2.1c Initial Planning
Family’s Vision

1. You have listened to the family’s story and have gotten a sense of their concerns, strengths and resources.
2. Now ask the family what their life would be like if everything was going well.
3. The recorder writes this all down like one would during a brainstorming session without adding or deleting anything.
4. Remember that everyone on the team helps to facilitate the process. Team members listen to what is said and watch to make sure the recorder gets it all. If the recorder misses something important ask the individual to wait a moment while it gets clarified and recorded.
5. The key is for everyone to get a clear picture of what the family’s vision for the future is.
6. If the family gets stuck, you can ask open-ended questions to move the process forward. If you could have things be just the way you wanted, what would they be like? If you could wave a magic wand and make everything better, what would it look like? Can you remember a time when things were going just the way you want them? What was it like then?
7. Now go over all that was said and recorded. Look for themes that were similar.
8. The recorder groups all similar items. This can be done in various ways. The recorder can use a different color marker pen to circle similar items or the similar items can be pulled out and re-listed together.
9. Now take each grouping of similar items and write a sentence to represent the essence and content of each group of items.
10. Now write a paragraph with all of the sentences. This paragraph is the family’s vision.
11. Now from the vision you are going to create a “bumper sticker vision.” This is something that is easy to remember and that can be written at the top of family plans. It can keep the group focused because of its simplicity. “Home of the Smith family where everyone enjoys working and playing together!” The bumper sticker Vision can be written up and brought to each meeting and posted on the wall to help keep focus.
12. From the paragraph vision brainstorm a list of needs to address each of the areas stated in the sentences. Ask the family, “What do you think you would need help with to do this?” Make sure this is a group process and that all systems mandates are included. Ask all team members for their input and list everything.
13. Keep this brainstormed list to work on over time. Prioritize the first three or four that need to be done first.