



The PACE Program

Supporting Healthy Transitions Program Outline of Service

AREA: *Vancouver Aboriginal Child & Family Services Society*
VACFSS

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. Service to families connected to VACFSS is on a contract basis, and the type of service is defined by VACFSS Team Manager/s.

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 VACFSS 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 VACFSS workers and other professionals.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Support to the child/ren moving.
- Support and counseling to the families involved, primarily in the community / home.
- 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, VACFSS workers and / or professionals involved.



REFERRAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE:

The referral is made through the VACFSS Team Manager / VACFSS Social Worker.

Please note the following requirements for referrals:

1. There must be an open file with the VACFSS.
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 VACFSS Team Manager. 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 VACFSS Team Manager).

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) / Family (of child/ren in foster care): *where applicable*

- Ideally specialized supports, including counselling, are in place, if needed.
- If needed, have a mental health support plan and/or a substance abuse support plan in place.
- Ideally, have interest in ongoing contact with foster home.

B. Foster Parents have:

- Knowledge of the child's cultural community.
- An openness or interest in learning more about ongoing connection with the birth / extended family or adoptive family (as appropriate).
- 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:

- An interest in the importance and value of continued contact for child with birth / foster family (as appropriate).

REFERRAL INFORMATION / CONTACTS:

- **For more information about the referral process:**
 - 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*”.
- At the end of service foster, birth, adoptive parent/s and extended family, as well as staff and other professionals, are offered our “*Service Feedback*” form, which provides an opportunity to give direct feedback / comments / suggestions about their experience with the program.
- These participants are also invited to complete a “*Satisfaction Survey*” at any point during the service, and at the end of service from PACE. This input can be anonymous. This information helps the PACE Program 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

SERVICE AREA: Referrals from VACFSS service area.

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, Barb McEachern* or to the *Executive Director, Michele Aderem*.
- Please also see “*Agency Overview*”, available on PACE website for more details.

