

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Site Report



Prepared for South Dakota Department of Social Services
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The Development of the Ongoing CPS Case Management Function

Technical Assistance

Following the preliminary planning meeting with South Dakota (see January site report) it was determined that NRCCPS technical assistance will focus on the conceptualization and development of an ongoing CPS “client change process”: assessment, planning and measurement. The development of a standardized ongoing case plan assessment model and a formalized approach to continued case evaluation are intended to improve practice and decision-making related to the federal well-being outcome: Families have enhanced capacities to provide for their children’s needs. Additionally, it is anticipated that by applying safety criteria and concepts related to child safety in the development and integrations of an ongoing assessment, case planning and case evaluate that ongoing safety management will improve and will be inline with the safety expectations outlined in ASFA.

Site Visit

The second TA site visit occurred on February 15, 16 and 17, 2005. Participating in the site visit were Todd Holder from NRCCPS and individuals from South Dakota’s Ongoing Case Management (PIP) workgroup. Technical assistance and consultation during the site visit involved further conceptualization for the development of an approach to case plan assessment and measuring client progress and the framing of steps to the case plan assessment process.

Specific workgroup tasks that were completed during the site visit were as follows:

- Review and revise work plan
- Consensus on criteria for model development
- Discussion and analysis regarding ongoing workload management issues
- Review of federal and state requirements for ongoing safety intervention
- Discussion regarding purpose for assessment and anticipated outcomes
- Identification of assessment objectives and decisions
- Presentation and discussion regarding the use of essential concepts and criteria for client changed process: child safety threshold, foreseeable danger threats and protective capacities.
- Development of assessment structure
- Identification of work role in the assessment and case planning approach

Next Steps

- It is anticipated that a third onsite visit will be scheduled. The specific dates for the next site visit are pending the off site production of a draft for the assessment structure and assessment interviewing/ practice protocol. Based on the amount of work that needs to be completely and accounting for the various competing schedules, the following several dates were identified as a possibility for reconvening the case management workgroup: week of March 28th, week of April 4th, week of April 25th and/or the week of May 2nd.

In preparation for the next site visit the following work needs to be completed:

1. To complete drafting the case plan documentation;
2. To complete drafting the assessment process and structure: assessment steps, level of effort, facilitation objectives and assessment content;
3. To begin an initial draft of case evaluation documentation;
4. To begin drafting assessment interview protocol