

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Site Report



Prepared for Kansas SRS Children and Family Services
By Mary Jo Pankoke, NRCCPS
April 20, 2006

Situation and 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 on conceptual differences between risk and safety assessment. The technical assistance to be provided in 2006 will build on the activities that were started in 2005.

Site Visit

The technical assistance site visit was conducted on February 15, 2006. Participating in the site visit were Mary Jo Pankoke from the NRCCPS and Paula Ellis, Cathy Hubbard, Jane Meschberger, Sherrie Gross and Janna Gunckle from Kansas SRS.

Prior to the site visit, Mary Jo Pankoke prepared a draft strategic plan to move SRS towards a safety-driven intervention system. The draft strategic plan was reviewed during the site visit and formed the basis for a work plan that was developed for the coming year. The work plan includes timelines and assigns responsibility for each of the identified tasks.

Next Steps

The NRCCPS will conduct three sessions at the annual supervisors' conference to be held April 5, 6, and 7. Topics to be covered during the conference include conceptual differences between risk and safety assessment, family centered practice in CPS, and the role of the supervisor in developing critical thinking skills and promoting good decision making. Regular communication will be maintained

through e-mail and conference calls to monitor progress on the other tasks included in the work plan. The next site visit will be held in April or May.