



## **SOLUTION-BASED CASEWORK** will Empower Families to create Safe, Healthy, Connected Homes for their Children

Over the last several years, the NJ Department of Children and Families has been a national leader in offering child and family services that strengthen families in a way that helps them to stay together, safely.

In the division's work, it is important for families to gain trust in the caseworker, the division, and the process.

**Solution-Based Casework** is an evidence-based, family-centered, case practice model that will help the family team organize, prioritize, and document the steps they will take to help re/build safe, healthy, and connected families. It requires workers to be partners with the families they serve, as well as with the providers of the services families need the most.

Complex family issues require customized approaches. Families encounter many struggles, systemic barriers and a lack of resources that can impact their behavior and decisions. Often, it's the stress of poverty, lack of childcare, unstable housing, or unresolved trauma.

**Solution-Based Casework** breaks down every situation to its most basic elements to determine the challenges, and develops – with families - useful and meaningful actions to resolve them.

Since January 2022, all families involved with DCF's Division of Child Protection and Permanency are supported by caseworkers trained in **Solution-Based Casework**.

### Goals

1. To yield a workforce better connected to the families they serve
2. To establish a standardized method and more uniform case planning practice
3. To partner with families and create a strong network of supports designed to help them thrive
4. To create a partnership with families based on consensus
5. To focus that partnership on the patterns of everyday family life that directly relate to threats to safety, and
6. To target solutions specific to the prevention skills needed to create safety and reduce risk

# NJ DCF SOLUTION-BASED CASEWORK FLOWCHART

