

Black Sheep Ministries

Family Restoration & Foster Support

Executive Summary

Overview

Black Sheep Family Restoration & Foster Support is a Christian-rooted, trauma-informed, non-custodial support program designed to strengthen families and safeguard children affected by addiction and child welfare system involvement.

The program operates in partnership with courts, Departments of Human Services, Children and Youth Services, licensed foster care agencies, and community-based providers. It does not seek placement authority, custodial supervision, or clinical treatment functions. Rather, it serves as a structured support mechanism that enhances family engagement, recovery continuity, and long-term stability.

The program was developed to address a persistent structural gap within the child welfare ecosystem: families often lack coordinated, relational, and practical support necessary to engage effectively with court-ordered and agency-directed services over time. When cases close and formal services conclude, many families experience destabilization and relapse due to the sudden absence of structured support.

Black Sheep Family Restoration & Foster Support is designed to reduce that gap.

Program Purpose

The purpose of the program is to:

- Improve family engagement with court and agency expectations.
- Support recovery stability in addiction-impacted families.
- Provide structured support to foster and kinship caregivers.
- Offer trauma-aware mentorship to youth and young adults.
- Remain a voluntary continuity resource after case closure to reduce system re-entry.

The program reinforces existing case plans and judicial directives. It does not override, contradict, or evaluate court determinations.

Core Service Components

1. Family Stabilization and Reunification Support

The program assists families in understanding and navigating system expectations through:

- Translation of court orders and case plans into clear, actionable steps.
- Organizational support for appointments and required services.
- Accountability-oriented engagement that promotes follow-through.
- Coordination with existing service providers.

The program does not certify compliance or assume case management authority.

2. Addiction Recovery Integration

Recognizing addiction as a primary destabilizing factor in many child welfare cases, the program integrates recovery-oriented supports by:

- Coordinating referrals to licensed treatment providers.
- Partnering with faith-based recovery groups aligned with trauma-informed standards.
- Providing structured peer recovery mentorship.
- Encouraging sustained recovery engagement beyond formal treatment.

Spiritual participation is voluntary and never a substitute for required clinical treatment.

3. Foster and Kinship Caregiver Support

The program offers supplemental support to licensed caregivers, including:

- Peer-based encouragement and burnout prevention.
- Trauma-informed education and support.
- Practical resource coordination.
- Voluntary faith-rooted community connection.

The program does not replace agency supervision or training requirements.

4. Youth and Young Adult Engagement

Youth affected by addiction and system involvement may receive:

- Structured mentorship from screened and trained adults.
- Voluntary participation in youth or young adult groups.
- Coordination of referrals to educational, vocational, and counseling resources.
- Support during transitions out of formal system involvement.

The program does not provide clinical therapy or custodial supervision.

5. Post-Case Continuity

A defining feature of the program is its long-term orientation.

When court supervision or agency involvement concludes, participants may voluntarily remain engaged in:

- Recovery support environments.
- Peer mentorship relationships.
- Faith-rooted community connections.
- Resource coordination.

This continuity model seeks to reduce relapse, prevent system re-entry, and promote sustained stability after formal oversight ends.

Partnership Model

Black Sheep Family Restoration & Foster Support operates as a collaborative, non-adversarial partner.

The program:

- Respects judicial authority and agency determinations.
- Maintains clear boundaries regarding scope.
- Does not provide legal advice, clinical treatment, or placement decisions.
- Communicates transparently and ethically with appropriate consent.

Formal partnership agreements may be established where beneficial to clarify referral pathways and communication expectations.

Governance and Safeguards

The program operates under the governance of Black Sheep Ministries and is overseen by its Board of Directors.

Safeguards include:

- Mandatory background clearances for all staff and volunteers.
- Training in trauma-informed care and mandatory reporting.
- Structured documentation practices.
- Confidentiality protocols.
- Appropriate insurance coverage.
- Advisory consultation in legal, clinical, and risk management domains.

The program does not accept partnerships or funding arrangements that compromise autonomy or ethical integrity.

Geographic Scope

Initial operations are focused within:

- Armstrong County, Pennsylvania
- Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
- Parts of Allegheny County

Expansion into additional counties will occur only upon demonstrated operational readiness and Board approval.

Commitment to Measurable Impact

The program evaluates effectiveness across defined outcome domains, including:

- Family engagement and follow-through.
- Recovery stability.
- Caregiver retention.
- Youth stability indicators.
- Post-case continuity and reduced re-entry patterns.

If outcome data indicates insufficient impact or unintended harm, the program will adjust, suspend, or redesign affected components in alignment with community and system objectives.

Conclusion

Black Sheep Family Restoration & Foster Support Program exists to function as a stabilizing partner within the child welfare ecosystem. It reinforces, rather than replaces, statutory authority. It prioritizes dignity without diminishing accountability. It remains available when formal services conclude.

The program's aim is not expansion for its own sake, but durable impact that strengthens families, supports caregivers, and contributes meaningfully to community-level stability.