

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Site Report



Prepared for Wisconsin DHFS
Division of Children and Family Services
Bureau of Programs and Policies
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Summary of NRCCPS Technical Assistance

The following is a summary of the technical assistance and consultation provided to Wisconsin DCFS Bureau of Programs and Policies (BPP) related to the development of an integrated CPS intervention system.

The request for technical assistance was initiated in October 2006 and involved the continuation of work that began in March of 2006 associated with the development and design of the case planning approach referred to as the *Protective Capacity Family Assessment*. The *PCFA* is a case planning approach that is designed to incorporate the use of safety concepts and criteria and the concept of caregiver protective capacities into the case planning approach as required by ASFA and the Wisconsin's safety intervention standards.

The activities and intermediate outcomes for technical assistance identified during the initial work plan meeting (October 2006) included:

- Strategic planning regarding the implementation of the Protective Capacity Family Assessment and Case Planning approach;
- Develop and initiate the piloting the PCFA;
- Prepare counties agencies selected for the PCFA pilot initiative;
- Provide consultation with BPP staff and county staff to support of PCFA pilot; and
- Develop competency and expertise among staff from state BPP regarding the fundamental concepts and the intervention process of the ongoing CPS change intervention system (i.e. PCFA and Case Plan, Case Progress Evaluation and Case Closure).

To date all activities and intermediate outcomes for the current NRCCPS technical assistance were either commenced or completed. The PCFA pilot was initiated and has been actively occurring for nine months. Three county agencies were selected to pilot the PCFA. These counties included Green Lake county, Marquette county and Jefferson County. A fourth CPS jurisdiction, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW), opted to forego being part of the pilot and chose to proceed directly toward fully implementing the PCFA.

Preparing for the PCFA:

A needs assessment was completed with county staff and supervisors participating in the pilot. The needs assessment sought information relevant to considering the status of worker professional CPS competencies; external systematic factors; and intervention design issues, which would likely influence the effective implementation of the PCFA. County staff and supervisors participated in roundtable discussions regarding the PCFA approach and the pilot/ implementation initiative. Safety intervention training was provided to individual staff based on an indicated need, and follow up consultation was provided with respect to the intervention concepts and criteria fundamental to the PCFA.

Staff Development and Implementation Support:

Technical assistance was provided related to the development and planning for delivering the PCFA training to the pilot counties and the BMCW. Additionally through the course of preparing, planning and providing consultation to the pilot counties and BMCW there were numerous opportunities to work closely with state BPP staff to build their knowledge and skill related to the PCFA, that they could apply when providing continued consultation with counties.

Site Visit

The final resource center TA activity and deliverable for this fiscal year involved developing and assisting with the delivery of a post PCFA training practicum. The practicum occurred on August 7-9, 2007. Participating in the practicum were ongoing CPS staff and supervisors from the three pilot counties, an ongoing CPS unit from BMCW, state office BPP staff and individuals from Wisconsin's child welfare training partnerships. The practicum was designed to provide workers with an experiential learning opportunity to build practice skills necessary for completing the PCFA.

For information regarding the PCFA practicum refer to the supplemental document included with the site report: *PCFA Practicum Preparation* paper.

Next Steps

This concludes NRCCPS technical assistance to Wisconsin's DCFS for this fiscal year.