**FTDM Transition Planning Guide**

**INTRODUCTORY/LOGISTICS**

Does everyone agree that this transition should be prioritized with the child in mind?

How much time do we have until this transition has to/should happen?

On what date should we make the actual move?

**RELATIVE SEARCH**

Have we considered (and looked for) additional family members instead of foster care?   
  
  
Has an additional round of relative searches been conducted?  
  
  
  
Have we done background checks?

**CHILD MOVE PREPARATION**

How are we introducing the adults to each other? (ie, new caregivers to the old ones)?

How, when and where and how often should we introduce the new caregivers to the child?  
*(Should be on the child’s “home turf” to start, gradually progressing to overnights at the new caregivers.)*

How can the child’s parents be involved in assisting their child with the move?

What does the child’s therapist say about how to help the child transition to the new placement?

How and when are we letting the child know about the move?

What are we using to pack the child’s belongings in?

Who should help/be present when assisting the child with packing up their belongings?

What does the child want to know about we’re they’re going?

What does the child want the new caregivers to know about them?

How will the child remember the previous caregivers as they move into the new home? (sight, smell, feel or hear)

How will the current caregivers “send-off” the child?

**DAY OF THE MOVE**

Who’s taking the child to the new home?  
*(Should be old caregivers)*

Who will be present during the hand-off?   
*(old and new caregivers, parents, SW? GAL?)*

How will the old caregivers say goodbye?

Who should help in unpacking?

How can we all support the child’s transition and (perhaps) grief?

How does the kid get to say good bye to their friends and important adults?

**AFTER THE MOVE**

Where will the first visit take place between the old caregiver and the new caregiver?  
*(should occur within 3-5 days of the move, and at the new caregivers location (not at the old place!))*

What about previous caregiver subsequent post-placement visits/check-ins with the child?

How can the new caregivers keep in contact with previous caregivers about questions they might have about the child?

Are the old caregivers willing to provide respite care after the first few months following the transition (*but not too soon—that may confuse the child!*)

What about school? Has a best interests determination been made about the child’s schooling?

Who else needs to be notified/told about the move?