



CROSSNORE

communities for children

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CROSSNORE

continuum of care



- Clinical Services** therapy for children and families
- Family Preservation** critical support to strengthen families in crisis
- Homebuilders Support** evidence-based intervention to prevent family separation
- Bridging Families** safe homes and family supports to reduce risk and unite families
- Foster Care** temporary safe and stable homes for children who have experienced trauma
- Youth Independent Living** building independence for youth aging out
- Adoption** loving and stable homes for children who need permanency

Why Professional Parenting?

- No other service sector relies on volunteer labor
- Children with trauma need and deserve specialized, professional support
- Availability of volunteers will not meet the need (population growth 9th most populated state and growing)
- Labor issues – wage and hour challenges
- Outcomes (reunification, life outcomes, education, wellbeing etc.)
- Sustainability for a system in crisis

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BRIDGING FAMILIES

A Pathway to Reunification



*We believe children
belong in resilient family
systems.*

*Mission: Help families
heal and grow healthy
relationships to together.*

Foundation of Philosophy

Equitable access to services:

- Parent support correlates with reunification success (Rockhill et.al. 2015)
- Revamp model of foster care - supporting families toward reunification
- Reduces stress of reunification process on families with improved access to services

Improved child mental health:

- Increase visitation results in improved child mental health (McCoy et.al. 2010)
- Broad placement support network can reduce need for higher levels of care
- Improved family system functioning can lead to faster, more sustainable reunification

Enhanced and increased family visitation:

- Sibling placements increase likelihood of reunification
- Collaborative visitation models show better outcomes
- Extensive/supported visitation in a home-like setting can support families toward reunification

Family resiliency built toward reunification success:

- Live coaching to transfer parent skill building
- Enhanced parental support/mentoring is associated with increased likelihood of reunification
- Planned and supported transitions during process to promote success

Whole Person Care: Supports for Families

- Well-being:
 - Behavioral Health/Medical/Dental services
 - Educational and Recreational opportunities
- Curriculum/Therapeutic Services
 - Evidence based parenting skills curriculum
 - Enhanced and extended family time with live coaching and support
- Permanency Plan Focus
 - Whole family engagement toward reunification
 - Team collaboration (DSS, Crossnore team, GAL, etc.) to guide families through reunification process



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Bridging Families Staff

- All Staff are trauma informed in our agency wide model
- Full time, live-in the home Bridge Parents (Professional Foster Parents)
 - Paid salary, benefits, housing/family expenses
 - Trained Foster Parents, additional enhanced training
 - Triple P
 - TBRI (Trust Based Relational Intervention)
- Dedicated Case Manager and Clinician
 - Evidence-based child and family therapy

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Bridging Families Program Structure

- Bridging Families “flexible” phases structure
 - Focus on
 - Skills needed to reunify
 - Transfer learning parental skills
 - Building Protective Factors
 - Mitigating Risk factors
 - Attachment/Bonding
 - Family Days
 - Incremental increase in family time
 - Clinical support during transition home
 - Team Recommendations drive process
 - Court orders, social workers/GAL input



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Bridging Families Program: Other Notes

- If Permanency Plan changes
 - Work with other identified permanency plan options
 - Relative, adoption, etc.

Currently:

- Working with research team from Baylor University on a study assessing effectiveness of the program
- Seeking additional funding support from private/grant funding sources
- Available to meet with individual DSS teams to discuss program if desired

If any DSS's have current or previous foster families who might want to transition to this program, please reach out to me. We need them in all three regions.

Bridge Homes

- **Triad/Winston-Salem Campus**
 - Strickland Commons
 - Home 1-Open (State pilot)
 - Home 2-Open (State pilot)
 - Home 3-Open later this spring
 - Future Home 4 and 5, TBD
- **Western Region**
 - Polk County Home
 - Future Home - TBD
 - Henderson County Home
 - “Homes for Youth” Home - open
 - 2nd “Home for Youth” Home-tentative

- **High Country/Mountains**
 - **Avery Campus**
 - Atwell House - currently open
 - Belk House - currently open
 - Petti House - currently open (state pilot)
 - **Mitchell County**
 - Phillips House-Open





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A Pathway to Reunification



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What need to happen next?

- Change in mindset – the old way will not get us there
- New licensing regulations (3rd option)
- Sustainable payment streams (blended child welfare and Medicaid funding)
- Advocacy (with legislature, with LME/MCOs)
- Better decision matrix for who goes to what service, not just availability (children need the right service at the right time)
- Start-up funding

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Questions

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