

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Site Report



Prepared for Minnesota Department of Human Services
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Technical Assistance Request

Minnesota requested technical assistance to develop statewide child protection screening criteria. The Department of Health and Human Services is interested in developing 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 Visit

The technical assistance site visit occurred on March 7, 2006. Participating in the site visit were Mary Jo Pankoke from the NRCCPS and David Thompson, Terry Besaw, Erin Sullivan Sutton and other staff from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Prior to the site visit, Mary Jo Pankoke conducted research on screening criteria used by other states and prepared several reports on the results of her research. The following documents were reviewed during the site visit:

- A report on issues to consider in the screening of child maltreatment reports
- A summary of screening criteria used in other states
- Examples of screening guidelines
- Examples of standards for information collection at intake

A task force has been formed that is comprised of 30+ stakeholders, including county administrators, county screeners/supervisors, ombudspersons representing families of color, guardian ad litem representatives, county attorneys, and parent advisory group members. The first task force meeting and a structure to carry out the task force's work were discussed.

Next Steps

A conference call will be held following the March 16 meeting to discuss further assistance to be provided by the NRCCPS. It was agreed during the site visit that it would be helpful to have the NRCCPS involved in all future task force meetings and, to the extent possible, subcommittee meetings.