Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families (SPRF)

Overview

The Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families (SPRF) program (the “Program”) was created by the Oregon legislature with the goal of reducing trauma to children who are removed from their families of origin because of reasons of abuse or neglect and to resolve those issues by means of offering family-focused services starting at the assessment phase of the case and extending into aftercare services when children are returned home.

Services provided will be culturally-competent, evidence-based or evidence-informed, client-centered, and family-focused. Services will be both front-end intervention programs in the home and community to support and maintain in-home placement; and services in the home, community and with the foster parent, child and biological parents to support early reunification programs.

The overall goals of the Program are to safely and equitably reduce the number of children in the foster care system by reducing the length of stay in foster care, maintaining children safely at home with their parents or caregivers, reducing the re-referral and re-entry rates of families into the child welfare system, and increasing timeliness to permanency.

Procedure

- The SPRF outcomes appendix in OAR 413-053 provides information about all of the SPRF service types. The SPRF service types vary by county and district; therefore, not all SPRF services types are available statewide.
- For information about eligibility criteria, see OAR 413-053.

Service Referral Process

(1) Refer to your local branch protocol to identify SPRF services available, appropriateness of referral and referral process to include:
   (a) A supervisor approval; and
   (b) A DHS form 2099 (Release of Information) signed by a parent prior to service authorization.

Service Closure

(1) If SPRF has been referred, a family is receiving services, and the CPS assessment closes and a Department case is not opened or a Department case closes, refer to your local branch protocol for service closure and ensure the following happens:
   (a) The SPRF service provider must be notified within the same business day.
   (b) The SPRF service must close immediately or upon receipt of the closing report.
(c) An outcome of achieved, partially achieved or not achieved must be selected. This outcome is provided to the caseworker from the SPRF service provider using a written reporting method. The designated person in your local office must obtain verification of the outcome from the caseworker and select as the service closure reason in OR-Kids.

Note: When a dispute arises in regard to whether an outcome has been achieved by the SPRF service provider, after a discussion between the caseworker or supervisor and the SPRF service provider has occurred, if there is still a disagreement, the Department makes the final determination.

(2) Refer to your local branch protocol for opening an Admin Only case. When a CPS assessment has been completed, if a family has been identified as having a safe child and the family has moderate to high needs, a family is eligible to receive the following:
   (a) Family Strengths and Needs Assessment (FSNA); and/or
   (b) Any SPRF services that were recommended by the FSNA.

Flexible Funds

(1) See OAR 413-053
(2) See Flexible Funds procedure
(3) Refer to your local branch protocol for processing flexible funds invoices from the contractor.

Supervisor Role

- Provide consultation for appropriateness of referral for SPRF.
- Review service referral for accuracy and approve.

Forms and References

- OR-Kids Referral form CF 6710
- ROI form DHS 2099
- SPRF/ISRS/SOC Guidelines
- OAR 413-053