

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Report



Prepared for Nevada Children and Family Services
By Todd Holder, MSW, NRCCPS
On-site dates: October 18; December 5 – 6 - 2006

Technical Assistance Responses

The responses employed in this T/TA included:

- Technical Assistance
- Training
- Phone Consultation
- Referral to another NRC
- Referral to Other Organization
- Review of Policy and Materials
- Publications Provided
- Secondary Research
- Model Development
- Project Management

Situation and Technical Assistance Request

Nevada requested TA for the purpose of revising and improving the approach to safety intervention including reinforcing how information standards support safety decision making. TA also should include development of an investigation decision making framework that includes safety, risk and substantiation criteria. Depending on TA resource availability, other areas of work include improving policy and procedures related to intake, case closure, differential approach, substantiation criteria and investigation protocol.

Technical Assistance

A site visit occurred in Reno, Nevada October 18 NRCCPS met with the Risk and Safety Work Group. Todd Holder and Wayne Holder represented NRCCPS. The purpose of the meeting was to review the technical assistance request, evaluate the current approach to risk and safety, and to determine a course of action. Discussion occurred related to the time line previously established by Nevada in relation to complying with their PIP. Agreements were reached concerning milestone dates to occur in November and December with the expectation that TA was to be completed by December 31, 2006. The work group assigned NRCCPS to provide refinement of what has come to be known as the NV Family Assessment; to complete revisions of the safety model; and to create a means for employing risk (along with safety and substantiation) as a basis for opening cases. It was decided that the CA risk assessment approach (CRC actuarial model) will be used by NV.

NRCCPS completed work assignments and delivered the following products to the work group for review on November 22, 2006:

- Present Danger Assessment
- Protective Action Plan

- Revisions to the Family Assessment (formerly known as the Family Risk Assessment)
- Modifications for the NV Safety Assessment
- Safety Threats: Definitions and Case Examples
- (Guidelines for) Decisions to Open for Ongoing CPS

A site visit was convened in Reno with the Safety and Risk Work Group December 5 – 6, 2006. The purpose of the technical assistance was to review all the products mentioned above. Todd Holder and Wayne Holder attended for NRCCPS. Clint Holder, NRCCPS, also participated because of his extensive experience training safety intervention for staff of Clark County. The products were reviewed and observations and suggestions for additional revisions and modifications were identified.

NRCCPS completed revisions identified in the December site visit and provided those revisions to state office staff December 15, 2006 for a management review scheduled for December 19, 2006.

Next Steps

Technical assistance reported in this summary completes the current work plan. Nevada reportedly is continuing to examine the various products and create additional modifications. No additional technical assistance has been mentioned as of the writing of this report. Technical assistance associated with this work completion required 22 days; related to this request Nevada continues to have 3 technical assistance days remaining.