

**Villa of Hope**

**General Counseling Program**

**Program Description**

The General Counseling Program at Villa of Hope provides home-based services to families who have been identified as having children who are at risk of foster care placement or CPS involvement due to unmet parent or child service needs. The program is voluntary and families must want to participate in services. Traditionally these services have included individual and family counseling, parent skill training and education, and some casework services. Families are helped in areas such as: life skills, parenting, managing a household, interpersonal relationships, decision making, and accessing community resources. The program is now utilizing three evidenced based models for our parent skill training. They are Parents as Teachers (ages birth-3), Parenting Wisely: Teen Edition (ages 11 and up), and Parenting Wisely: Young Child Edition (ages 3-10). Individualized plans of care are developed by the family and other supports the family would like involved. Goals are established based on identified needs and solutions. Services are tailored to each family’s needs. Families are helped to meet their basic needs and are often referred to other services that can assist with this (ex. Food pantries, clothing banks, housing resources, etc.) Families are helped to develop and expand their informal support networks.

**Philosophy**

The Villa of Hope’s General Counseling Program operates within the Sanctuary Model that promotes and supports positive change in clients, their families and the team through integrating trauma theory and creating therapeutic communities, which provide safety for both clients and the staff who work with them. Families and providers establish respectful, family-centered relationships that facilitate collaborative and productive service planning and delivery.

Goals are established based on the families identifying unmet needs of the parents and children, and solutions or action steps are developed based on strengths and choice of the family and team. Building a network of informal and formal supports for the family are integral to the worker’s engagement strategies. Within the framework and plan developed by the family and team, workers also provide services directly, that include individual and family counseling, parent skill training and education, and casework and advocacy services.

**Goals of General Counseling Program**

* To Prevent out of home placement of children in foster care
* To prevent child abuse and neglect (as measured by absence of indicated CPS investigations)
* To enhance parent and child functioning as identified in team goal