# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: PREGNANCY & BIRTH PARENT COUNSELING

#### What is pregnancy & birth parent counseling?

Counseling is simply when one of our trained social workers talks with you about your options and feelings about parenthood, with the goal of helping you make the best plan for you and your child. Your conversations with our social worker are completely confidential. Whatever you decide, we provide support and a listening ear.

### What will counseling cost?

CHS does not charge for this service.

## Where will we meet for counseling?

Our social worker can meet with you at a time and place that is convenient for you, at your home or at our agency, or anywhere else you are most comfortable.

## What are my adoption options?

You have several options. You can place your baby for adoption with an approved family or someone in your extended family, or you can raise your child yourself. As you talk with our social worker, you will see more clearly what is best for you and for your child. We can also provide you with information about medical, financial, legal, parenting, and housing assistance.

## What if I'm not sure about adoption once the baby's born?

CHS offers temporary infant care to birth parents who need more time to make a permanent decision. You may decide you are ready to parent or make an adoption plan. In either case, CHS does not charge for this temporary care, which is with trained and approved families.

#### What is temporary infant care?

Temporary infant care offers you care for your child for a limited time while you work toward the goal of either parenting your child or making an adoption plan. A trained and approved family will care for your child while you make your decision.

#### What is adoption?

Adoption is a new permanent, legal relationship created between children and adults who did not give birth to these children. Adoptive parents have the full legal rights and responsibilities of any parents.

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