

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Report



Prepared for: Alabama DHR
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Report Date: February 11, 2010

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

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

Situation and Technical Assistance Request:

Alabama DHR requested technical assistance in October 2009. Some confusion existed regarding exactly what the TA was to include and how the TA corresponded with other TA occurring in the state; with the PIP; and with the Comprehensive Assessment Project. A conference call with the Federal Regional Office resulted in the approval of a site visit for the expressed purpose of assessing TA need and clarifying DHR's request.

Technical Assistance Provided:

A meeting was convened February 2, 2010 in Montgomery. In attendance were Shirley Scanlan, Frieda Baker, Lisa Diaz; Sue Ash and Susan Sorrels from DHR; and Wayne Holder and Todd Holder from NRCCPS.

After a thorough review and discussion it was agreed that while there appeared to be some differences in various specific areas for TA that a consensus existed related to TA performing a "dove tailing" influence on bringing several initiatives in line with the Comprehensive Assessment Project (CAP) in view of statewide implementation next year.

It was agreed that DHR would communicate with the Federal Regional Office to officially request 10 on site days. The TA days will address the following:

Goal

To conceptualize, organize and facilitate specific activities and actions in support of CAP and related to planning statewide implementation of CAP

Objectives

- To establish a statewide steering committee which will provide oversight and guidance to the development of a statewide implementation plan for CAP
- To develop draft policy for the Prevention Services Program in order to clarify case selection criteria between CAP and Prevention Services
- To prepare for and facilitate a presentation at the annual Judges Conference using the ABA – NRCCPS guide for judges and attorneys
- To develop State Office level purveyors in CAP
- To develop specific plans for the statewide transition to CAP with specific attention to consultation, policy, training and supervision
- To disseminate information and products within the state and between DHR and the shadow states (that are part of the CAP project)
- To explore adapting the Supervisors as Safety Decision Makers learning program to a 100% online program

Complimentary Use of Resources

Clearly the objectives identified are ambitious even though the intention remains focused on planning and preparing for statewide CAP implementation as this year's outcome. For instance, the group agreed that policy revision is crucial prior to beginning statewide implementation of CAP. However, this year the expectation is to identify what policy will be affected and to create a detailed plan for how revisions will occur and when. The actual re-writing of policy may not begin until later this year or even in the 4th year of the CAP project.

There are three resource areas available to address this work: DHR in general; CAP (both state and contracted); and NRCCPS. This TA will occur within a general coordinated effort that mobilizes people and resources from these three sources. In addition to being generally more efficient, it will assure the best use of NRCCPS time and effort.

CAP Steering Committee

During the meeting work began to conceptualize the purpose and function of the steering committee and to identify prospective people (or positions) that might be best to serve. Representatives of key DHR administrative areas were identified; county managers were considered; line supervisors were considered. The first area of TA emphasis will be to move forward with forming this group; to provide guidance for the committees work; and to empower it to perform its purposes.

Next Steps:

Subsequent to Federal Regional Office approval of TA, the anticipated next steps are:

- ✓ Develop a draft work plan - 3/12/10

- ✓ Communicate with DHR to further the identification of individuals for the steering committee and the State Office purveyors - Ongoing
- ✓ Confirm the date for the Judge's Conference and seek an invitation to present - ASAP
- ✓ Meet with DHR to review and approve the TA work plan – 3/23/10
- ✓ Begin implementation of the TA work plan – 4/1/10