New Hampshire
Division for Children, Youth & Families
Practice Model
Safety ♥ Permanency ♥ Well-Being

Beliefs and Guiding Principles

SUNUNU YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

Division for Children, Youth and Families
Department of Health and Human Services

Prevention reduces child abuse, neglect and delinquency and promotes safety for children, youth, families and communities.

- Restorative Practices promote prevention by building strong communities.

- We intentionally create a proactive environment to prevent reactivity.

- Our system creates a culture that fosters opportunity for youth and families to successfully maneuver through life by making healthy life decisions.

- We partner with families and communities to develop plans for youth to successfully and permanently integrate back into their community.

Everyone deserves to be safe.

- Our priority is the safety of youth, families, staff and communities.

- Utilizing a team approach, ongoing safety and risk assessments are used to promote the safety and well-being of youth and families.

- Staff safety must always be supported and promoted.

- Youth individual needs for safety are provided through proactive and timely interventions and resources.

- We take a proactive stance to achieve safety through communication, individualized treatment and effective discipline.

All children and youth need and deserve permanency.

- Permanency planning begins immediately and is on-going.

- It is our responsibility to support youth in their efforts to promote, preserve and strengthen long-term connections.

- Restorative Practices are used in an effort to repair harm and promote

positive relationships within families and communities.

- Family and community engagement is used to provide opportunities to connect youth with their family, community and achieve permanency.

- To achieve timely permanency, there must be respectful collaboration among all participants in the child welfare system.

Everyone needs and deserves a life of well-being.

- We recognize that youth and families need a nurturing healthy environment to achieve their potential.

- We support opportunities for children, youth and families to have "normal" life experiences.

- We help to preserve a youth's connections to family, friends, neighborhood, community, faith and culture in all possible situations.

- We use evidence-based practices to improve the quality of services to youth, families and communities.

- We provide accredited educational and transitional services that meet the individual needs of youth.

- We provide therapeutic treatment based on best practices that meet the individual needs of youth and families.

Everyone deserves to be treated with courtesy and respect.

- We use open and honest communication and teamwork that leads to productive outcomes.

- We recognize that the cultural and ethnic roots of youth and family are a valuable part of their identity and use this knowledge to help us understand and communicate effectively with them.

- We communicate with empathy, respect and professionalism.

- We listen to children, youth, families, communities and staff to ensure their voices are heard, valued and considered.

All children, youth and families have strengths.

- We recognize that families and individuals have the capacity and ability to make positive changes in their lives.

- We share responsibility with the family and youth to help them identify their strengths and needs.

- We acknowledge that family members know the most about their own families; therefore, we seek to maximize family strengths through consistent engagement and communication.

All children and youth belong with family.

- We actively promote family visitation and communication to empower, remove obstacles and improve the quality of family relationships.

- We support connections between youth and relatives.

- We partner with families and encourage phone calls, visits and other activities that support family connections.

- We never deprive youth of their family contact as a consequence.

- We explore, promote and maintain family and community connections