

NC Department of Health and Human Services
**Introduction to the
Permanency Planning Review**

April 24, 2019

About this webinar

This webinar was developed through funding from the North Carolina Division of Social Services by the Family and Children’s Resource Program, part of the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**



A recording of this webinar will be available on ncswLearn.org.

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Goals for this Webinar

By the end of this webinar, you will be able to:

- **Describe changes to Permanency Planning requirements**
- **Explain the purpose and components of the Permanency Planning Review (PPR)**
- **Apply family-centered practice to the PPR process**
- **Incorporate the family and youth into case planning**

About Questions

- We will monitor questions via the chat box and answer them as possible throughout the webinar.
- There will also be a **follow-up document** that answers questions asked during this webinar; this document will be e-mailed to all registered participants and posted with the webinar recording.
- The webinar recording will be on ncsWLearn.org and on the Family and Children's Resource Program webpage (<http://fcrp.unc.edu/webinars.asp>).



Panelists

Erin Baluyot
Gina Brown
Teka Dempson

Moderator

Chrystal Coble

Tech Support

Phillip Armfield
John McMahon

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Permanency Planning Requirements

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Permanency Planning Requirements

- **Case Staffing**
 - At least once a month throughout the life of the case
- **Timeframes**
 - Family Services Agreement
 - Transitional Living Plan
 - Permanency Planning Review (within 60 days, every 90 days thereafter)
- **Contacts**
 - **Child** (initial 7 day visit, monthly thereafter)
 - **Parent** (face-to-face monthly for primary plan of reunification; if reunification not primary plan, monthly contact until TPR)
 - **Placement Provider** (initial 7 day visit, monthly thereafter; both spouses and any other caretakers at least quarterly)

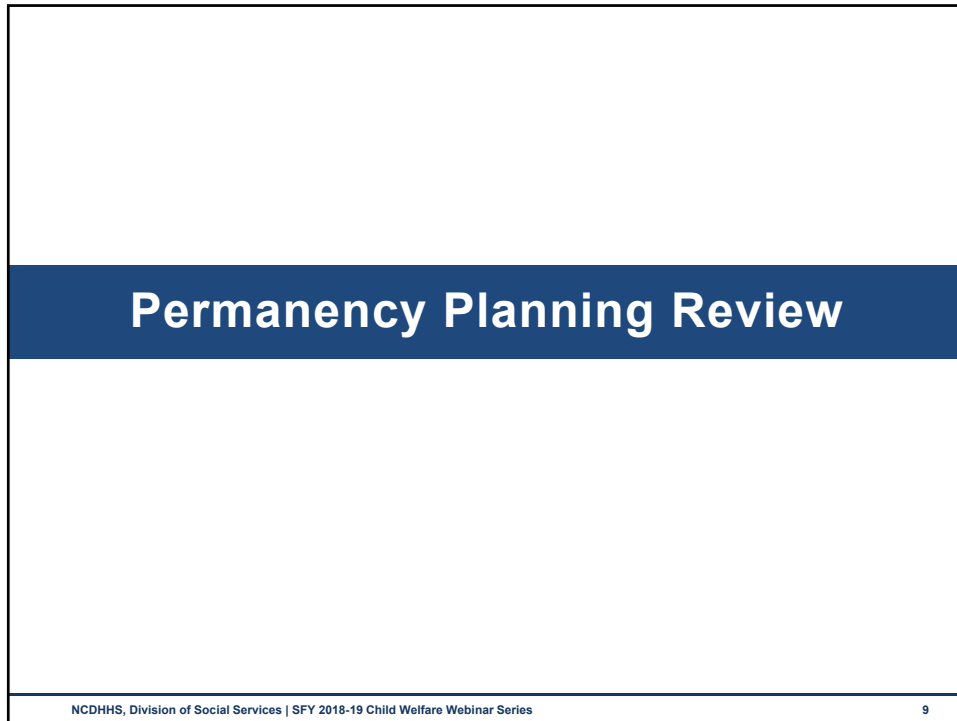
FSA and TLP:
Within 30 days;
Review at 60 days;
Every 90 days thereafter

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Permanency Planning Requirements

- **Shared Parenting**
 - Within 14 days
- **Family Time and Contact Plan**
 - Within 14 days
- **Educational Stability**
 - Best Interest Determination (BID) Meeting within 5 school days
- **Collateral Contacts**
 - Whenever indicated by the child and family's needs

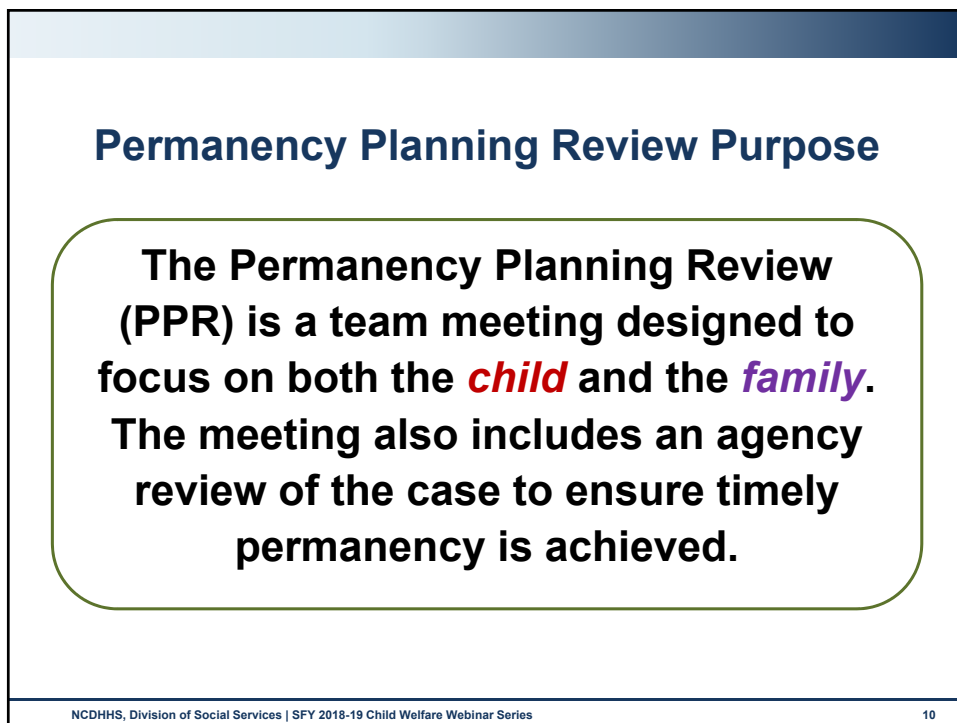
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A title slide for a presentation. It features a dark blue horizontal band across the middle with the text "Permanency Planning Review" in white. The slide is framed by a thin black border. At the bottom, there is a small footer with the text "NCDHHS, Division of Social Services | SFY 2018-19 Child Welfare Webinar Series" and the number "9".

Permanency Planning Review

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A slide titled "Permanency Planning Review Purpose". The title is in a dark blue font. Below the title, a rounded rectangular box with a green border contains the following text: "The Permanency Planning Review (PPR) is a team meeting designed to focus on both the *child* and the *family*. The meeting also includes an agency review of the case to ensure timely permanency is achieved." The words "child" and "family" are in red and purple respectively. The slide is framed by a thin black border. At the bottom, there is a small footer with the text "NCDHHS, Division of Social Services | SFY 2018-19 Child Welfare Webinar Series" and the number "10".


Permanency Planning Review Purpose

The Permanency Planning Review (PPR) is a team meeting designed to focus on both the *child* and the *family*. The meeting also includes an agency review of the case to ensure timely permanency is achieved.

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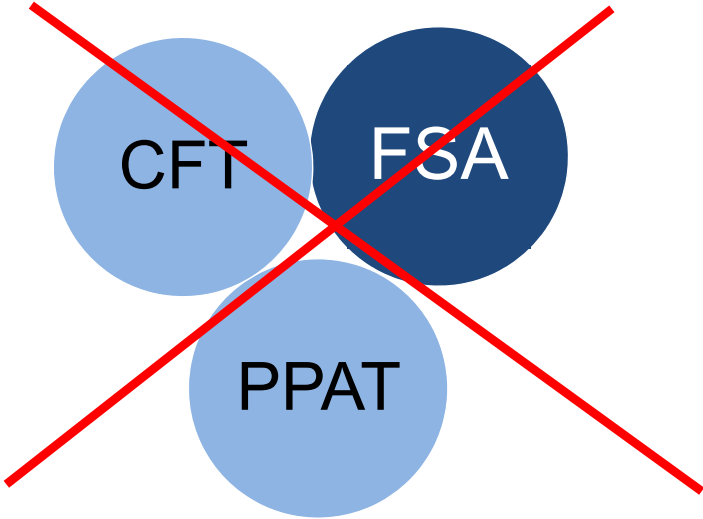
Permanency Planning Review – Why Make Changes?

- Streamline the process
- Strengthen the purpose
- Drive better outcomes
- Family-centered principles



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PPAT and CFT Process



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Improving Outcomes

- **Stability of Foster Care Placement**
(Permanency Outcome 1, Item 4)
- **Permanency Goal for Child**
(Permanency Outcome 1, Item 5)
- **Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement**
(Permanency Outcome 1, Item 6)
- **Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care**
(Permanency Outcome 2, Item 8)
- **Preserving Connections** *(Permanency Outcome 2, Item 9)*
- **Relationship of Child in Care with Parents**
(Permanency Outcome 2, Item 11)

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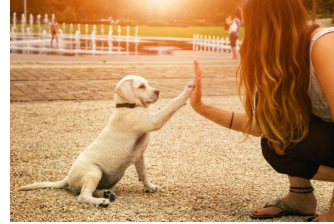
Improving Outcomes

- **Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents** *(Well-Being Outcome 1, Item 12)*
- **Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning**
(Well-Being Outcome 1, Item 13)
- **Educational Needs of the Child**
(Well-Being Outcome 2, Item 16)
- **Physical Health of the Child**
(Well-Being Outcome 3, Item 17)
- **Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child**
(Well-Being Outcome 3, Item 18)

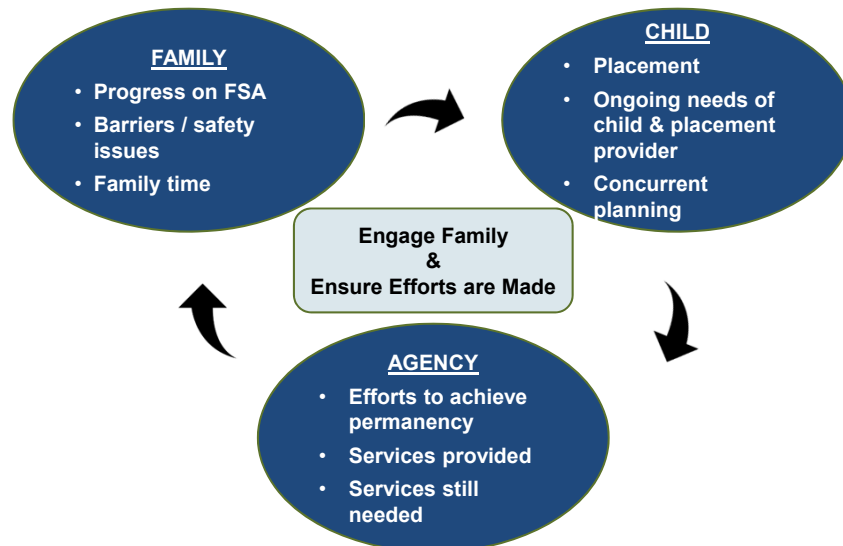
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Benefits of the PPR Process

- Supports open communication with all case participants
- Provides an unbiased, objective, and thorough review of the case
- Promotes family engagement
- Supports partnership with all people who surround the family in building a support network for the family
- Promotes timely permanency for the child



Permanency Planning Reviews



PPR Team Members

- **Parents/Caretakers***
- **Child / Youth** *(if appropriate)* →
- **Potential Custodian, Guardian, or Adoptive Family****
- **Family-identified natural supports**
- **Placement provider**
- **GAL**
- **Community resource person** →

**Unless parental rights have been terminated or relinquished*
***If one has been identified*


Note:
If age 14+ can invite a support person.

1+ should not be responsible for case management or service delivery

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The Role of the Team

- **Review of safety, risk, and well-being for children and well-being needs of parents.**
- **Ensure reasonable efforts are being made to achieve a safe, permanent home for the child.**
- **Review and update the Family Services Agreement.**
- **Establish recommendations for the court.**



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PPR Timeframes

- **Within 60 days of the child entering custody;**
- **Every 90 days thereafter throughout the life of the case; and**
- **When there is a recommended change in the permanent plan outside of the regular review schedule.**



Benefit of Quarterly Meetings

- **Increases focus on timely permanency**
(Permanency Outcome 1, Item 5)
- **Increases review and appropriateness of permanent plans**
(Permanency Outcome 1, Item 6)
- **Ensures concerted efforts to maintain family and community relationships for each child/youth**
(Permanency Outcome 2, Items 8, 9, and 11)
- **Supports ongoing assessment of the well-being for child/youth, parents, and placement providers**
(Well-Being Outcome 1 & 2)
- **Increases child and family involvement in case planning**
(Well-Being Outcome 1, Item 13)
- **Provides for a regular review of agency efforts to achieve permanency** *(Permanency Outcome 1, Item 6)*

Effective Case Planning

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Effective Case Planning

Family Services Agreements (FSAs) provide the framework for our partnership with families to address safety, risk, permanency, and well-being of children.

**An effective case plan:
Provides clarity through identification of the **what**, **why**, **when**, and by **whom****

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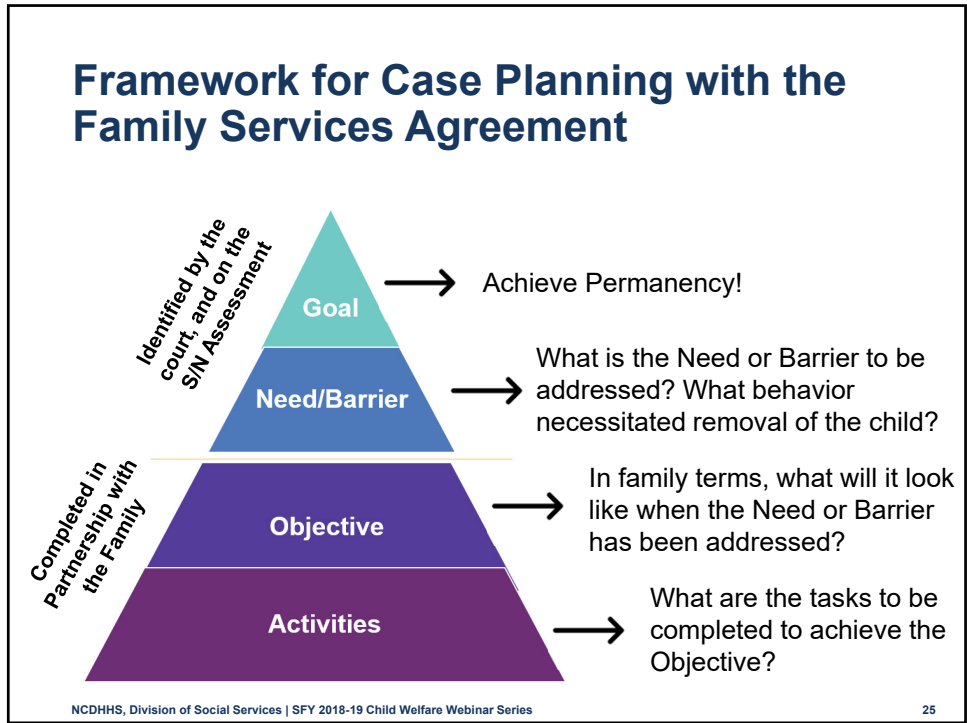
FSA Timeframes

- **Developed within 30 days of the child entering custody;**
- **Reviewed and updated within 60 days of the child entering custody; and**
- **Reviewed and updated every 90 days thereafter throughout the life of the case.**

★ **The FSA can be developed during a CFT, or individually with the family.**

Family Services Agreement

- **Indicates the reasons for county child welfare agency involvement;**
- **Acknowledges the family's strengths, resources, and commitment to the child;**
- **Documents progress on activities and behavioral changes; family-identified needs**
- **Documents well-being needs of the child(ren) and parent(s);**
- **Maintains the focus on the safety, permanency, & well-being needs of the child; and**
- **Serves as the framework for our work with the family**



The Family Services Agreement

Most importantly, development and review of the FSA involves the family and their identified supports in:

- **Creating objectives;**
- **Clarifying the expectations for behavioral change; and**
- **Identifying the activities to achieve those objectives.**

Who participates?

- **Parents/ caretakers**
- **Child/youth**
- **Natural support(s) identified by the family**

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Required Timeframes for FSA and PPR

Required timeframes are protocol = Must

When	What
Within 30 days of custody	Develop Family Services Agreement
Within 60 days of custody	1 st Permanency Planning Review & Family Services Agreement Update
Every 90 days thereafter	Permanency Planning Review & Family Services Agreement Update & TLP
Child and Family Team (CFT) As Needed	Change in case circumstances, example: potential placement disruption, anytime a family requests one

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- ## PPR Forms
- The FSA is documented on the ***Permanency Planning Family Services Agreement form*** (DSS-5240).
 - The PPR must be documented on the ***Permanency Planning Review form*** (DSS-5241).
 - The FSA can be updated during individual contact with the family or during a CFT.
 - But it is ***always*** reviewed during the PPR.
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Child and Family Team Meetings

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Child and Family Teams are based on the belief that family members should be key players on a strengths-based, solution-focused team that values the family’s voice and focuses on the child’s safety, permanency, and well-being.

— Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2013

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Additional CFT Requirements

For children in the custody of a child welfare agency, a CFT meeting must be held when:

- **There is a potential change in placement or there is a need to preserve the current placement;**
- **Family circumstances change and it is necessary to discuss the case as a team; and**
- **Any time the family or child request the team be convened.**

CFT Meetings:

- ★ **Include family, natural supports, & professionals**
- ★ **Have a clear purpose and goal**
- ★ **Engage the family**
- ★ **Involves the family and their supports in decision-making and planning**

Engaging the Youth and Family

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Family and Youth Engagement

Strength-based approach to making decisions, setting goals, and achieving desired outcomes that:

- **Encourages and empowers families;**
- **Supports partnership between families and child welfare professionals to develop solutions together;**
- **Promotes open and honest communication;**
- **Achieves timely permanence; and**
- **Increases the likelihood families will participate in services and complete service plans.**

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The Benefits of Family Engagement

- Family preservation
- Enhanced partnership
- Increased family buy-in
- Expanded options
- Improved quality and focus on visits
- Enhanced family decision-making skills
- More targeted services

Adapted from: *Family Engagement: Partnering With Families to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes*
<https://www.childwelfare.gov>

Key Elements

- Demonstrate respect for all family members
- Be consistent, reliable, and transparent with the family
- Actively listen to each family member
- Validate the significant role the family plays in planning and making decisions about their child
- Honor the cultural, racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious or spiritual backgrounds of the family, and respect differences in sexual orientation
- Awareness of one's own biases and prejudices about the family

Strategies for Engaging Families

- **Gathering and assessing information in order to understand the family system**
- **Identifying behaviors and conditions that need to change**
- **Matching strengths and needs with solutions and services**
- **Reviewing, tracking, and acknowledging progress regularly**
- **Determining readiness for transition, such as reunification**
- **Preparing for case closure**
- **Providing post-permanency supports to prevent re-entry**

Involving the Child / Youth

Active youth engagement in permanency planning is essential and includes ensuring the youth:

- **Is prepared**
- **Is actively involved in issues that affect them**
- **Is heard**
- **Feels safe**
- **Is part of the team**



Transitional Living Plans

For youth in foster care ages 14 and up, a Transitional Living Plan (TLP) is required.

- 1. Preparation:** youth are effectively prepared and empowered to make informed decisions
- 2. Support:** youth are provided with customized services and a network of supportive relationships
- 3. Opportunity:** youth are provided with opportunities that promote growth and development

Achieving Authentic Youth Engagement: Core Values & Guiding Principles <https://www.JimCaseyYouthEngagement.org>

Preparation and Pre-Planning Are Key


- Time and location
- Nature and purpose of the meeting
- Participant roles
- Identify supportive family members, friends, community partners, etc.
- Traditions and cultural considerations
- Special or unique circumstances

Family-Centered Approach

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Conducting a PPR Using a Family-Centered Approach

- Family-Centered Practice
- System of Care Values
- Principles of Partnership
- Pre-Planning



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Principles of Partnership	System of Care Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone desires respect • Everyone needs to be heard • Everyone has strengths • Judgements can wait • Partners share power • Partnership is a process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child and family involvement • Interagency collaboration • Cultural competence • Individualized strength-based care • Community based services • Accountability

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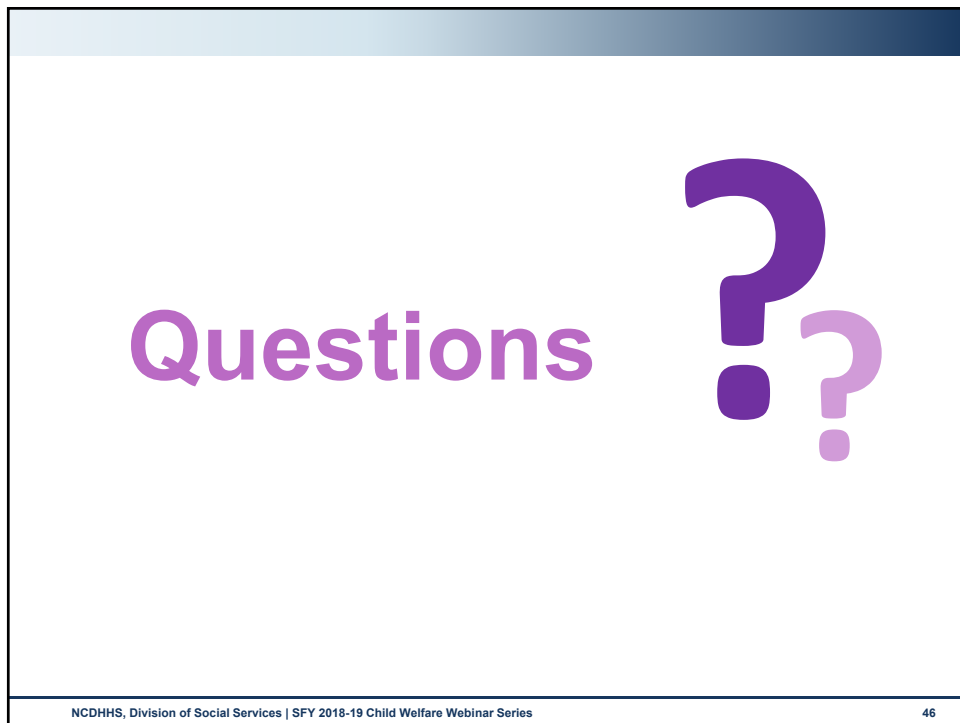
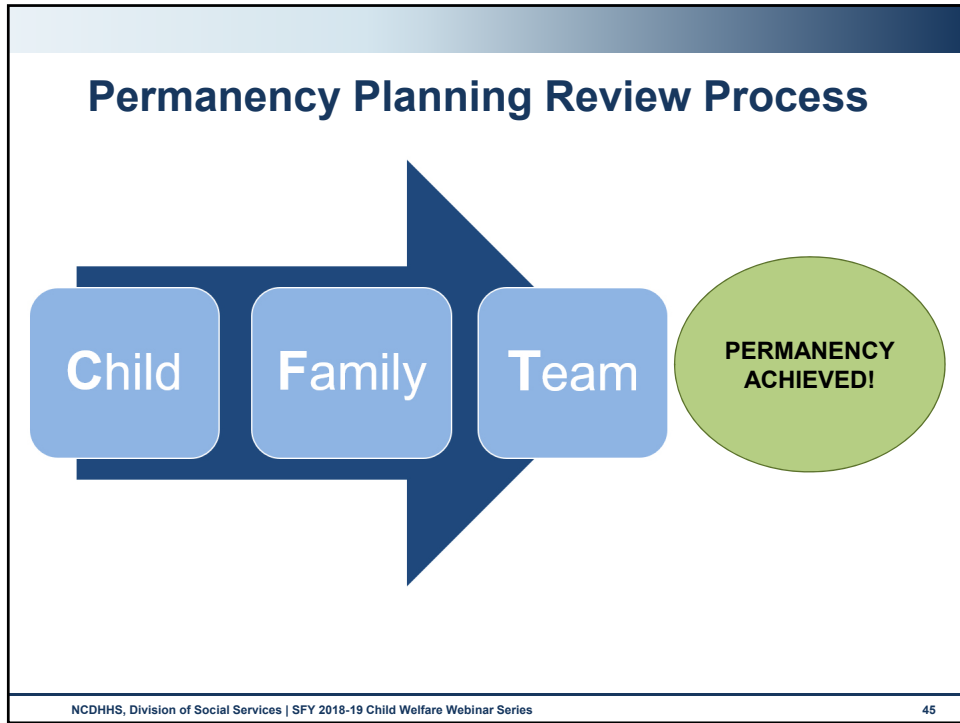
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Always Remember...

- **Families are experts about themselves.**
- **Families and community members should be partners in determining solutions and making decisions.**
- **Meetings should be set up in a way that fits with and honors the family's culture.**
- **Family-centered practice develops strengths, enhances potential, and empowers families to identify and resolve their own problems.**

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Resources

- **Family Engagement Inventory**
(<https://www.childwelfare.gov/fei/>)
- **Family Engagement: Partnering with Families to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes**
(<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f-fam-engagement/>)
- **Working with Youth to Develop a Transition Plan**
(https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/transitional_plan.pdf)

Contact Information

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Final Steps for County DSS Staff

1. Please take a brief survey

- We will provide link for those logged on
- Can also access thru ncswlearn.org

2. To receive training credit, you must “Complete Course” WITHIN ONE WEEK

- Log in to www.ncswlearn.org
- Select “PLP”
- Select “Webinars”
- Click “Enter”
- Click “Complete Course” button