

Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division
NRCCPS Technical Assistance Report
November, 2009-March 31, 2010

Technical Assistance Request:

Missouri made a technical assistance request in November, 2009 for a review of their current and proposed policies concerning comprehensive safety assessment. They also wanted a review of their current child fatality review system. Missouri provided three child fatality cases for NRCCPS to review as examples of actual field practice.

Technical Assistance Provided:

Policy Review:

A review of the current and proposed policies was completed by Wayne Holder and Terry Roe Lund. Specific line by line suggestions were made for the Missouri staff to consider in the policy and proposed policy sections that were to be reviewed. The review was conducted based on safety intervention being conducted in conjunction with an investigation. The following criteria were used in the policy review:

1. Conceptual Integrity
2. Comparison to State of the Art
3. Precision and Clarity
4. Extent of the Direction

In addition to the line by line suggestions, a written summary of observations and opinions was also provided. Missouri was also provided with the NRCCPS *Guide to Considering How Practice Mirrors Your Practice Model and the Effectiveness of Your Implementation* for consideration in developing and implementing policy.

Case Review:

Three child fatality cases were reviewed by Terry Roe Lund and Kathy Simms. A common case review instrument was used to guide the review. Although specific comments about the cases were not part of the information provided to Missouri, the case review provided a framework for understanding the current field practice and informed the policy review.

Child Fatality Review Process:

Policy and procedure related to the current child fatality review process was reviewed by Kathy Simms. Proposed enhancements to the current fatality review process were provided in writing and further technical assistance was offered regarding refinement of the fatality review process using an approach such as root cause analysis.

Phone Consultation:

Conference calls were held with Missouri to clarify the initial TA request and then a conference call was held on March 29, 2010, to answer questions concerning the written documents that were provided and to discuss the planned on-site with Missouri staff.

Scheduled On-site:

An on-site meeting with Missouri staff will be held on April 9, 2010. The meeting will include discussion concerning the policy review observations and opinions, an enhanced child fatality review process based on a root cause analysis structure and next steps in working with Missouri.