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Types of Practice Change		
Aspects of Practice	Examples of Changes	Comments & Descriptions
1. Information collected at intake/ with referral/ in initial phase of assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ collecting more background information,</li> <li>▪ more aware of adoption issues, using new assessment questions and procedures</li> <li>▪ Greater comfort asking adoption questions</li> </ul>	<p>“Doing a more intensive intake and referral attempting to gather more information on trauma history, contact with birth family, adoption adjustment, etc.”</p> <p>“I have a better sense of all the information needed during the intake, referral, and initial phase of treatment. A better sense of the complexity of these cases reflecting the adoption triad.”</p> <p>“My awareness of adoption dynamics is heightened and has informed my process of referring.”</p> <p>“I am using a more thorough assessment tool with families and children.”</p> <p>“Comfort and openness to ask more detail questions about adoption.”</p>
2. Methods used to assess family and/or child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ conducting more in-depth assessments</li> <li>▪ using new assessment tools</li> </ul>	<p>“Added a new set of questions related specifically to permanency/ adoption.”</p> <p>“More thorough assessment of trauma issues and grief and loss issues.”</p> <p>“Use of genogram more often in assessment.”</p>
3. Clinical approaches used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ greater understanding of evidence-based approaches</li> <li>▪ placing greater emphasis on loss and grief</li> <li>▪ use of new tools</li> </ul>	<p>“Firm on need for parent to be involved in treatment.”</p> <p>“I am more insistent to go back and start where the child left off developmentally and teach parents how to see the child at the developmental stage rather than the chronological.”</p> <p>“I have more emphasis on grief, loss, and attachment within my therapeutic process, due to this program.”</p> <p>“Increased use of eco-map and lifebooks.”</p>
4. Techniques used in work with children and youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ much greater use of life books and other strategies taught in the training</li> </ul>	<p>“Get the child involved in his lifebook and narrative story of his/her journey through adoption.”</p> <p>“I’ve been doing more ‘hands on’ activities in therapy with kids I’m working with, i.e., loss boxes and masks.”</p> <p>“Writing letters to biological parents.”</p> <p>“Open to EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy) and neurofeedback.”</p> <p>“Learned new strategies, activities. My tool belt is busting with new ideas!”</p>
5. Use of or referral to other (adjunct) resources/ therapies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ placed greater importance on other therapists being adoption-competent</li> <li>▪ more likely to employ other types of interventions</li> </ul>	<p>“We are trying to encourage therapists in the community/regionally to participate in TAC to increase the overall adoption competency and capacity of therapists regionally.”</p> <p>“I am making more referrals to multisystemic therapy (MST) programs. I am educating myself more on neurofeedback and EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy).”</p> <p>“Utilizing more therapies and doing more referrals to another adoption competent individuals.”</p>
6. Changes at organizational level – procedures, services, programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ strengthened intake protocols</li> <li>▪ adding parent and youth support/education groups to services offered</li> <li>▪ creation of post-adoption specialist positions within agencies</li> </ul>	<p>“The content and details of the questions on the intake/referral packet have been adjusted accordingly.”</p> <p>“In my private/group practice, we are in the process of developing and implementing groups for both adoptive parents, as well as adoptees.”</p> <p>“Training, support groups, pre-adoptive counseling; programmatic and systems changes.”</p> <p>“Adoptions groups for teens and children are being implemented.”</p>