

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Site Report



Prepared for Kansas SRS Children and Family Services
By Mary Jo Pankoke, NRCCPS
July 31, 2007

Situation and Technical Assistance Request

Kansas SRS requested technical assistance from the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services to provide continued support and consultation related to the development of a comprehensive safety intervention system and to explore the feasibility of developing an alternative response system.

Site Visit

On-site visits took place on the following dates:

October 10, 23, & 24, 2006

December 5 & 14, 2006

February 22, & 23, 2007

March 15, 2007

May 2, 2007

The site visit meetings have included a committee comprised of state office program managers and administrators and field staff. The focus of the meetings has been carrying out the activities and tasks included in the strategic plan that was developed during the prior fiscal year to move Kansas' CPS system toward a safety driven intervention system. Topics covered during the site visits include:

- Review of safety models from other states
- Design of safety assessment, analysis and planning model for Kansas
- Review of research regarding risk assessment and evaluation of current risk assessment tool in use in Kansas
- SRS role with CINC-NAN cases and alternative ways to handle non abuse/neglect cases
- Review of research on alternative response systems and feasibility of implementing an alternative response system in Kansas and potential tracks to include
- Communication plan to include internal and external stakeholders
- Community services/resources that would need to be developed to support a three-track response system
- Information system implications of the proposed safety model
- Training/staff development needs
- Critical thinking skills necessary to support effective decision making
- Standards for collection of information
- Quality Assurance
- Policy changes

Next Steps

Recommendations regarding a new safety model and moving towards an alternative response system have been forwarded to SRS leadership. Once a decision has been made about what direction SRS will move in, a revised strategic plan with specific activities, tasks and timelines will be developed.