Launching A Care Team For Adoptive Families

Advocates often wonder whether they should establish Care Team for adoptive families in their church. Yes! Adoptive families face similar adjustments and struggles much like foster families. As long as the adoptive family desires to be supported, the support of a Care Team is very appropriate!

# Launching a Care Team for a Foster-to-Adopt Family

* Generally, foster-to-adopt families are served similarly to a foster family.
* The vetting requirements for volunteers may differ depending on whether Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) has already occurred or is still in process. Check with each agency for their specific requirements.
* We usually “close” the Care Team when the adoption is finalized or when the family has been served for at least six months.
* In the month following the “closure,” it’s helpful to offer four frozen meals to ease the transition.
* If a foster-to-adopt family is rather large or seems to be struggling, the Care Team may remain “open” as long as the family seems in need and volunteers are willing.

# Launching a Care Team for an Adoptive Family

* Once children are adopted, background checks are no longer required for Child Mentors.
* Adoptive parents must know or approve all Child Mentors in their Care Team.
* Generally, we serve adoptive families for about six months, unless more support is needed.
* There are instances when an adoptive family may need the support of a Care Team years after their adoption. Behaviors resulting from trauma may take time to surface, suddenly complicating the family’s life. Feel free to put a Care Team in place to surround an adoptive family that is struggling.
* Although a Foster Family Volunteer Orientation is geared to volunteering for foster families, much of the material still applies to adoptive families and is applicable training for volunteers serving adoptive families.
* Simply mention that the training is geared toward fostering, as a “disclaimer,” before showing Fostering Family Orientation videos.
* When supporting a large family, sometimes it is better to create a team with eight Family Helpers, rather than the usual four, that can provide *two* meals per week.