

HomeFront Early Intervention & Outreach Program Community Agency

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1.0 Introduction

Aboriginal Resource Centre and HomeFront Early Intervention & Outreach Program (EIOP) share recognition of the impact of domestic conflict on all family members, the vulnerability of children in these families, and the high correlation between spousal abuse, child abuse, and animal abuse. As a result of these factors, more than one program or organization may have the same client. In these situations the goal of the interagency or linking protocol is to increase family capacity and the safety of all family members through the process of sharing information about the family's strength based assessment and/or any other factor identified for on going intervention. It is the goal of this document to develop and clarify interagency protocols.

2.0 Identification of Target Groups

1. Calls where children are present and/or vulnerable adults.
2. History of violence
3. Families/Animals considered at "high risk" of further escalation

3.0 Joint Information Sharing Guidelines

Aboriginal Resource Centre and HomeFront-EIOP all have guidelines outlining circumstances when confidential information may be shared between systems.

HomeFront EIOP Case Workers share information when sharing information is in the best interests of the family and/or will increase the safety of the community.

CRVC & FS-Family Enhancement Workers share information when it is determined to be in the best interests of the child(ren).

All family's will routinely be asked for permission to share information and/or informed that information will be shared and with whom. Release of information forms will be completed as required. However, where there is believed to be a child at risk, permission to release information is not required.

Case Workers, Agency Staff, and Family Enhancement Workers will routinely exchange information including the:

- Nature of the involvement
- Services presently involved
- History of services involved and outcome
- Information on risk to children
- Other

4.0 Case Management/Ongoing Integration of Case Plans

Integrated case plans between HomeFront, Agency, and Family Enhancement help to increase safety for families. Coordinate intervention plans and increase family capacity.

It is the expectation of the Agency, Family Enhancement, and HomeFront that organizations sharing clients will have regular collateral contacts, communicate on significant case events, and provide information on escalating or changing risk factors.

5.0 Payment of Costs Associated with Treatment

HomeFront will not pay the costs associated with intervention at any particular agency for a family. Agencies will utilize whatever means the family or agency has in place. HomeFront will on a case by case basis determine if the payment of services will be rendered by HomeFront.

6.0 HomeFront Guidelines for Interagency Contact

The HomeFront EIOP Workers will routinely contact CRVC & FS Family Enhancement with information that identifies children in need of services. Whenever possible,

information to the Family Enhancement will include the date of the home visit and the nature of the concerns.

When the Case Worker is not available, information significant to the EIOP may be left with the HomeFront Administrator and/or Supervisor of EIOP who will ensure that the Case Worker receives any relevant information.

The EIOP Case Worker will communicate the outcome of the strength based assessment with the Family Enhancement Worker when there is an open file.

In addition to the information routinely exchanged as outlined previously, Case Worker's share information including:

- Disclosures of risk to children
- Specifics of current Strength Assessment
- Name and address of family
- Current and past agency involvement and outcome.

7.0 Community Agency Guidelines for Interagency Contact

8.0 Calgary Rocky View Child & Family Services-Family Enhancement

Family Enhancement Workers may contact HomeFront EIOP Case Workers and Community Agencies when there is reason to believe there has been a domestic violence charge.

The Family Enhancement Worker will provide the EIOP Case Worker or Community Agency with the following information, whenever available or applicable:

- Name/Alias, birth date and address of the family
- Status of file
- Family functioning
- Supports and resources involved
- Recommendations regarding family

Information that is safety sensitive should be identified as such by the Family Enhancement Worker and handled appropriately.

