CJI Child Protection Conference: “Connections Matter”

Family Involvement Strategies In Child Protection

May 23, 2007

Olmsted County Child & Family Services
Family Involvement Strategies
In Child Protection

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Presentation

• Introduction
• What We Value
• Positive Results
• What Makes A Difference
• Family Involvement Strategies
Lake Wobegone

“The women are strong, the men are good looking, and all the children are above average.

“Woe, Be Gone” = dismissal of troubles

“WoeB Gone” = be set with troubles
Context

• Minnesota: 5.1 Million
• State Supervised - County Administered
  – 87 counties
  – 11 tribes
• Child Welfare Reform
• Olmsted County
  – 135,000 Urban/Rural
  – 86% Caucasian
  – Regional Hub
  – Rapid Growth
What We Value

• Safety focused intervention
• Partnership with families
• Collaboration with professionals
• Research to practice
• Innovation
Positive Results In Child Protection

- Fewer investigations
- More family assessments
- Less repeat child maltreatment
- Fewer children in placement
- Less court involvement
- More family involvement
- More children served

- 117% increase between 1996 and 2001 (450)
- 19% decrease in child protection investigations or assessments between 2001 and 2006 (162)
Children With A New Finding Of Abuse And/Or Neglect

Of all children who were victims of substantiated child abuse and/or neglect during the year, what percentage had another substantiated report within a 6 month period.

Significant reduction in children with a new finding of abuse and/or neglect.
Child Safety Outcome

Moderate Risk
94%
71 (4)

Domestic Violence
97%
74 (2)

High Risk
95%
85 (4)

All Types Combined
96%
230 (10)

Recidivism: no new maltreatment within 12 months of completing ongoing services

(230 closed cases in 2004)
Child In Need of Protection New Petitions 2001 - 2006

- 54% reduction in child protection petitions filed between 2001 and 2006
- Average of 24.2 court ordered case planning conferences per year

Average of New CP Petitions (child in need of protection) and Parallel Protection Process:

- 2001: 83
- 2002: 69
- 2003: 72
- 2004: 61
- 2005: 39
- 2006: 38

New CP Petitions (child in need of protection) in blue, Parallel Protection Process in green.
• 30% reduction in average number of child protection cases in court process (37) from 2003 to 2006
Significant reduction of 60% in placement outside the family home
Family Involvement Strategies
2000 - 2006

- Increased partnership with families
- Increased collaboration with professionals
Child & Family Services Review

1. Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate ...(99%)

2. Timely achievement of permanency ..... (94%)

3. Preserving children’s connections while in foster care. .... (92%)

4. Timely reunification, guardianship and permanent relative placement ...... (89%)

5. Placement stability. (94%)

6. Social worker visits with parents. ...... (96%)

7. Social workers visits with children.....(94%)

N=138  (36 out of home placement) 3-2005/12-2006
What Makes A Difference?

- Differential Response
- Increased family involvement
- Increased court settlements
- Increased early intervention
- Focused training
- Group consultation & supervision
- Matching risk and resources
- County Board and Administration support
Family Involvement Strategies

Family Service Rochester
Olmsted County Child & Family Services
Family Involvement Strategies Team

- Public/Private Collaboration
  - Family Service Rochester
  - Olmsted County Child & Family Services
Family Involvement

Theory of Change:
Families that are engaged in a partnership based collaborative practice can build safety, enhance well-being and secure permanency through the development and implementation of family case plans. Family involvement strategies facilitate the marshalling of family strengths, by identifying and calling upon extended family and community supports to remove barriers to effective parenting.
Family Involvement Strategies

Aims

1. Children, youth and families can develop plans that effect their lives
2. Services providers and family members share information
3. Agency commits to active efforts to engage family
Collaborative Practices & Processes
Family Involvement Strategies

Case Planning Process
- Family Case Planning Conference
- Team Decision Making
- Family Team Conference

Decision Making Process
- Family Group Decision Making
  - Family Group Conference
  - Family Unity Meeting
  - Hybrid Family Conference

Dispute Resolution Process
- Mediation
- Settlement Conference
- Collaborative Law

Treatment Process
- Wraparound
- Multisystemic Therapy

Restorative Process
- Restorative Justice
- Circles
- Conferences
- Panels
- Reparative Boards
- Mediation
- Dialogue
- Restorative Measures
- Restorative Responses
- Restorative Practices

S. Lohrbach 2004
Family Involvement Strategies
FIS Model 2006

N=566 conferences

- Family Group Conference: 45 (8%)
- Wraparound: 59 (10%)
- Rapid Case Plan: 17 (3%)
- Court Ordered: 33 (6%)
- Circle: 3 (1%)
- Family Case Plan: 409 (72%)

* Family Group Conference = Family Group Decision Making, Family Group Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODEL</th>
<th>Average Hours Prep</th>
<th>Average Meeting Length</th>
<th>Average Number Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Case Plan</td>
<td>.3 hour Range: 0-1.5</td>
<td>1.5 hour Range: 0.5-4</td>
<td>7 participant Range: 2-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Case Planning</td>
<td>3/2 hour Range: 0-6</td>
<td>2.5 hour Range: 1.5-4</td>
<td>12 participant Range: 7-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Group Conference</td>
<td>22.5 hour Range: 0-52</td>
<td>3 hour Range: 1-5</td>
<td>13 participant Range: 5-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Court Ordered (PPP)</td>
<td>2.7 hour Range: 0-25</td>
<td>2.7 hour Range: 1.5-4</td>
<td>10 participant Range: 5-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wraparound</td>
<td>.5 hour Range: 0-10</td>
<td>1.5 hour Range: 1-1.5</td>
<td>7 participant Range: 4-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circle</td>
<td>4.3 hour Range: 0-15</td>
<td>1.5 hour Range: 1.5-2</td>
<td>5 participant Range: 3-6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Innovations In Practice

• Court ordered Family Case Planning Conference: Parallel Protection Process

• Rapid Response – Family Case Planning conference in high risk child protection
Parallel Justice Process

“Parallel Protection Process”

Family Case Planning Conference
Operations
Children’s Justice Initiative

Improve the processing and outcomes of child protection cases through collaboration of the juvenile court and social service agency
Parallel Protection Process
Family Case Planning Conference

Purpose:

1. Development of the immediate next steps in the child protection case plan
2. Negotiation of a settlement on admission or denial of the petition
Parallel Protection Process

Strategy:

1. Family Case Planning Conference
2. Family Group Decision Making
3. Mediation
4. Settlement Agreement
Olmsted County Court Improvement Project
Parallel Protection Process
A ‘Front Loading” Initiative

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Family with child at risk

Yes

CHIPS

Petition Filed

1st Hearing

No

Yes

COURT PROCESS

Pre Trial Conference

Trial Adjudication

Hearing Disposition

Services & Court Review

PARALLEL PROTECTION PROCESS

Decision

Family Group Decision Making

Case Planning Conference

Safety

Mediation Dispute Driven

Settlement Agreement

Next Steps

Services
Parallel Protection Process
Family Case Planning Conference

Format:

1. Preparation
2. Introductions/genogram
3. Information Sharing
4. Settlement Agreement
5. Negotiation of a Match
6. Development of Case Plan Parameters
7. Plan Review & Signatures
Danger/Harm
- Detail re: incident(s)
  Bringing the family to the attention of the agency.
- Pattern/history

Risk Statements
- Risk to child(ren)
- Context of risk

Complicating Factors
- Condition/behaviors that contribute to greater difficulty for the family
- Presence of research based risk factors

Current Ranking

Safety
- Strengths demonstrated as protection over time
- Pattern/history of exceptions

Strengths/Protective Factors
(Ahlquist 2000)
- Assets, resources, capacities within family, individual/community
- Presence of research based protective factors

Next Steps
- Development of next steps relevant to risk context
  - What
  - Who
  - When
  - Etc.

Genogram

Purpose of Meeting
1. Development of the immediate next steps in the case plan
2. Negotiate a settlement on admission/denial of the CHIPS petition

Partnering: Action w/ family in their position: willingness, confidence, capacity
Parallel Protection Process

Desired Process Outcomes:

1. Settlement Agreement
2. Next Steps for Case Plan
   — Provides safety
   — Promotes well-being
3. Less Time in Court
4. Adversarial Process Reduced
Parallel Protection Process

Project Outcomes:

1. Child Remains Safe
2. Child Permanency Achieved

115 PPP Conferences → 110 PPP Settlements → 110 (96%) Settlements Accepted by Court

69 (63%) Family Involvement Strategies

Note: FIS 90% 2006
**Child Safety Outcome**  
12-Month Follow Up for Maltreatment

**Children with PPP Conference 2002-2005**

*Indicator: Percentage of children with no determined maltreatment finding within 12 months of completing PPP court conference*

- **91% children with no maltreatment determination at follow up** (124/135*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Children with Maltreatment Determination</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0/36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6/42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3/28</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Maltreatment Type: 1-sexual, 3-physical, 5-neglect, 4-substance abuse, 3-inadequate supervision, 1-educational

*3 children have two PPP referrals each*
Court [PPP] Referrals
Participant Satisfaction

Cumulative Participants 2004-2006 (n=62)

- Family members respected: 89%
- Stick with plan: 87%
- Express self: 84%
- Felt listened to: 84%
- Satisfied with plan: 80%
- Part of finding solutions: 78%
- Overall positive: 76%

Percentage Responding
Summary Findings

— Family engagement enhanced
— Settlements reduce adversarial process
— Safeguarding children achieved
— Child permanency achieved
— Parents report positive improvement
— Process clarifies reasonable efforts
Summary Findings

— Individualized case plans based on family needs/risks to children
— Front loading – reduces court time
— Social Workers more direct – more concise with families
— Everybody is more knowledgeable/shared understanding of goals
— Relatives identified earlier
Rapid Response

Case Planning Conference
“Rapid Response”

A rapid response to engaging family and community members in safeguarding children at risk of child maltreatment and/or at risk of placement
Rapid Response

Purpose:
To engage and infuse family and community members in an agency Family Case Planning Conference (FCPC) to enhance assessment and safety planning at the critical agency decision making points when a child is at risk of maltreatment and/or placement outside their family home.
Rapid Response

Purpose:
To provide a child at risk of maltreatment and/or placement outside their family home access to their extended family members in a supportive strength based FCPC which ensures child safety and promotes child well-being and stability.
Rapid Response

Context:

1. The FCPC provides a forum in which the family and agency seek common ground to safeguard children.

2. The identification of family members with a stake in the safety, well-being and stability of the child will support the achievement of positive results.
Rapid Response

Context:

3. The presence of additional professionals (medical, law enforcement, etc.) will ensure critical information is presented and collaborative efforts initiated.
Rapid Response

FCPC Goals:
1. Develop a safety plan for children
2. Engage kin/relatives in safeguarding children
3. Identify family care options and kinship resources
4. Identify any family, community and/or agency resources to address risks of harm to the children
Rapid Response

Format:
1. Preparation
2. Introductions
3. Agency purpose
4. Child’s family genogram
5. Identify reported danger and/or harm to child
6. Family assets, resource and capacity to benefit child
Rapid Response

Format:

7. Identify conditions or behaviors contributing to greater family difficulty
8. Identify specific risks to the child and the context of the risk
9. Construct a safety plan for child
10. Obtain approval of the safety plan by an agency CPS supervisor and law enforcement (if involved)
11. Activate safety plan
Rapid Response

Post Meeting Responsibilities:

1. CPS social worker to complete the family assessment or investigation for accepted reports of child maltreatment.
2. Agency social worker to facilitate implementation of decisions reached at the FCPC.
3. Distribution of the safety plan.
Rapid Response

Post Meeting Responsibilities:

4. Consultation Framework forwarded:
   a) CPS Supervisor           b) Agency record
   c) Others identified at FCPC

5. Family members, community participants and service providers to carry out their responsibilities

6. Follow-up meeting scheduled
Rapid Response

Anticipated Results:
1. Children will be safely cared for with their immediate or extended family or kin.
2. Increase in family and community member participation in the development and implementation of safety plans safeguarding children.
3. Increase in family and community resources available to safeguard children at risk.
4. Increase in kinship care supports.
5. Reduction in time a child spends in foster care with strangers.
Olmsted County Child & Family Services
“A Rapid Response To Engaging Family & Community Members In Safeguarding Children At Risk Of Child Maltreatment”

Child Safety Concern

- Infant born exposed to AOD
- Child with serious injury discrepant explanation
- Child with serious injury & responsibility acknowledged

Child Protection Intake → Report Accepted → Immediate Response to insure child safety → Investigation initiated

“Rapid Response” Initiated

Safety Plan

Timeframe: Immediate to 72 Hours
Olmsted County Child & Family Services
“Rapid Response”
2005 - 2006

Rapid Response

20

Child location

Home 13 (65%)
Kinship 5 (25%)
Foster Care 2 (10%)

Juvenile Court Involvement

Court 9 (45%)
No Court 11 (55%)

CPS Findings

Maltreatment Determined: 15 (17 children)
No Maltreatment Found: 2 (4 children)

Need For Services: 17 (21 children)
Child Welfare: 2 (2 children)

Site:

• Hospital 11
• Agency 8
• JDC 1

2005: 3 families (6 children)
2006: 17 families (17 children)
Rapid Response
Child Demographics

N= 23 children
Girls: 11    Boys: 12

AGE
- Infant: 10 (43%)
- 1-3 yrs: 5 (22%)
- 4-7 yrs: 6 (26%)
- Teens: 2 (9%)

RACE
- Caucasian: 19 (83%)
- Somali/African: 2 (9%)
- Hispanic: 1 (4%)
- African Americans: 1 (4%)

Rapid Response Conference Data

6 Children (3 family conferences) in 2005
17 Children (17 family conferences) in 2006

Follow up as of April 2007:
2 reports, no determinations
1 report within 30 days after conference
1 report within 4 months after conference
Family Preservation Outcome


N=23 Children

**TIME OF REFERRAL**
- Foster Care: 2 (9%)
- Relative: 6 (26%)
- Other: 7 (30%)
- Home: 8 (35%)

**END OF CONFERENCE**
- Foster Care: 2 (9%)
- Relative: 6 (26%)
- Other: 1 (4%)
- Home: 14 (61%)

**Current As of 4-18-07**
- Foster Care: 3 (13%)
- Relative: 7 (30%)
- Other: 1 (4%)
- Home: 13 (57%)
Family Preservation Outcome
Termination of Parental Rights [TPR]

Children with Rapid Case Planning

23 Children, 19 Families with
Rapid Case Plan Conference 2005-2006

TPR status as of April 12 2007

CHILDREN
Total: 23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TPR</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No TPR</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAMILIES
Total: 19

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TPR</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No TPR</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 families with TPR:
1 child/1 family TPR 10 months post RCP
3 children/1 family 11 months post RCP
1 child/1 family 7 months post RCP
Thank You

“Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

- Will Rogers, Jr.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Conference Coordination/Preparation</th>
<th>Participant Make-up</th>
<th>Information Sharing Stage</th>
<th>Decision or Plan Making Stage</th>
<th>Documentation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Average length of time from referral to conference and length of conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(FGDM) Family Group Conference</td>
<td>Develop a plan or make a decision. FGDM staff does all coordination and preparation which may take anywhere from 20 to 40 hours per conference</td>
<td>Usually involves immediate family, extended family, informal supports and service providers</td>
<td>Service providers present relevant factual information and statutory bottom lines</td>
<td>Plan is developed during Private Family Time, presented to the group and may be strengthened with input from the service providers</td>
<td>FGDM staff will send typed version of notes taken at the conference and the family’s plan within 1 week of conference</td>
<td>Typically one conference with possible follow-up</td>
<td>3-6 weeks/3-5 hours per conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Case Planning Conference</td>
<td>Share information and develop immediate next steps Referring worker typically does all coordination. FGDM staff may assist if circumstances warrant more thorough preparation</td>
<td>Usually involves service providers and immediate family. May include extended family and informal supports</td>
<td>Facilitated discussion is centered around the agenda which is determined by all participants at the beginning of the conference</td>
<td>Immediate next steps are developed and agreed upon by the family and service providers</td>
<td>Notes and immediate next steps are typed by FGDM staff and distributed to all participants at the end of the conference</td>
<td>Can be a single conference or on-going conferences</td>
<td>1-3 days/1 to 1.5 hours per conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(P-3) Court Ordered Family Case Planning Conference</td>
<td>Negotiate a settlement on the admission or denial of the CHIPS petition and develop the immediate next steps FGDM staff does all coordination and preparation with family which takes anywhere from 2 to 6 hours. Supervisors are responsible to prepare case managers</td>
<td>Always involves parties, attorneys and relevant service providers. May include extended family and informal supports</td>
<td>Facilitated discussion utilizing the consultation framework** County Attorney presents legal bases for the filing of the CHIPS petition</td>
<td>Parties and attorneys negotiate a settlement on the admission or denial of the petition. Immediate next steps are developed and agreed upon by family and service providers</td>
<td>Settlement agreement is typed by Social Service staff, reviewed and signed by all parties. Notes and immediate next steps are typed by FGDM staff, reviewed and signed by all participants. Both documents are forwarded to the court</td>
<td>One Conference</td>
<td>Scheduled by the court; minimum 1 week notice/3 hours per conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wraparound</td>
<td>Develop a team and a unified case plan Coordination efforts may be negotiated amongst family, referring worker and FGDM staff</td>
<td>Usually involves immediate family, extended family, informal supports and service providers</td>
<td>Information is shared as part of an ongoing process incorporating strengths and needs in relation to the development of a case plan</td>
<td>A unified case plan is developed by the team</td>
<td>To be determined by the team</td>
<td>On-going process</td>
<td>2-3 weeks/1-1.5 hours per wraparound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle</td>
<td>Build relationships FGDM staff does all coordination and preparation May involve immediate family, extended family, informal supports, service providers and community members staff.</td>
<td>Includes an opening and closing ceremony and the utilization of a talking piece which enhances individual participation and listening</td>
<td>Group consensus on how to proceed</td>
<td>Typically not applicable</td>
<td>Can be a single circle or on-going circle</td>
<td>1-3 weeks/1-2 hours per circle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This document is only a guide. For further clarification please contact FGDM.

**Framework utilized to organize and analyze information in ongoing balanced assessment. Based on Signs of Safety and evidence based practice research.

February, 2006