

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Site Report



Prepared for Kansas SRS Children and Family Services

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Dates of on-site technical assistance summarized in this report:
April 5 and 6, May 24 and September 1, 2006

Technical Assistance Request

Kansas SRS requested technical assistance from the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services to provide continued support and consultation related to incorporating safety into decision making throughout the CPS process. Technical assistance on this initiative began in 2005 with a review of current policy, procedures, staff development, supervision and quality assurance processes related to safety and risk assessment. Training was also provided to administrators on conceptual differences between risk and safety. The technical assistance to be provided in 2006 will build on the activities that were started in 2005.

Site Visit

Four days of on-site technical assistance were provided. The on-site visits took place on the following days:

April 5, 6
May 24
September 1

The site visit on April 5 & 6 involved a statewide conference for CPS supervisors and managers. Mary Jo Pankoke from the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services presented three breakout sessions for the conference:

- Conceptual Differences between Risk and Safety;
- Family-Centered Practice in Child Protective Services
- An Introduction to Developing Critical Thinking Skills and Promoting Good Decision Making

The site visit on May 24 included Paula Ellis, Jane Meschberger, Sherrie Gross and Janna Gunckle from Kansas SRS and Mary Jo Pankoke from the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services. The agenda included the following items:

- Training for supervisors on case findings;
- Finalization of survey of social workers and supervisors on current risk and safety assessment practices;

- Incorporation of safety threats into the intake and screening process; and
- Work/timelines for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The site visit on September 1 included Paula Ellis, Jane Meschberger, Sherrie Gross and Jacque Thirlkel from Kansas SRS and Mary Jo Pankoke from the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services. The agenda included the following items:

- Debrief of the case finding training;
- Discussion of the recent critical incident case;
- Review of the results of the survey of social workers and supervisors on current risk and safety assessment practices;
- Review of article on safety intervention system;
- Discussion of the population to be served;
- Discussion of evidence-based practice as it relates to CPS;
- Discussion of the feasibility of developing an alternative response system to serve CINC/NAN cases;
- Strategies to address secondary trauma in CPS staff.

Next Steps

The next on-site technical assistance visits are scheduled for October 10 and 24. In the interim, Paula Ellis and Mary Jo Pankoke will draft purpose statements for the intake/screening, initial assessment and ongoing safety processes; a statement describing the role of the agency; and a description of the population to be served. The draft documents will be circulated to others for review prior to the October meeting dates. The agenda for the October meetings includes:

- Refine purpose and role statements;
- Define population to be served;
- Review safety assessment models;
- Develop implementation plan for a safety intervention system.