

# **NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

## **Technical Assistance Site Report**



Prepared for Minnesota Department of Human Services

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Dates of onsite technical assistance summarized in this report:  
April 17, May 1 and 25, and July 12 and 31, 2006

## **Technical Assistance Request**

The Minnesota Department of Human Services requested technical assistance to develop a best practice model in the screening of child maltreatment reports that would be available to all 87 counties in the state. The goal is to achieve greater consistency across counties concerning the decision to accept or reject a report of child maltreatment and to move Minnesota counties towards more uniform practice. This effort is identified in Minnesota's Child and Family Service Plan.

## **Site Visits**

Five days of on-site technical assistance are summarized in this report. These on-site visits took place on the following days:

April 17

May 1 and 25

July 12 and 31

A committee comprised of 30+ stakeholders was charged with responsibility for drafting guidelines for the screening of child maltreatment reports. The committee included county administrators, county screeners/supervisors, ombudspersons representing families of color, guardian ad litem representatives, county attorneys and parent advisory group members. Three subcommittees were formed to draft guidelines for the screening of neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse reports. The guidelines developed by the Neglect, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse Subcommittees were reviewed and revised by the full committee. The committee also reviewed an introduction to the screening guidelines which included the following sections: 1) Purpose of Statewide Guidelines; 2) State Policy; 3) Where to report; 4) Mandated Reporters and Voluntary Reporting; 5) Minimum Threshold for Reports; 6) Customized Responses to Reports; and 7) Poverty and Racial Disparities.

The April and May 1 on-site technical assistance involved meetings with the Neglect Subcommittee. The May 25 and July 12 and 31 site visits involved meetings with the full committee. A draft of the screening guidelines was finalized at the July 31 meeting and plans for field testing the guidelines were discussed.

### **Next Steps**

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for October 11 to review feedback from county offices. Revisions to the screening guidelines will be made based on that feedback.