

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Report



Prepared for Arlington County Division of Social Services
By Anna Stone, NRCCPS
On-site date: September 14, 2007

Please indicate which responses were employed in this T/TA:

- X__ Technical Assistance
- ___ Training
- ___ Phone Consultation
- ___ Referral to another NRC
- ___ Referral to Other Organization
- ___ Review of Policy and Materials
- ___ Publications Provided
- ___ Secondary Research
- ___ Other

Situation and Technical Assistance Request

Arlington County requested assistance in establishing a more formal approach to assessing domestic violence needs when investigating child abuse and neglect. The request included assistance with establishment of quality training for staff in addition to written protocol.

Site Visit

A second meeting was held on September 14, 2007 with members of Arlington County's child protection staff and domestic violence staff. Also in attendance was the Arlington County supervisor for mental health and substance abuse and the state's CPS program manager.

Information was shared regarding a recent meeting with representatives from Fairfax County CPS staff. Fairfax County has developed an approach to serving families with combined domestic violence and child abuse/neglect issues. In addition, several documents had been obtained from Connecticut explaining the protocol and training used in that state.

After reviewing all of the information gathered since the last meeting, the group decided to concentrate first on formalizing protocol for the county. Arlington County already has a working relationship between their CPS and VIP staff and communication generally works well.

The group wanted to build on the current practice and create a more formal, written protocol.

That process was started with a brief outline and identification of five areas that needed more attention. Small workgroups will be formed to address each of the identified areas. The smaller workgroups will attempt to create a written document outlining the protocol for each identified area. These will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Steps

Maurice Hendrix and Rosemary Hubbard will jointly take the lead for this project.

Maurice will see that the notes from the meeting are typed and distributed.

Maurice and Rosemary will assign the work groups to work on the identified areas.

Rosemary will schedule the next meeting.

Following work on the protocol, the group will work on training to assure CPS and VIP staff is well prepared.

A request will be made for TA to continue in to the next federal fiscal year.