Planning the Home Visit: Two Case Studies

Instructions: Read each case and identify steps you might take in each category to prepare for the next home visit:

Case #1
Tammy is the single mother of daughters, aged 2 and 4. The children were placed with her sister four weeks ago, during the investigation, because of neglect, primarily resulting from dependence on Percocet. This is the first time she has been separated from her children; she misses them terribly. Terry is ashamed that her children have to live with her sister and is determined to “kick” her Percocet problem. She claims she is ready to do whatever is necessary to get her children back.

Purpose of the Visit: Discuss/review ongoing activities of the case plan; support the parent’s involvement with substance abuse treatment.

Note: you will likely discuss other issues as well, such as her children’s adjustment to living with her sister. However, for the purposes of this training, we will narrow our discussion to substance abuse treatment.

What are possible parental responses?

What agenda Items would you have?

What background data would you gather?

What tools/resources would you gather?

What logistics should be in place (e.g., scheduled visit, alone or family)?

What safety issues should be considered?

How would you prepare yourself for the visit?
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Case #2: Eddie, is the single father of Michael, aged 8. Michael has been in foster care for two months. Eddie had over-disciplined Michael, out of frustration with Michael’s severe hyperactive behavior. Eddie recently changed his mind regarding medicating Michael, and the medication is working fairly well. Eddie has a collaborative relationship with the foster parents who have helped Michael learn to better manage his behavior. Eddie has also attended parenting classes and demonstrates appropriate behavior management methods during supervised parent-child day visits which have gone well. The first overnight visit is scheduled for this weekend.

Purpose of the Visit: Preparing the parent for an overnight visit with the child.

*Note: There may be several purposes. However, during this training, we will limit the discussion to preparing for an overnight visit.*

What are possible parental responses?

What agenda Items would you have?

What background data would you gather?

What tools/resources would you gather?

What logistics should be in place (e.g., scheduled visit, alone or family)?

What safety issues should be considered?

How would you prepare yourself for the visit?