- Were there other safety issues identified after the child(ren) came into placement that necessitated or contributed to the continuation of the placement?
- Have the safety issues identified in Question C been resolved or reduced sufficiently whereby control within the family is probable?

63

Reunification Assessment

- Are parent/guardian/custodian(s) in compliance with court orders?
- Does the child(ren) demonstrate an acceptance of the reunification plan?
- Does the parent/guardian/custodian demonstrate an acceptance of the reunification plan?
- Does the parent/guardian/custodian have the capacity to provide for the child(ren)'s basic needs (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, medical care)?

64

Reunification Assessment

- Are the parent/guardian/custodian and/or other household members willing and able to use their protective capacities, resources and strengths to provide sufficient support to the child(ren)?
- During visits, has the parent/guardian/custodian demonstrated an ability to meet the child(ren)'s need for safety in a manner that suggests safety threats are not expected to emerge by the child(ren)'s presence within the family?
- Are there any issues or concerns related to other children or adults in the family that may impact the child(ren)'s return?
- Describe how the family dynamics will change when the child(ren) returns.

65



66

Reunification Assessment

- What were the original safety issues that resulted in the child(ren)'s placement?
- Have the original safety issues been altered or reduced to a sufficient level whereby control within the family is probable?
- Were there other safety issues identified after the child(ren) came into placement that necessitated or contributed to the continuation of the placement?

67

Reunification Assessment

- Have the safety issues identified in Question C been resolved or reduced sufficiently whereby control within the family is probable?
- Are parent/guardian/custodian(s) in compliance with court orders?

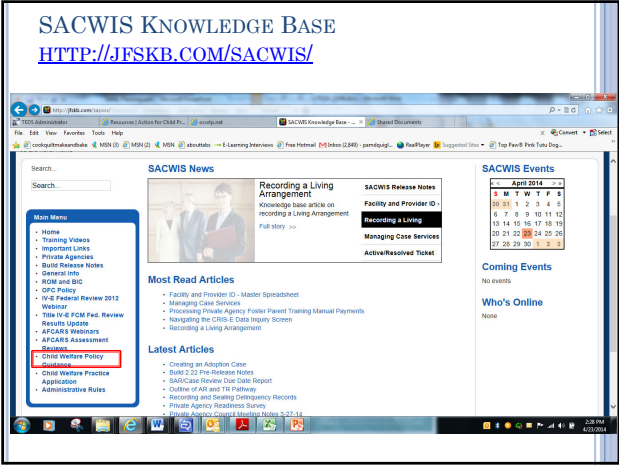
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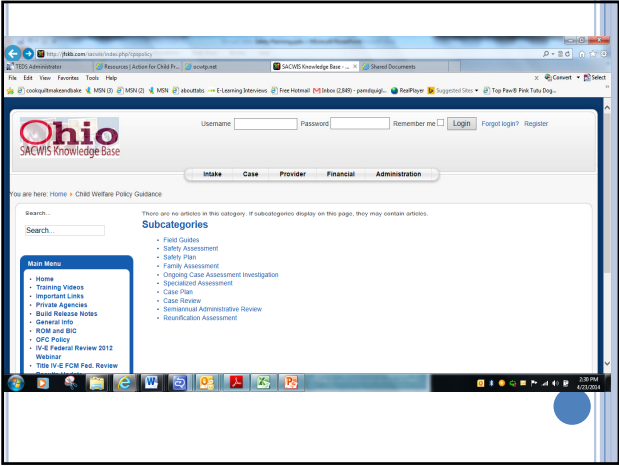
Wrap Up



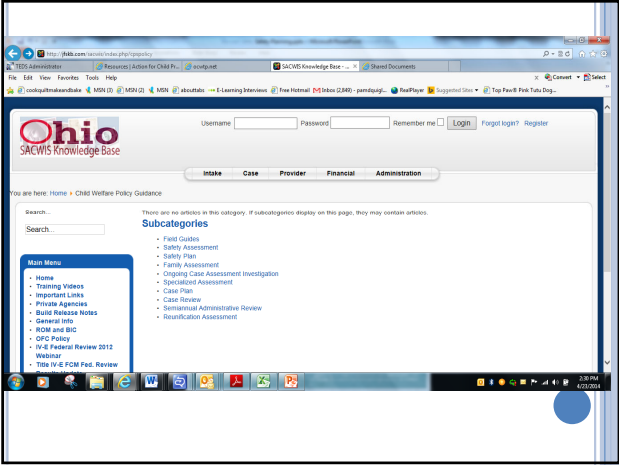
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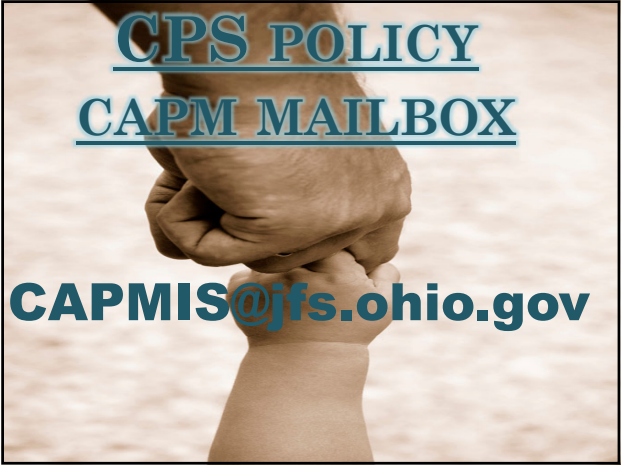
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71



72



73
