

The Definition and Goals of Pennsylvania Family Preservation Programs

Definition:

Family Preservation Service is a form of crisis intervention and short term intensive social services designed to protect children and simultaneously prevent family disruption. It reinforces the family's inherent strength and capacity to identify and work out solutions to the crises which create the threat of placement for their child(ren).

Goals:

- to reduce the need for out-of-home placements for children who are considered to be at imminent risk of placement
- to promote positive changes within the family in order to strengthen and maintain the family unit
- to increase the life skills and coping capacities of each family member

The Family Preservation Quality Assurance Committee (QUAC) identified the following best practice standards with regard to the goals:

1. To empower families currently being serviced by, and in danger of having their child(ren) placed in foster care by, the Office of Children and Youth, to meet the demands and needs of their children through education, crisis intervention, and therapeutic interventions.
2. To reduce the incidence/likelihood of identified dependent children requiring unnecessary child placement services outside their own homes.
3. To reduce the intensity and incidence of factors which typically lead to child placement including runaway behaviors, truancy, incorrigibility, crisis and parental inability to care for children.
4. To establish and encourage a mutual aid support system for parents experiencing difficulties with children which may contribute to child placement.