

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Site Report



Prepared for South Carolina Department of Social Services
By Terry Roe Lund, MSSW , NRCCPS
Regarding Site Visit of April 27 and 28, 2005

Situation and Technical Assistance Request

South Carolina initiated a request for technical assistance in the fall of 2004, regarding a specific need for TA related to a forum between DSS and legal representatives. That technical assistance was delivered in December (see December TA report by Wayne Holder), and at that time DSS requested time to identify its priorities regarding further technical assistance.

In spring of 2005, DSS requested that technical assistance be provided to help with one of its PIP strategies regarding intake practice and decision making. This TA could also help DSS address multiple community concerns and policy gaps regarding intake.

Site Visits

Terry Roe Lund from NRCCPS made a site visit to DSS on April 27 and 28. During this visit, the DSS state office staff and a county office supervisor provided background information on the CFSR findings, the status of the Program Improvement Plan and the context for how intake is currently functioning.

Community representatives also participated in part of the site visit. Intake strengths and needs were identified by staff from the Network of CAC's, Children's Law office, and the Citizen's Review Panel.

Given the commitment within the PIP to conduct state wide training regarding intake, and the consideration of how many staff across the state perform this function, deliberation of how technical assistance could best build state capacity to carry out this endeavor was necessary.

Next Steps

DSS will select a group of county staff with expertise in intake to serve as a advisory group for a train the trainers strategy. State staff will select sample intakes to send to Terry Roe Lund for review and possible use in training trainers.

A site visit with the county experts in intake is scheduled for June 7 and 8, with a debriefing and finalizing meeting with state office staff scheduled for June 9.