

Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families

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Vision

As active members of the community, we share a vision that all children, youth and families reach their fullest potential in a safe and nurturing environment.

Mission

It is the mission of DCYF to assist families with their primary responsibility to raise their children to become productive members of society.

We recognize our obligation to promote, safeguard and protect the overall well-being of culturally diverse children, youth and families and the communities in which they live through a partnership with families, communities and government.

Guiding Principles

To fulfill our mission, we believe that:

- ◆ the family, community and government share responsibility for the safety, protection and well-being of children.
- ◆ when the natural family is unable to care for a child/youth, it is our responsibility, in as timely a manner as possible, to ensure the child/youth is provided permanency in his/her life in a safe, stable and nurturing environment.
- ◆ staff, foster parents and service providers are partners in the provision of timely and appropriate high quality care.
- ◆ an integrated continuum of care should emphasize prevention over intervention, reflect a partnership between family, community and government and be culturally relevant.
- ◆ partnership requires open, honest and respectful communication fostering an awareness of the quality of services and clear and agreed upon authorities and responsibilities.
- ◆ staff at all levels should be held accountable to a professional code of conduct.
- ◆ as an invaluable resource, staff are entitled to a safe, supportive work environment that fosters professional development.
- ◆ quality improvement is an on-going process, utilizing external and internal performance standards.