# VISITATION MATTERS

J. CORPENING 2025 A/N/D AND TPR COURSE

### WHY DO WE ORDER VISITATION?



Because we are required to and because it's right.

### WHY DO WE ORDER VISITATION?

- Required by 7B-905.1 (or the reasons for no visitation)
  - Starting at nonsecure custody
  - Every order thereafter that continues placement away from parent
  - Including grant of custody or guardianship to relative or other
  - In person and must specify minimum frequency and duration
  - Electronic visitation: In re: K.B, A.M.H., M.S.H.
    - Not a substitute for in-person
    - Can supplement in-person (50-13.2 requirements)
    - Must make findings sufficient to deny visitation to order electronic only
- Parents' constitutional rights
- Children's need to see their parents
- Children need to see their siblings (if not placed together): 7B-505 and 903.1

Le z to Speech to Judge Another few months go by and you find out your dad got a girlsriend named Emily you want to meet her but you coult, they're to far aways Another few months pass and after A East dute your Allowed a Z day USIT. When you Arrive you run into your dads Arms And try to spend as much time getting to know or new Mam while hanging with dad and wi twin. Few Months Later another 2 day visit where you Bring decor to decorate your room a plan to like in I days Few months fater it scw in visit where you try ki Spend Every Second of the day with or family

### WHEN CAN WE STOP IT?

- Parent has forfeited his/her right to visitation
  - Circumstances?
  - Child victim in abuse case
  - Parent misconduct during visits
  - Parent repeatedly misses visits?
- It is in the child's best interests to deny visitation
  - Caution: don't jeopardize permanence
  - Last resort
  - Impact on child, parents, the case if visits limited or suspended
- Not for positive drug screen alone

## WHAT ARE SOCIAL WORKERS TAUGHT?



VISITATION MATTERS FOR PERMANENCE!

### AN HOUR A WEEK?



### **ONCE A WEEK?**



### **ONLY AT DSSP**



### SUPERVISED VS. UNSUPERVISED

- WHOSE DECISION?
- IMPORTANT STEP: MOVING THE NEEDLE.
- RYLANS LAW VISITS: 7B-903.1(c)
  - 2 OBSERVATIONS OF AT LEAST AN HOUR
  - AT LEAST 7 DAYS APART
  - WITHIN 30 DAYS OF DISPOSITION HEARING IF DSS RECOMMENDING
  - FOR UNSUPERVISED VISITS OR THP/PHYSICAL CUSTODY
  - ONLY REQUIRED ONCE

### RYLAN'S LAW VISITS

- WHY HAVE THESE VISITS?
- REQUIRED FINDINGS:
  - UNSUPERVISED VISITS
    - BEST INTEREST
    - MY RECOMMENDATION: IF IN HOME: SAFE HOME
  - THP/PHYSICAL CUSTODY
    - BEST INTEREST
    - RECEIVE PROPER CARE AND SUPERVISION IN SAFE HOME

### **SAFE HOME**

- 7B-101(19): NOT AT SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT
  - WHAT DOES "SUBSTANTIAL" MEAN
  - TRANSITION FROM SUPERVISED TO UNSUPERVISED MAJOR DECISION
  - LIFE/DEATH? (NOT SINCE REMOVAL DECISION)
  - WHAT DOES DSS LOOK AT?
    - SMOKE DETECTORS
    - BODIES OF WATER
    - GUNS
    - AGE-APPROPRIATE SAFETY-PROOFING
    - OTHERS

### NCJFCJ@ SUMMER CONFERENCE

- GOAL: PERMANENCE
- PERMANENCE AFFECTED BY VISITATION
- DOUBLING I HOUR TO 2 HOURS CAN BE SIGNIFICANT
- NHC: 12 MONTH MARK IN TRIAL: 14% INCREASE IN PERMANENCE IN A YEAR
- TOOK ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, BUT....

### **BE CREATIVE**

- OTHER SUPERVISORS (GET OUT OF THE BUILDING!)
  - RELATIVES
  - NON-FAMILY RESOURCES
  - OTHERS: EVERY FAMILY DIFFERENT
  - TIME AND FREQUENCY EXPANSION
    - 6 HOURS A DAY TOO MUCH?
    - OH, THE LOOKS YOU'LL GET!
- ADVOCATE: THE JUDGE GETS TO SAY!

### **BE CREATIVE**

- How about visits at court
  - Families while waiting for cases
  - Parents who are incarcerated who are brought to court (my evolution)
  - What can you do to facilitate?
- How about visits at jail/prison? (my evolution)
  - Lots of work being done around children of incarcerated parents
  - Coastal Horizons Program based in Wake County
- Why is this important?
  - Trauma informed
  - Tone of the case

### **BE CREATIVE**

- Intensive reunification program in NHC
  - Origin of the work: reunifying drug addicted moms with their NAS babies
  - Historic outcome in similar cases
  - Origin of our project
    - Bonding is the key
    - Key to parent's recovery
    - Key to reunification

### **IRP**

- INTENSIVE AND INTENTIONAL
- VISITATION ALMOST EVERY DAY
- CFT E/O WEEK WITH TEAM AND FAMILY
- ATTACHMENT V. BONDING
- MOTIVATES
- RESULTS:
  - ~55% TRIAL HOME PLACEMENT IN 5.5 MONTHS
  - COMPARETO **PERMANENCE** IN 12
  - GOAL?

### SAFE BABY COURTS (0-3)

### The Safe Babies Court Team™ Approach



ZERO TO THREE's SBCT approach applies the science of early childhood development in meeting the urgent needs of infants and toddlers and strengthening their families.

- The target population is children birth to three years of age under court jurisdiction, who are in foster care or at risk of removal, and their families.
- The goal is to advance the health and well-being of very young children and their families, so they flourish.
- SBCTs promote healthy early childhood development, support family resiliency, and build community capacity to prevent child abuse and neglect.



### SAFE BABY COURTS (0-3)

The Safe Babies Court Team™ (SBCT) Approach: Logic Model

Advancing the Health and Well-Being of Infants, Toddlers, and their Families



### Serving children 0 to 3 under court jurisdiction, in foster care or at risk of removal, and their families

### The Challenge

### Resources

### **Key Activities**

### Immediate Impact

The SBCT approach was designed to address critical child welfare and dependency court system problems:

### These systems do not address the urgent needs of infants, toddlers, and their families

- A one-size-fits all approach is not responsive to the developmental needs of infants and toddlers or the complex needs of their parents
- Infrequent court hearings and case reviews lead to insufficient oversight and responsiveness
- Systems are reactive, rather than preventive
- Lack of systems-level collaboration and problem-solving among key stakeholders, and no entity or individual responsible for leading this effort.
- Limited awareness among judges, attorneys, and child welfareworkers about best practices for Infants, toddlers, and their families

### Risk and protective factors are not adequately addressed

- Services and supports are not strengths-based and do not sufficiently build parental resilience, social connections, and parenting knowledge or skills
- Parents are frequently sidelined in their children's case planning, with limited opportunities to improve the relationship with their children
- Services and supports that address families' needs are inequitable and uncoordinated, leading to inaccessibility
- Services do not address the reasons children come into care, including parents' own history of early trauma
- Structural discrimination and implicit bias negatively affect families of color, resulting in dispartites and inequities

### The National Resource Center for the Infant-Toddler Court Program supports SBCT sites and states through:

- Technical assistance and training
- Facilitated peer-to-peer learning opportunities
- Data tracking and evaluation
- Advancing policies that promote and sustain the SBCT approach



### A state-level team supports SBCT implementation in states with multiple sites





### Local communities implement the SBCT approach. Key individuals include:

- Judge
- Community Coordinator: A new, dedicated, full-time position
- Child welfare agency decision-maker(s)
- Other system stakeholders including legal, health, mental health, early intervention, early education and care, and other community partners and leaders

### SBCTs provide structure for interdisciplinary, collaborative, and proactive teamwork:

- Judicial and Child WeFare Leaders: Model cross-system collaboration and drive improvement through new practices and policies
- Family Team: The Community Coordinator, parent, family and other supports, caseworker, anomeys, and service providers who work intensively to address child and parent needs
- Acute Community Team: Community partners who work collectively to reduce disparities and advocate for a continuum of services that address child abuse and neglect and promote child and family health and well-being

### As a powerful platform for cross-sector teamwork, SBCTs ensure:

### Enhanced Oversight and Collaborative Problem Solving

- Monthly review hearings
- Pre- or post-removal conferences
- Monthly Family Team Meetings

### Expedited, Appropriate, and Effective Services

- Systematic identification of needs through screening and assessment
- Timely prevention and intervention services for infants and toddlers, including early intervention and well-child visits
- Timely mental health, substance use disorder, health care, and parenting intervention services and concrete supports

### Trauma-Responsive Support

- A compassionate in and out of court climate that empowers and values parents in all interactions and promotes resilience
- Meneoring relationships and social supports for parents
- Frequent, quality family time (visitation; contact) to build and strengthen parent-child attachment
- Concurrent planning that emphasizes stable, nurruring relationships for the child

### Continuous Quality Improvement

 Data is collected and used to track SBCT implementation progress, child and family outcomes, and system improvements

### Children and families that participate in SBCTs will experience better outcomes:

### Attachment relationships are nurtured and protected:

- · Children at risk of removal remain with their family, as possible
- Fewer placement changes
- Shorter time to permanency
- Increased reunification and other positive permanency outcomes
- Prevention of repeat CPS involvement for child and/or siblings
- Parents remain a part of the child's life, as possible

### Early childhood development is on a healthy track:

- Child's development is improved
- Child has a medical home (preventive pediatric care)
- Injuries due to abuse and neglect are prevented

### Parent protective factors are strengthened:

- Capacity for nurruring, responsive caregiving is improved.
- Capacity to manage stress and functioning (resilience) is improved
- Parents know how to seek and receive support when needed
- Parents have supportive relationships and increased skills for establishing and maintaining social supports

### Long-Term Impact

### Over time, the systems- and capacity-building work of SBCTs contributes to:

- Increased coordination and alignment of early childhood preventive services
- Increased availability and accessability of services that address the social determinants of basish
- New policies/procedures at the state or local level that ensure equitable services for young children and families

### In turn, these improved social and environmental conditions will contribute to community-wide benefits, including:

- Lower rates of child abuse and neglect due to prevention
- Reduced racial disparity in foster care populations
- Improved child and family health and well-being outcomes

### WHY DO WE DO THIS WORK?

- Because permanence for children matters
- Because visitation affects outcomes for children
- Because all of our children are all of our children
- And because we care deeply about our role and our work
- And because of who we work for.....

and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution, insure domestic Franquitity provide for the The son , Mil Guestine From lowing weeks hall within a buy of the successful what were of the mention of the successful state of the successful was a successful of the successful of the successful was a successful of the successful o The total of the second state of the months of the months of the transfer of t No there where he are the second of the west warmen of the other hand and have any of the west.

It where where he are the second of the other was her had been a the head of the second and similar disk of which the first - many of the about the state of the Beauty than beauty the beauty of the Beauty of the had all a see to a chief and of the other makes be a last the see of a montered free free freed and they from you