

TRY-AGAIN HOMES, INC.
TRUANCY INTERVENTION PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Truancy Intervention Prevention Program (TIPP) is a countywide interagency effort to assist schools and families with issues of truancy. TIPP is a voluntary program that currently serves students and families from Bentworth, Beth Center, Canon-McMillan, Charleroi, McGuffey, Ringgold, Trinity and Washington School Districts. The target population includes students in elementary, middle and high schools, between the ages of 6-16 years old. TIPP assists schools by identifying students who are having problems with truancy, meeting with students and their families in order to assess the problem, and providing the family with support and other services to help the students to attend school regularly. This program is funded under a contract with Washington County Children and Youth Services.

In addition to traditional services offered through TIPP, the summer program consists of individual sessions and outings focusing on issues that often result in truancy such as self esteem, social skills, peer and family relationships, and anger management. The target population for the summer program includes students between the ages of 6-16 who were at high risk for involvement with Children and Youth Services at the end of the school year. The main objective for the summer program is to reduce the dropout rate, truancy, and disciplinary actions against the students who participate in the program.

Goals of the Truancy Intervention Prevention Program:

- To assist schools and families with truancy problems.
- To assist schools and families with referral to community support groups and agencies that will assist with truancy issues.
- To assist and advocate for the rights and welfare of children and families in the community.
- To help prevent families from entering systems such as the County Children and Youth Services and the County Juvenile Court System.

Truancy Intervention Prevention Program Procedures:

- At the beginning of the year, the principal will designate a school attendance committee or designee. This committee or designee will meet weekly with the TIPP advocate to collaborate, identify, and refer students to the program due to truancy issues.
- When a student is referred to TIPP, the TIPP advocate will request from the school any available demographic information, current attendance records and/or copy of all attendance letters/citations/petitions etc. that may have already been mailed to the family.
- The TIPP advocate will contact the County to determine if the family is currently receiving case management services. If the family is active with the County, the TIPP advocate will notify the school and TIPP will take no further action.
- The TIPP advocate will mail a letter requesting a parent conference at the school regarding the referral and indicating the date, time and location of the parent conference. A follow up phone call will be made to determine if the family can attend the conference or need to reschedule.
- During a parent conference, an assessment will be completed to determine the cause of the child's truancy. If the family does not attend the conference, the TIPP advocate will mail a second letter to the family indicating his/her efforts to contact them concerning their child's attendance. The letter will inform the family that TIPP is attempting to resolve their child's truancy issues and prevent involvement by the County Children and Youth Services.
- A bi-weekly TIPP committee meeting will be held to discuss the issues of the family and determine the best course of action to help resolve the truancy issues. The TIPP committee is comprised of a TAH advocate, a WCCYS representative, and a school representative. All members must be present for the bi-weekly meeting.

- If the child continues to have excessive absences, a Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP) meeting will be scheduled as the final preventative step prior to referring the child to Washington County Children and Youth Services. The goal of a TEP is to have the child, at least one legal guardian, a school official(s) and a WCCYS representative(s) come together to develop a plan in order to help the child succeed in regularly attending school. The TIPP advocate will schedule and notify all participating parties for the compliant families. The TEP meeting will be conducted by the assigned TIPP advocate. For non-compliant families, the school is required to schedule and conduct the TEP meeting.

To obtain additional information please contact the following:

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