

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

## **Technical Assistance Site Report**



Prepared for South Dakota Department of Social Services  
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September 11, 2007

## *Implementing Systematic Ongoing CPS Safety Intervention*

### Technical Assistance

South Dakota requested technical assistance to provide continued support and consultation related to designing and effectively implementing the state's ongoing safety intervention approach.

Technical assistance during this fiscal year involved consulting with CPS supervisors with respect to providing consultation related to the implementation of South Dakota's case planning/ change intervention approach: The Protective Capacity Assessment and the Protective Capacity Case Plan Evaluation. Technical assistance also involved working with state office staff, regional staff and county supervisors in conceptualizing and developing a practice and decision-making framework for ongoing safety management. The primary TA activity associated with the implementation of ongoing CPS safety intervention in South Dakota involved the development of policy standards for key ongoing CPS practice and decision making points.

### Site Visit

The technical assistance site visit occurred on September 11 and 12, 2007. Participating in the site visit were Todd Holder, NRCCPS, State office staff and CPS supervisors assigned to the Protective Capacity Assessment implementation workgroup.

The two day meeting focused on two general agenda items: 1) re-examine the State's "vision" for created a highly integrated safety intervention system, and 2) review and edit the draft of the Ongoing Safety Intervention Policy Standards.

The discussion regarding the "vision" or outcomes for creating an integrated intervention system provided an opportunity to revisit some of the original discussions and thinking that eventually prompted the development of the Protective Capacity Assessment case planning approach. The discussion regarding what the state is ultimately trying to achieve as a result of improving ongoing CPS intervention, also served as a timely status check regarding efforts that have occurred in the last three years to create an integrated CPS system and continued areas of need and development.

The following were identified as the continued outcomes for creating an integrated CPS system:

- Accurate safety decisions;
- Consistent safety intervention practice and decision making;
- Change orientation to practice and a clear concept for change;
- Standardized, structure and professional practice;
- Caregiver involvement/in all aspects of CPS involvement;

- Effective technical/interpersonal skills (i.e. interviewing, ability to have meaningful conversations with caregivers, ability to engage);
- Conceptual/and criteria based practices
- Supervisor expertise
  - Safety Intervention
  - PCA/Concept of Change
- Consistent ongoing safety management and applying in practice the concept of provisional protection;
- Effective workload management and efficiency/use of time;
- Closure as a safety decision; and
- Clearly define what's occurring in field.

### Policy Review and Editing

The review of the Ongoing Safety Intervention Policy (Forth Draft) considered the accuracy of policy, scope; clarity; and precision of policy, and the addition of any practice and decision making standards that needed to be included in policy.

All changes to the policy as a result of the workgroup review were submitted for editing and complete either during the meeting or subsequently off site.

### Next Steps

This completes NRCCPS technical assistance for South Dakota for this fiscal year. Possible next steps for continuing work related to the development and supporting the implementation of ongoing safety intervention within an integrated CPS system include:

- Designing and delivering a Statewide Assessment of the implementation of the Protective Capacity Assessment and PC Case Plan Evaluation; (Implementation)
- Complete and submit the Ongoing Safety Intervention Policy for approval;
- Conduct regional policy roundtables
- Develop ongoing safety management curriculum;
- Develop ongoing safety intervention training;
- Complete supervisor PCA consultation guide; and
- Establish a structure for Supervisor peer reviews/ and consultation (Regional Structure)