



Family Finding Model

Family Finding Model: Finding Permanence and Lifetime Connections for Disconnected Youth

Preparation and Approval Process: Gain permission and the necessary collaboration to proceed with Family Finding

Discovery: Discover at least 40 family members and natural supports for the youth

Engagement: Engage at least 12 adult family members and natural supports to begin planning and attend a family meeting (called Blended Perspective)

Blended Perspective: Facilitate a family meeting that is focused on having participants share their different perspectives about the youth, and reach consensus on the youth's biggest unmet need which is expressed in a "Big Unmet Need Statement"

Decision Making: Facilitate a Decision Making Meeting which uses the "Big Unmet Need Statement" to create a plan of action and backup plans (ABC plans). Gain commitment of people to be part of youth's lifetime network.

Evaluation: Evaluate the plans made in Decision Making to make sure that the plans are safe, realistic, sustainable and strong enough to meet the identified needs

Follow Up Supports: The youth's lifetime network is assisted in identifying and accessing needed services and supports for the youth, so that the plan can be maintained.

Family Finding Outcomes

Outcomes of Family Finding

Youth and Family level:

- Youth have a decrease in loneliness and isolation, and have an increase in hope for the future
- Youth have an increased understanding of their families and themselves, including knowing their own story and knowing more about their family's health history
- Youth have an increased number and strength of connections with supportive family members and natural supports
- Youths' needs for connection and permanency are met through plans that are developed, implemented and maintained by the Lifetime Network
- Families experience healing and restoration through reconnection with their youth

Systems level:

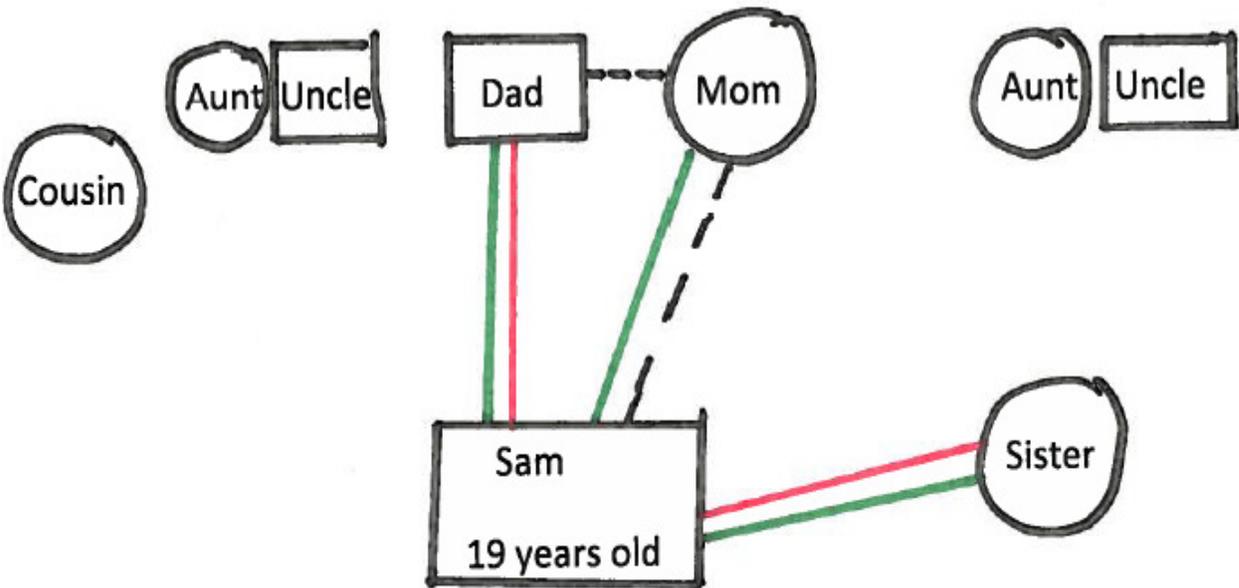
- Alignment with public agency goals and values (e.g. youth having permanency, safety, wellbeing; recovery, inclusion, living at home and in the community, etc.)
- Near-term cost savings (youth are discharged from higher levels of care (more expensive) to lower levels of care (less expensive) and in some cases leave care altogether (no cost))
- Long-term cost savings (youth who have strong connections have reduced likelihood of ending up unemployed, homeless, hospitalized or incarcerated)

Definitions:

- **Family members:** People of any age who are birth family members, adoptive family members, and other "family-like" people, such as in-laws; unmarried partners; step-families; half-sibling's families; people who have lived with close family members; godparents; close neighbors and friends who are considered "like family."
- **Natural supports:** Adults who are not considered family members, but have taken a special interest or caregiving role in the youth's life, such as former foster parents, teachers, church members, coaches, staff members from previous placements, etc.
- **Lifetime Network:** Adult family members and natural supports who have committed to being involved with the youth in a supportive role for the foreseeable future.

CONNECTEDNESS MAP

DISCONNECTED YOUTH

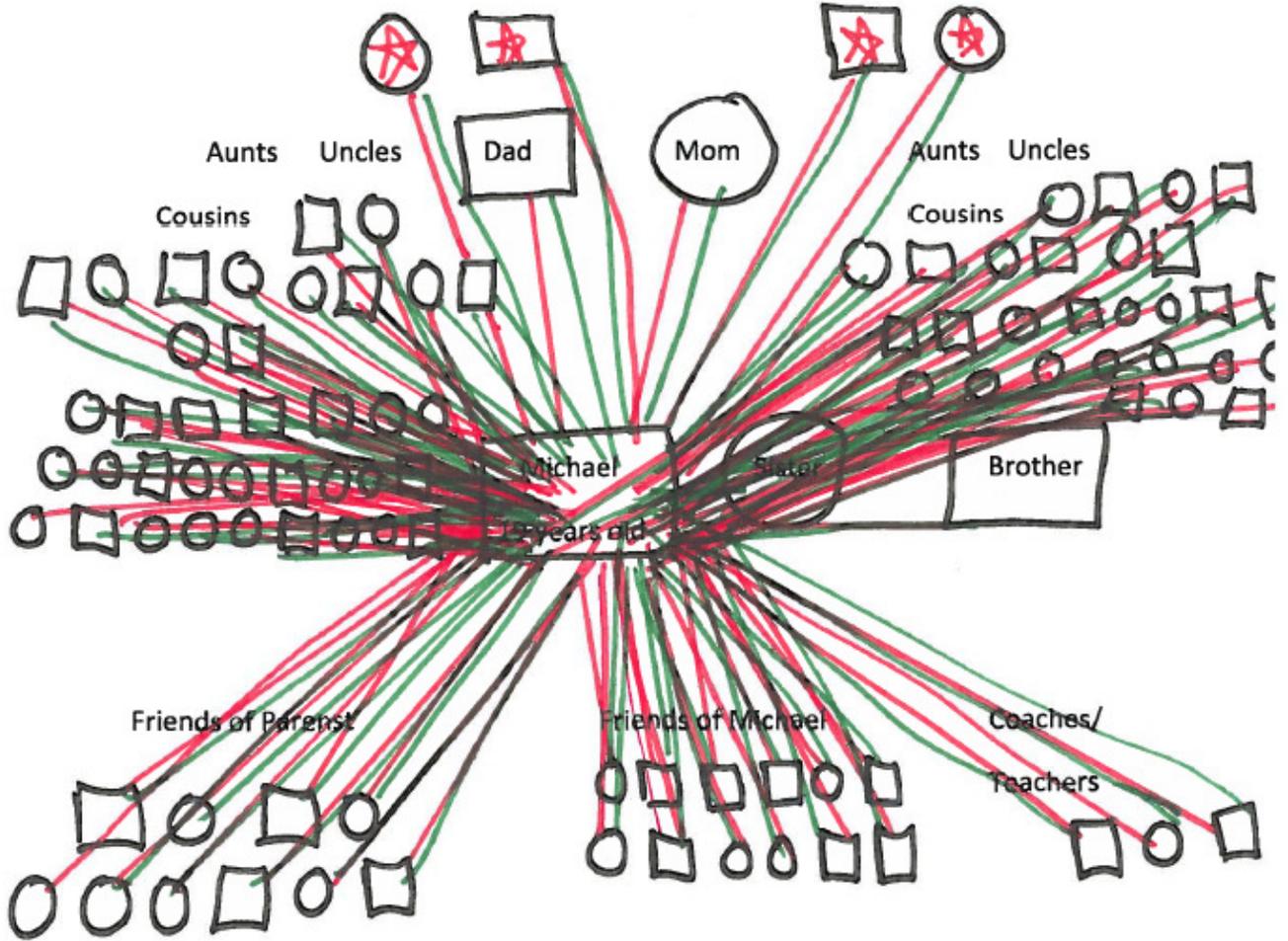


CONNECTEDNESS MAP

NORMATIVE YOUTH

Paternal Grandparents

Maternal Grandparents

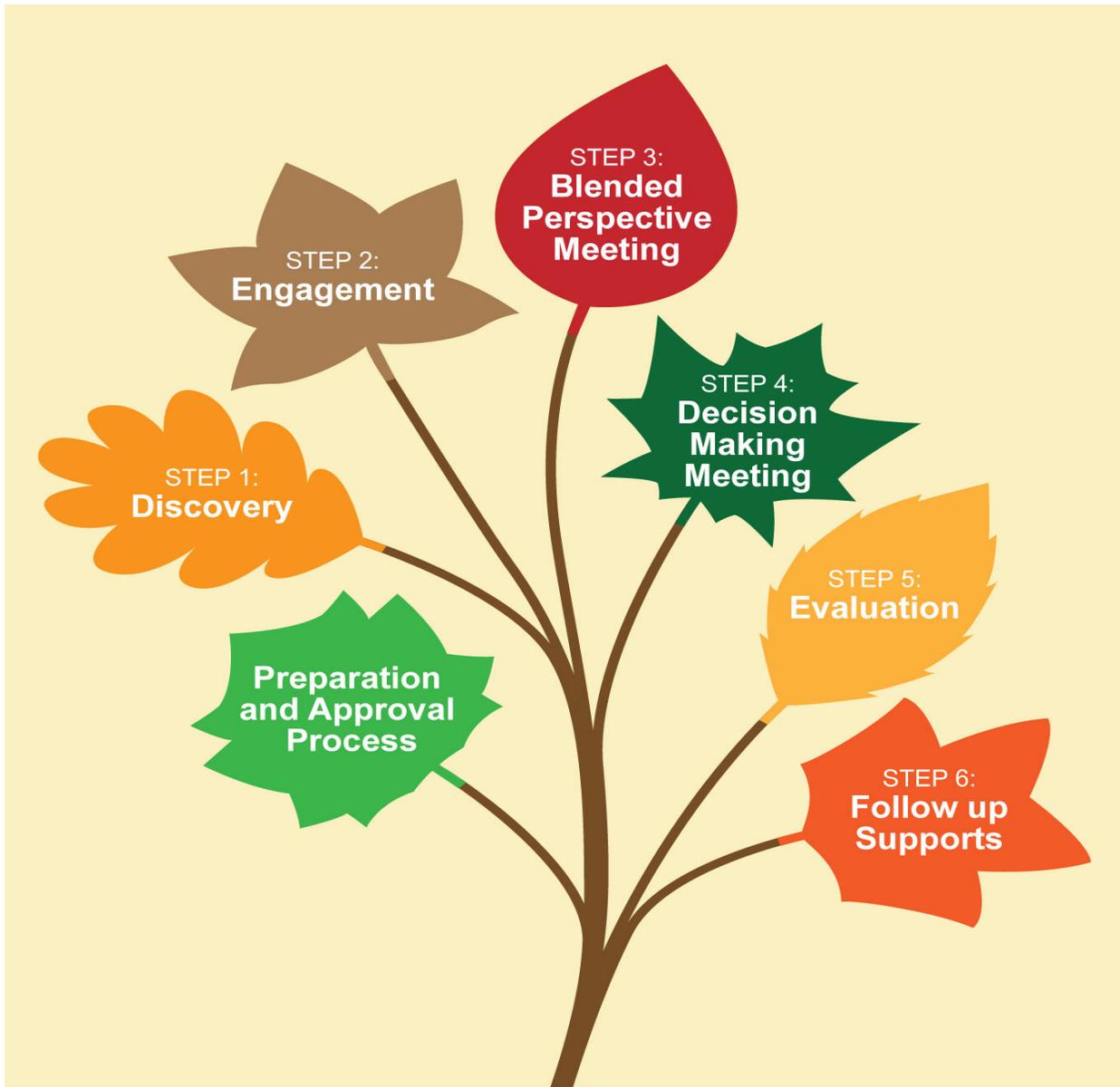


Example of a Mobility Map with symbols



"We started Mobility Mapping and Chris said he didn't remember anything about where he had lived over the years. I handed him the marker, asked him to draw the first home he did remember, and suddenly his memory was sparked. It was an amazing process and we got a lot of information from the Mobility Map."

- County Caseworker



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