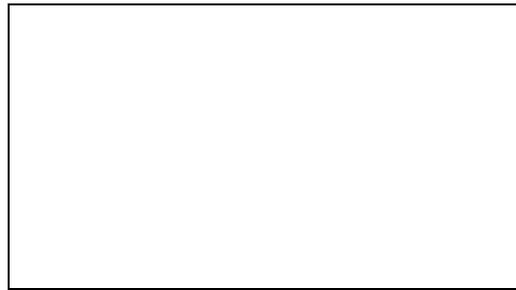


## We believe...

- Behavior change and the work of change is a part of our daily challenge.
- Safety for children is achieved through positive protective relationships with caring family and community members.
- Meaningful decisions require close family participation in decision making.
- Strengths of families and supporting these strengths contribute to life-long permanent relationships for children.
- Families' success depends on community involvement and shared problem solving.
- Practice with families is interrelated at every step of the casework process.
- Sustainable success with families is the work of a team.
- The entire system must support frontline practice to achieve positive outcomes with families.
- Every staff position, role, and activity of the Division shows continuous effort to build and maintain professionalism.
- Skill-based training and consultation forms the foundation for successful practice with families.
- Quality improvement and accountability guide all of our work.
- How we do the work is as important as the work we do.



For more information about services available through DHS-DCFS or if you know of anyone who is in need of services, please contact:



Help make a difference for a child or a family by: being a mentor, foster parent, tutor, parent mentor, adoptive parent, transitional living sponsor, and much more by contacting the number above.



Arkansas  
Department of Human  
Services  
**Division of Children and  
Family Services**

**Care**  
**Commit**  
**Connect**



*Together for Arkansas  
Children and Families*

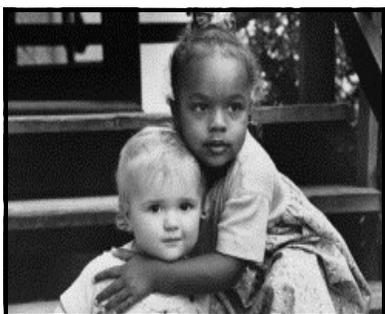
**PUB-406**

**(R. 12/2014)**



## DCFS Mission Statement:

Our mission is to keep children safe and help families. DCFS will respectfully engage families and youth and use community-based services and supports to assist parents in successfully caring for their children. We will focus on the safety, permanency and well-being for all children and youth.



The Arkansas child welfare practice model describes all of our efforts to renew our work with families and aligns us more readily with our division's mission. It reflects our goals, our principles, our casework process, our daily interactions and our decisions. It is not spelled out in any single document. Instead it is increasingly a part of everything we do and is reflected in every document we write and use.

The practice model is the way our systems work together to serve children and families.

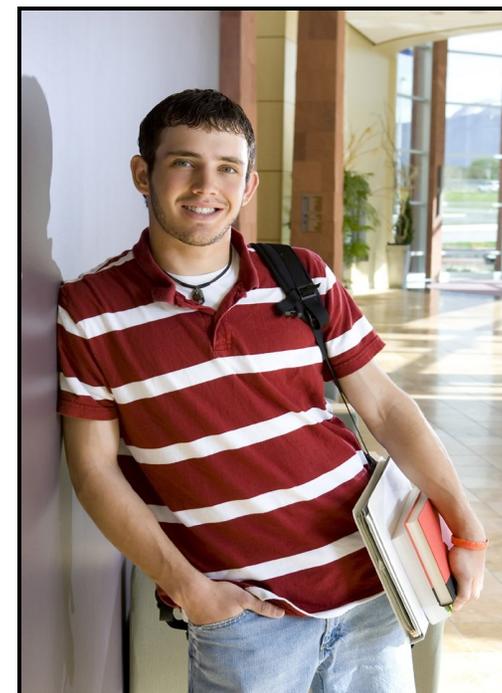
## Practice Model Goals

Our practice model unites our casework process with an approach that values and supports families at every step of a family's encounter with our system. The goals of our practice model are:

- Safely keep children with their families.
- Enhance well-being in all of our practice with families.
- Use foster care and other placements as temporary services to help achieve reunification.
- Use permanent placement with relatives or other adults, when reunification is not possible, who have a close relationship to the child or children (preferred permanency option).



- Ensure adoptions, when that is the best permanency option, are timely, well-supported and lifelong.
- Ensure youth have access to an array of resources to help achieve successful transition to adulthood.



## Principles to Guide Best Practices

Along with our goals, we support the practice model by looking for ways to incorporate the principles on the following page under "We Believe" into every encounter we have when working on behalf of families.