

The PACE Program – Supporting Healthy Transitions

Outline of Service



The purpose and mandate of the *Supporting Healthy Transitions* program is to reduce the emotional impact on children and families when there is a plan for a child to move from one family to another. The program is steered and guided by an Advisory Committee comprised of Team Leaders from the Ministry of Children and Families (MCFD), Family Services of Greater Vancouver, and the PACE Child & Family Society (The PACE Program).

PHILOSOPHY OF SUPPORTING HEALTHY TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

When children move homes, challenges can present themselves that can cause significant emotional stress and pain which can impact the family's functioning. Through the guidance of the PACE Family Counsellor providing strategic and emotional support to all parties, capacity and connection is promoted. By nurturing the development of sustainable relationships between the families, the goal is to support the attachments that have formed. Close collaboration with both MCFD workers as well as other related professionals is an essential component of this service.

ABOUT SUPPORTING HEALTHY TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM:

- To support the child / children's attachment needs.
- To facilitate communication and connection between the homes both prior to the child/ren moving, as well as for a period thereafter.
- To provide support around grief and loss to the children moving as well as to the foster family.
- To increase collaboration between the systems surrounding the child.
- To support, in collaboration with other services, appropriate resources being in place to support the transition (e.g., childcare, counselling, housing).
- To provide support or consultation to MCFD workers and other professionals.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Support and counseling to the families involved.
- Joint sessions with the foster parents and birth/ adoptive/foster parents/ extended family (i.e., the family the child is transitioning to).
- Liaison with Social Worker, Resource Social Worker / Guardianship Worker.
- Liaison with other professionals involved.
- Collaboration with, and consultation to, MCFD workers and / or professionals involved.



REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

The referral is made through an MCFD social worker. Please note the following requirements for referrals:

1. There must be an open file with the Ministry of Children & Family Development.
2. The date of transition should be within 3-6 months. We recognize that transition plans change and delays may occur – exceptions to the timeline are reviewed by the Advisory Committee. Where there are repeated delays, service may be put on hold. If the transition is within less than 2 months, the service components may not be as extensive.
3. Children should be 12 years and younger (exceptions to be reviewed by Advisory Committee).

REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS – CAREGIVERS:

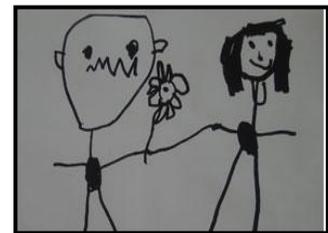
Although a key element of The *Supporting Healthy Transitions* program is to support communication and collaboration between homes, we may provide support to only one family if the other is not interested in participating.

A. Birth Parent/s (of child/ren in foster care):

- Are visiting regularly with child/ren and complying with the expectations around the transition plan.
- If needed, have a mental health support plan and/or a substance abuse support plan in place in order to access the program.
- Ideally, have had counselling during period of apprehension.
- On-going specialized supports are in place, if needed.
- Ideally, have interest in ongoing contact with foster home.

B. Foster Parents have:

- An openness or interest in learning more about ongoing connection with the incoming family.
- A desire to stay connected to the foster child.
- Ideally, and if applicable, a willingness to have both foster parents involved.



C. Adoptive Parents have:

- A belief in the importance and value of continued contact for child with foster home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE REFERRAL PROCESS,
please call PACE at: (604) 266-3141 or visit our website: www.thepaceprogram.ca

SERVICE DELIVERY

- Service provided is client driven and determined based on identified needs and goals established. All foster, birth, adoptive parent/s and extended family engaged in the program receive an orientation package to the PACE Program as well as this outline.
- All foster, birth, adoptive parent/s and extended family interested in participating in the Supporting Healthy Transitions Program are expected to sign a “*Consent for Services*” where details of service options are defined.
- During and at the end of service, foster, birth, adoptive parent/s and extended family, as well as MCFD staff and other professionals involved are invited to complete a “*Satisfaction Survey*”. This input helps PACE improve services provided to children, families and the community. Thank you in advance for your feedback and participation.

LENGTH OF SUPPORT: Is not time limited but rather guided by the identified needs and requests of clients served, as well as PACE resources available. Generally, service utilization ranges from 3 months to 1 year.

TIME OF SUPPORT: Is coordinated in collaboration between the families and the PACE Family Counsellor.

COST: Service provided is free of charge to clients. It is fully funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

SERVICE AREA: Referrals from Vancouver and Richmond MCFD offices.

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

The PACE Program is committed to providing a caring and supportive environment for children and families. We respect the right of all children and families to be heard, updated and involved in the planning and decisions affecting them. Parents / guardians are encouraged to raise any questions, concerns or complaints about the services or our procedures. We also support individual’s right to raise concerns about actions or decisions impacting them.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

- All clients are encouraged to first talk with the PACE staff person directly to try and find solutions. If you prefer, you can put your request for a meeting in writing and note who you would like to attend (including any support person you choose to invite).
- Should speaking to the staff directly not be possible or not be satisfactory, you can also present your concern to the *Program Director, Barbara McEachern* or to the *Executive Director, Michele Aderem*.
- Please also see “*Agency Overview*”, available on PACE website for more details.

