

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 NRCCPS technical assistance provide to the Nevada Department of Human Resources focused on two PIP safety outcome strategies: 1) development of risk assessment policy, instrumentation/ format and the integration of an approach to risk assessment with Nevada's current safety model, and 2) conceptualization of CPS intake screening criteria and urgency guidelines and intake policy development. The department has pursued the development of a standardized and integrated approach to risk-safety assessment as a strategy for addressing repeat maltreatment. The development of intake screening criteria and response guidelines and related intake policy is a PIP strategy for ensuring that reports of child maltreatment are processed, screened, assigned and responded to in a timely and accurate manner.

A final site visit was scheduled to review final drafts of the risk assessment policy and tool, safety intervention policy and the intake policy. The site visit was also intended to provide consultation related to the implementation of risk assessment, including discussions with the University of Nevada- Training Partnership regarding training methods.

In preparation for the site visit a conference call was arranged with the PIP Executive Decision-Making Team, Jone Bosworth, Director of Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, Susan Klein Rothschild, Director of Clark County Department of Family Services, and Mike Capello, Director of Washoe County Department of Social Services. The purpose for the conference call was to clarify questions related to the risk assessment approach and policy, consider changes to the safety intervention model and policy, and discuss issues related to staff/ supervisor risk assessment training and implementation.

Preparation for the site visit also involved reviewing and editing the risk assessment and safety intervention policies.

Site Visit

The TA site visit occurred on May 25 and 26, 2005. Participating in the site visit meeting was Todd Holder from NRCCPS, the Nevada PIP risk assessment and CPS intake screening workgroup and staff from the University of Nevada- Training Partnership.

The technical assistance provided during the site visit was as follows:

- Risk Assessment and Safety Intervention

Further discussion occurred related to the integration of risk assessment and the current approach to safety intervention. There was consideration given to how clear practice and decision-making expectations were reflected in risk assessment and safety policies. The risk assessment policy and format was reviewed and proposed edits were finalized.

- Intake Policy

Considerable discussion occurred regarding how the proposed intake policy may have implications for practice and decision-making in the different jurisdictions: Clark County, Washoe County and Rural Nevada. There were concerns raised during the meeting regarding how travel time coupled with limited availability of staff could pose some challenges for adhering to the suggested urgency response guidelines.

While considering was given for the various issues raised related to intake response times, the intake policy was reviewed, edited and finalized.

- Risk Assessment Implementation

Consultation was provided related to the implementation of risk assessment. Staff from the University of Nevada- Training Partnership participated in the discussion, which included feedback regarding a training pilot for the approach to risk-safety assessment. The risk assessment training curriculum was reviewed and feedback was provided regarding the objectives for the training and possible training methods to achieve those objectives. Additionally, there was general discussion related to a continued plan for implementation and staff development.

Technical Assistance Summary

The NRCCPS technical assistance deliverables identified in the TA logic model have been completed, with additional technical assistance provided related to intake and safety intervention. The following results were achieved as a result of a collaborative effort involving the NRCCPS and the Nevada PIP Risk Assessment and Intake workgroup:

- Conceptualization and design of a standardized approach to risk assessment;
- The integration of risk assessment and safety assessment;
- The development of risk assessment policy;
- The development of a risk assessment/ information collection format;
- The enhancement of the safety intervention policy;
- Conceptualization and design of intake screening criteria and urgency response guidelines;
- Development of intake policy; and
- Consultation related to risk assessment implementation efforts.

This concluded the NRCCPS technical assistance for the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services.