Principles of Partnership



Everyone Needs to Be Heard

- Giving each party an opportunity to speak or contribute to the conversation
- Listen with intent to understand
- Summarizing what a parent said for validation and to make them feel heard
- Making eye contact when someone is speaking
- Acknowledging that behavior change is difficult
- Attorneys should tell parents that the judge wants to hear from you so don't be afraid to speak up when asked if you have any questions or anything to add

Everyone Has Strengths

- Begin with positive progress
- Acknowledge parent's progress and what is going well
- Ask parent if the have anything additional to share
- Mention we hope to hear about additional progress and accomplishments at the next hearing or meeting
- Discuss next steps for parent to work on

Partners Share Power

- All stakeholders should be working together
- The judge is not the only partner in power
- All partners are supporting change and want to hear about the parent's progress
- There is a shared vision to help parents so children can be reunified
- Child welfare proceedings should be a rehabilitative environment, similar to drug court.

Everyone Desires Respect

- Address each parent individually by name
- Use a calm tone of voice
- Be patient if families have questions about the CHIPS court process
- Speak directly to the parent instead of through their attorney
- Involve parents in discussions to ensure they understand

Judgments Can Wait

- Don't jump to conclusions
- Try not to assume the worst
- Ask what happened? What has been going on?
- Encourage honesty so we can help you
- Try to understand what happened or what else the individual is facing
- Acknowledge their struggles and offer solutions

Partnership is a Process

- Explain the next steps of the CHIPS court process
- Emphasize progress will be monitored at upcoming court hearings
- Keep in contact with the social worker
- Don't be afraid to ask for help or support
- Reiterate the 3 main priorities that each parent should be working on
- Asking if parents need anything to get started on their conditions
- All stakeholders are here to help