Strategies and Resources for Transition to Family-Based Care
Wednesday, January 25, 2017
3:00 PM (Eastern)

Webinar Series: 11
Presenters

Sarah Gesiriech, Faith to Action Initiative

Beth Bradford, Maestral International

Tara Garcia, Identity Mission
Links to useful information, resources, and tools within the online Tool Kit.

Illustrates Stories of good practice.

Presents an opportunity for application or further reflection.
Transitioning to Family Care Tool Kit

- User-friendly, Searchable Database
- International Standards
- Volunteering & Missions
- Social Work Practices
- Special Topics (special populations, program evaluation)
- Links to 200+ resources

• Short Narratives

• Lively Podcasts
  • Transitioning
  • Gatekeeping
  • Reunification

• Illustrative Examples

• Videos
Transitional to Family Care for Children: A Guidance Manual

This Guidance Manual provides helpful information and tools for churches, faith-based organizations, donors, and others who are transitioning children's care away from residential care to care within families. Based on evidence-based research, the experiences and lessons learned from practitioners around the world, and international principles of best practice in the care of orphans and vulnerable children, this resource provides an introduction to and overview of the key steps in transitioning to family care. It has been developed alongside with a companion Transitioning to Family Care for Children Tool Kit to support efforts to ensure that children grow up in the love and care of families.
• Working Group

• Linked to on-the-ground work
  • Learning Cohort
  • Interviews
  • Inputs from CAFO2016 Summit

• Review of Resources

• Drafting & Re-drafting

• Two Products
Guidance Manual
- Links to resources
- Illustrative Stories
- Tools / Tool Kit

Toolkit
- Articles for more information
- Latest Research
- Webinars & Videos
- Tools
✓ Raising Awareness
✓ Building Partnerships
✓ Opportunities for Participation
✓ Evaluating, Learning & Adjusting
• Transition is a long-term process

• Family support services

• Managing individual cases

• Follow-Up

• Monitoring, evaluation, adjustment & learning
Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Family-Based Care
Identity Mission Program

“God sets the lonely in families...” —Psalm 68:6

FAMILY SPEAKS TO THE CORE OF OUR IDENTITY!

“Who we are is grounded in the place of family. The past, present, and future are all held together in the story of our family. The loss of family and specifically the loss of fatherhood leads to a loss of identity, belonging and purpose. The loss of identity in the life of a child is the foundational place of the wounding of an orphan’s heart. Without a clear sense of identity, belonging and purpose will never be found.” —In Pursuit of orphan Excellence

[The child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality should grow up in a family environment.]—The UN convention on the rights of the child.

SPECTRUM OF CARE

Family Preservation
Children that have a surviving parent, or other relatives willing to care for them, should be helped to remain with family whenever safely possible. Likewise, when families have been separated, reunification is of first priority when safe.

Kinship Care
Kinship care is the raising of children by grandparents, great-grandparents, other relatives, or close family friends because the biological parents are unwilling or unable to do so.

Adoptive Family
Adoption has been the historically approved way of permanently forming bonds of the family. However, we do not encourage adoption as it may lead to the separation of children from their own culture and place of origin.

Foster Family
Foster families should be encouraged to provide a loving and caring environment for children who cannot fi nd a permanent family. Foster family programs may be supported by government or non-governmental organizations.

Family-Style / Residential Home
Care within a family is our unequivocal ideal for children. Yet we also honor the devoted care and protection provided by many quality residential facilities (proper term for orphanage). We urge that new programs prioritize family-based care. We encourage existing residential programs to grow as close as possible to the ideal of family and to promote family-based solutions whenever feasible.

PRIORITY OF FAMILY

Both Scripture and social science affirm that the best environment for children is a safe, permanent family. When this is not possible, the goal for each child should be — as a general rule — to move as far as possible along the “spectrum of care” toward permanent family. Care for children should always be as safe, nurturing and as close to family as is feasible for the given situation. —CAFO Core Principles
“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” –Isaiah 43:19
Family Recruitment:
• Replicate good models
• Radio/TV broadcasts
• Developing materials

Government Relationships:
• Prioritize relationship building
• Gain understanding
• Prayer!
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