

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

## **Technical Assistance Site Report**



Prepared for: Missouri Children's Division  
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## Situation and Technical Assistance Request

### Site Visit

*On November 4, 2005 an onsite TA meeting was held in Jefferson City, Mo. with the workgroup and Emily Hutchinson with NRCCPS. This is a continuation of our work that was initiated in the summer of 2005. The focus of the meeting was to review and discuss the "Initial Policy Review" completed and forwarded by NRCCPS. This review was focused on policy related to safety practice. In addition, Jim Harrison provided feedback from planning with Linda Arnold, NRCOI on the integration of all NRC efforts in Missouri.*

*A detailed discussion of policy findings and the philosophy underlying a safety intervention system was held.*

*There was consensus within the group that added emphasis on safety practice is indicated. There also seems to be general agreement that the philosophical and practice beliefs discussed in the policy review are consistent with the direction that Missouri would like to pursue.*

*Several different options for focusing these changes were identified for Missouri leadership and include:*

- 1. Review policy document provided by NRCCPS and make decisions about safety policies that Missouri would like to revise or adjust. Develop a plan for implementation.*
- 2. Consider writing a new policy manual section, and associated procedures and practice guideline, on safety intervention and eliminating any other policy references that are not consistent with the new safety section. This is a more comprehensive approach to modifying or changing safety practice. Develop a plan for implementation.*

3. *Continue with the safety audit across the board as originally planned. A dilemma with this approach is that review of other domains of a safety approach (e.g. training supervision, program management, QA, etc) is likely to reveal the same issues identified in the policy review. This is due to the fact that policy generally directs practice, training, etc. so it is likely that similar issue will be identified.*

*NRCCPS can provide technical assistance that is consistent with any direction that Missouri leadership chooses in terms of enhancing safety practice. Some TA options that seem appropriate to consider include:*

- *Work on and off site with a workgroup on making revisions consistent with Option 1 or 2.*
- *Work on and off site to continue the safety audit.*
- *Provide on site consultation/orientation to the Executive Leadership of the Children's Division to further clarify/describe current state of the art practice in safety intervention to further inform decision making about areas of focus. (January, 2006)*

## **Next Steps**

*Jim Harrison will consult with the Executive Leadership group In Missouri to determine what the next steps will be in terms of moving ahead with safety practice modifications. Questions the group may wish to consider are:*

- *Who is currently served by Missouri Children's Division? How are these priorities established? How well does current safety (not risk) practice inform who is served?*
- *Is there a need to develop clarity regarding who is served given the resources available?*

- *Can the Children's Division reasonably expect to influence who is served?*
- *To what extent is there a need to revise or enhance safety practice in Missouri?*
- *What is the priority of safety practice enhancement in relationship to other initiatives currently underway or planned?*
- *What internal resources are available to commit to safety practice enhancement?*
- *If decisions are made to move forward with safety practice changes, how extensive will they be given the above?*