Guiding Principles for Ohio’s Alternative Response Pilot Project

Child safety comes first, and all policies, guidelines and practices are both child centered and family focused.

ALL CPS INTERVENTIONS

- CPS emphasizes engagement of families in strengths and needs discovery while attending to root causes and behavior which interfere with child safety.
- Child safety is best achieved through active, collaborative and respectful engagement of parents, family, community and all other CPS stakeholders.
- When families cannot assure child safety, it is necessary for the agency, courts, community, and/or extended families to make appropriate efforts to provide protection.

Alternative Response SPECIFIC

- Families screened into the child welfare system and identified as eligible for Alternative Response have the opportunity to make an informed decision to participate in Alternative Response or be served by the Traditional Response.
- Families are more easily engaged in a partnership when the labels of perpetrators and victims have been removed.
- Alternative Response systems are designed to identify family needs and find creative solutions, including informal supports and formal services.
- Child protective agencies should respect family choices in the selection of services.