

# The Building Blocks of HSA



## Recruitment and Training

The Recruitment and Training unit conducts all initial training. After completion of initial training this unit remains as an ongoing support to you. This team also does recruitment for children that are looking for their forever home.

## Licensing Worker



Licensing workers ensure your home is safe prior to becoming licensed and as you renew your license or have updated information about your home. They are a large support for you. They can answer questions you may have or help with any difficulties you may face. You will have constant contact with your licensing worker to include if anything changes in your home, if you need/provide respite, and/or when receiving placements.



SAFETY

## Assessment Worker

Assessment workers are the initial caseworker. Their job is to investigate child abuse and neglect. Assessment workers typically only have a case for a few weeks before it is transferred to a permanency worker. During that time, they are gathering information and attending court hearings. They will be conducting home visits at your house where they will meet with you and the child alone. As the investigation goes on, the assessment worker will continue to gather information, so be sure to continue to ask questions about the child and their case.

## Family Engagement Center



The Family Engagement Center (FEC) is a safe place for birth families to enjoy family time together. You are an essential part of family time. The first visit there will be an "icebreaker." During the icebreaker there will be an engager to help facilitate the conversation between you and the birth parent. This is a great time to build upon the co-parenting relationship that started during the comfort call. This is also when ongoing visitation schedules are made. We want our resource parents to attend visitation and be a support to the child and birth family. If you are unable to attend the whole visit, there needs to be a warm handoff before and after every visit. Contact your engager if there are any issues with the visitation.



## Permanency Worker

Permanency workers are the ongoing worker. Their job is to work towards reunification and ensure child safety. They work with you, the birth family, the child, and community providers. During the time they are working with the family, they develop case plans with the parents, attend court hearings, and ensure the child's needs are met. They will be conducting home visits at your house where they meet with you and the child. They will also ask questions about the child's medical appointments, school needs, as well as how visitation is going. Ongoing communication with the worker is an essential part of the success of the case. Keep in constant contact with updates or any difficulties.

## CASA/ Child's Attorney



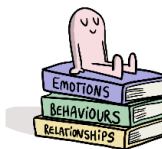
Every child has an attorney, but not every child has a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). The child's attorney advocates for what the child wants. The CASA does as well, but prioritizes advocacy for the child's best interest. Child's attorneys and/or CASAs will be in contact with you as well as the child in your home. They may come to your house, the child's school, and may have visits with the child. Expect calls close to any upcoming court hearings. The child's attorney makes decisions on whether the child needs to appear in court.



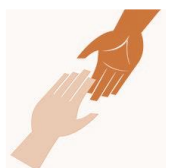
## Court

The first court hearing is the Protective Custody (PC) hearing. You and the child will not attend this hearing. The second hearing is the Adjudication hearing. You and the child will not need to attend. The third hearing is the Dispositions (Dispo) hearing. You should make this a priority to attend. The judge may ask you questions regarding the child and your interactions with the parents. There will be a hearing at least every six months that you should also make a priority to attend. You will receive notice of all court hearing in the mail which will include a form to fill out if you are unable to attend. Ask your case worker about any questions you may have about court.

## Clinical Unit



HSA has a clinical unit that works to address the well-being of children and/or their parents or caregivers. The clinical unit can be a support to you and provide strategies when challenges arise. They are able to do crisis response, placement stabilization and support, parent trainings, individual therapy, couples/family therapy, and group therapy as well as referrals to community providers. If you are in need of our clinical team please reach out to your caseworker, licensing worker, and/or QPI Liaison.



## QPI Liaison

The Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) Liaison is committed to continuous quality improvements and the implementation of new policy and procedures. The QPI Liaison is a neutral party with whom you can have open and honest conversations regarding any difficulties that arise throughout the life of the case. The QPI Liaison is a support to you that can also answer questions, advocate, and facilitate team meetings to help address any concerns. The QPI Liaison can also help identify trainings or resources that may be beneficial.

## Medical Unit



The Washoe County Human Services Medical Unit is located at the Children's Advocacy Center at 2097 Longley Lane. Next door to the Kids Kottage. Our medical staff are able to see any and all of our children who are in foster care. Every child that comes into care should be seen by the medical unit. Make sure you call to set up an appointment within 24 hours. Medical Unit: 775.284.2763.