

## Determine the Phase Activity Answer Key

### Example #1

The Moreno family has been receiving post-adoption services since finalizing the adoption of a teen youth. During this time, there has been no indication of emotional distress. Mr. and Mrs. Moreno express continuing delight about the progress the youth is making in school and her physical development. Service providers all report that the youth has made significant progress to the point that they are prepared to wrap up service provision. The family agrees with this assessment and notes that they are ready to move forward without agency help.

#### Answer:

- Worker: Assuming that the Moreno family has had the same caseworker throughout the casework process, the worker would be in the Ending/Transition Phase.
- Family/Case: Since the adoption process has been finalized, continues to be successful, and the family believes that they are prepared to move forward without agency assistance, the case is in the Ending/Transition Phase.

### Example #2

Jim was recently hired as a new caseworker in the General Protective Services (GPS) unit. He has been assigned to work with the Thompson family, who has been receiving GPS services for lack of supervision of their pre-school children for the past two (2) years. Another referral was received over the weekend alleging that there is no food in the house. Jim needs to go out to the house to verify the food supply and to meet the family for the first time.

#### Answer:

- Worker: This worker has not yet met the family for the first time. He is in the Preliminary/Preparatory Phase. Upon meeting the family, Jim would be in the Beginning/Contracting Phase.
- Family/Case: Since their case has been opened for two (2) years with the agency and have not yet been made aware of the new allegations, the family is in the Middle/Work Phase. When Jim makes contact with the family, they will re-enter the Beginning/Contracting Phase due to the need for a re-assessment based on the new allegations. The family, along with the caseworker, will have to develop a new understanding of the situation and re-contract concerning how to move forward.

## Determine the Phase Activity Answer Key (cont'd)

### Example #3

The Ying family has met with you, the assigned caseworker, on one (1) other occasion. You went to their home to assess whether or not General Protective Services (GPS) would be needed to assist them in meeting the special needs of their newborn, who was diagnosed with Down's Syndrome. The hospital had referred the family after Mr. Ying expressed regret that the child was "defective" and a girl. He had been hoping that his first-born would be a son. The Ying's have been living in your community for only a few months, having come to the county through a Hmong resettlement program.

Mr. Ying assured you that his family did not need services and that he would take care of any problems. He agreed to call the local Office of Developmental Programs to enroll the baby in Infant Stimulation Services, but a check with that office, four (4) weeks after the visit, indicated that no call had yet been received. A check with the local medical clinic indicated that the Ying's also missed the first well-baby check-up last week.

### Answer:

- Worker: The worker is in the Beginning/Contracting Phase because the family has not formed a plan and has not yet agreed to be a client.
- Family/Case: Mr. Ying does not seem to have agreed wholeheartedly to be a client of the agency and to receive services. His lack of follow-through indicates his reluctance. This case is in the Beginning/Contracting Phase.

### Example #4

As a new caseworker in the Placement unit, you have been assigned to work with the Alexander family. Your supervisor tells you that the Alexander family has two (2) children in kinship care, living with their maternal aunt. They have been in care for the past eleven (11) months.

The parents continue to struggle with maintaining their sobriety and meeting the objectives on their Family Service Plan/Child's Permanency Plan. Mr. Alexander recently lost his job after his third Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrest caused him to lose his license and he could not find a ride to work. Mrs. Alexander has been attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and keeping all of her appointments with her rehabilitation counselor. She has been sober for three (3) months, but recently, her anxiety has increased and she was arrested for disorderly conduct after fighting with the manager of the apartment complex when he threatened to evict them for being behind on their rent.

Mrs. Alexander expresses anger at Mr. Alexander for continuing to drink and for his recent arrest. She has threatened to leave him and to try to create a more stable environment so the children can come home; however, she has not made any steps in this direction. The aunt has stated that she would be willing to provide a stable home

## Determine the Phase Activity Answer Key (cont'd)

for her sister's children, but she is not interested in adopting them. Your supervisor asked you to contact the Senior Adoption Worker to arrange a home visit to discuss permanency planning with the Alexander's.

### Answer:

Worker: The worker is new to this family, so is in the Preliminary/Preparatory Phase.

Family/Case: The Middle/Work Phase. This case represents one of the challenges of child welfare casework, in that the family is at a different stage than the worker due to the family transitioning from one worker to another. *Assuming that the caseworker discussed the concept of concurrent planning with the family during the Beginning/Contracting Phase and concurrent plans have been developed and implemented, the goal may change (i.e. reunification to adoption/PLC); however, this does not mean that the phase changes.*

### Example #5

You are an investigative worker in the Child Protective Services (CPS) unit. You received a referral on the Cleaver family. A local schoolteacher reported that Mrs. Cleaver's six (6)-year-old son, Nathan, went to school today with apparent bite marks on his hand. The bite was severe enough that it broke the skin and left a large bruise in the bite area. Nathan complained that he was not able to complete his schoolwork due to the pain associated with the bite. Mrs. Cleaver is a stay-at-home mother. You attempt a home visit at Mrs. Cleaver's residence. You knock on the door, she answers. You introduce yourself as the children and youth services investigator assigned to this case. Although resistant at first, Mrs. Cleaver allows you in the home to conduct an investigation.

### Answer:

Worker: Some participants may say that the worker is wrapping up the Beginning/Contracting phase due to the fact that the worker just established an informal contract with Mrs. Cleaver to conduct an investigation/do the work. Part of this rationale is that the worker has not yet moved into the Middle/Work phase. Others may take the perspective that the worker is in the Middle/Work Phase because he/she has an informal contract with Mrs. Cleaver to conduct an investigation/do the work. Both approaches can be correct, as long as participants can explain their rationale.

Family/Case: Mrs. Cleaver is in the Middle/Work Phase because she entered into an informal contract with the worker to allow him/her to conduct an investigation/do the work.