

Family Crisis Intervention (FCI):

The program provides an immediate response to family assault/domestic violence cases. The aim of the program is to provide immediate services to the family to assist and address, where applicable, the safety issues, anger issues and stress level experienced by the youth and the family. For families accepted into the program, 24 hour assistance will be provided in addressing issues that arise which have the potential to develop into volatile situations. Coping strategies and alternative ways to respond will be addressed. Two major keys to success in the program are the **entire family's involvement** and **program counselor assistance**.

The program will start immediately with the referral from court. When the client and family feel safe, an intake will occur at the Crisis Intervention Home or Westhaven Boys Home with the entire family present. The youth will remain in the Crisis Intervention Home or Westhaven Boys Home for a minimum of 72 hours while the family and counselor complete a safety contract and house rules are developed. The youth may need to stay in the Crisis Home or Westhaven longer than 72 hours depending on when safety measures can be put into place. The youth will then be allowed to return home for one or more day passes to see if the family can be reunited without further incidents of violence.

FCI is an intervention to prevent further court involvement and to help the family develop different responses to crisis situations that will not result in physical violence. A counselor will visit the home four or more times a week, including weekends. A counselor will also be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for support and interventions during a family crisis. Alternative services will be explored and implemented to help the client and their family maintain success in dealing with any crisis that may develop. We know that no person is more important in a child's life than the parent. We do not assume parental responsibilities, but counselors are there to assist. Family meetings are very important to help move toward success. Success in all areas of your child's life can lead to less involvement with the court. A final assessment and recommendations will be provided before the court date. It is the program's goal that the youth will be successfully released on the court date.

Important Points for FCI

- (1) Emergency placement in a less secure facility via an open Shelter Care Order. The Family Crisis Team will then have the capacity to place the client back in the less secure facility if warranted.
- (2) The family will have a meeting with the crisis intervention counselor within 24 hours of court.
- (3) The home and family situation will be assessed with the expectation that the youth will be

returned home in the shortest time possible. The minimum stay at the less secure facility will be 72 hours. Return home will only occur if a satisfactory safety plan can be developed and signed by the family members.

- (4) The counselor will continue to work with the case after return home to develop an assessment of the youth's and family's needs and provide linkage to services in the community and other case management activities. In addition, the counselor will provide frequent monitoring of the family's progress and provide guidance on avoiding and resolving conflict. The client and/or family will be seen a minimum of four times weekly including weekends. There will also be 24 hour availability in case of emergencies. It is anticipated that the case will remain active until the court hearing six weeks after placement on the original petition or until a date mutually agreed upon by the family, the Family Crisis Team and the Court Service Unit.
- (5) During the youth's transition back to his/her family it is recognized that the situation may again escalate to the point where another short removal from the home is necessary. If the assigned counselor determines that return to the less secure facility is needed, then the placement will be made under the authority of the original Shelter Care Order. If the counselor does not believe he/she or the family can safely transport the child safely, the police will be called to assist.
- (6) A final assessment and recommendations will be provided before the court date.
- (7) It is the anticipation of the Family Crisis Team that the client will be successfully released from the program on the court date. However if the progress of the client and family is not satisfactory an extension of services may be requested by the Family Crisis Team and/or the court service unit.