

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Site Report

Prepared for Nevada Department of Human Resources
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Technical Assistance

The Nevada Department of Human Resources requested NRCCPS technical assistance related to two PIP safety outcome strategies: 1) development of risk assessment and 2) development of CPS intake screening criteria and urgency guidelines. The state is pursuing risk assessment as a strategy for addressing repeat maltreatment. The development and/or enhancement of intake screening criteria and response guidelines are intended to ensure that reports of child maltreatment are processed, screened, assigned and responded to in a timely and accurate manner.

Site Visit

The initial TA site visit occurred on February 3 and 4, 2005. Participating in the site visit meeting were Todd Holder, Coordinator of Curriculum Design for NRCCPS, and several state and county administrators/ personnel who have been assigned to the PIP workgroup responsible for the risk assessment and intake strategies. The meeting on the first day considered the status of PIP related work and provided a general overview of the state's continuing efforts to implement the PIP. The second day of the meeting focused on the specific PIP strategies emphasized in the resource center TA request. The majority of the time was devoted primarily to the topic of risk assessment.

Technical assistance involved facilitating a discussion related to the following:

Risk Assessment

- Discussed the state of the art of risk assessment
- Considered Nevada's intended purpose for risk assessment
- Qualified the relationship and the difference between risk assessment and safety assessment
- Defined the anticipated practice outcomes related to the implementation of risk assessment
- Preliminary conceptualization of a risk assessment model/ format/ tool
- Identified criteria for considering a risk assessment model
- Identified activities, timeframes and assignments necessary for developing policy related to risk assessment

CPS Intake

- Discussed Nevada's goal(s) and anticipated outcomes related to enhancing the CPS intake function.
- Discussed current policy, procedure and practice challenges and deficits associated with intake
- Considered key areas of development related to policy, procedures, process, practice that could be useful to improving intake decision-making related to screening and response.

Next Steps

- A second site visit is tentative being considered for the first or second week in March. The purpose for the site visit will be to review, discuss and edit drafted policy pertaining to risk assessment. The meeting will also continue the development of the risk assessment structure including procedures, formatting issues, practice guidelines or protocol, etc.
- Prior to the next site visit, off-site technical assistance will be provided to contribute to the drafting of policy and procedures related to the implementation of risk assessment (see the NRCCPS- Nevada work plan).