Priority Focus Area 2
In-Home Services Design
June 2011

During the previous quarterly reporting period, the In-Home Services Workgroup had created three subcommittees to address specific tasks as part of the effort to enhance the Division's In-home Services program. The three subcommittees include the Model Selection, Assessment Selection, and In-Home/CPS subcommittees. This report includes updates on the Model and Assessment selection subcommittees. The In-Home/CPS subcommittee has been indefinitely put on hold while larger CPS projects are being addressed.

In-Home Model Selection Subcommittee

The In-Home Model Selection Subcommittee held their first meeting on April 26th. The subcommittee's task is to select and/or design an In-Home Services model and determine how it will be applied consistently throughout Utah's Child Welfare system using existing funding and have it ready to be implemented by December 31, 2011. A brainstorming session was used to help define what an In-Home Model is and what it is not.

An In-Home Model is:

- Evidence-based.
- Supported by legal and community partners.
- Measureable outcomes. Has the ability to be audited to determine if it is working.
- Produces worker confidence in using it as a tool.
- Increases families' trust of the Division.
- Can be easily trained.
- Works within the Practice Model and SDM expectations.
- Produces clear, concise, understandable, written expectations for families and caseworkers.
- Focuses on safety and permanency.
- Presumption is that safety needs can be addressed in the home.
- Addresses front-end and back-end services (coming out of foster care).
- Varying levels of contact/service based on safety/family needs.
- Covers voluntary and court ordered cases.
- Cost efficient.
- Allows workers to spend more time with children and families.
- Allows families to stay intact.
- Provides for child safety in the least intrusive manner.
- Structured in a way that motivates family participation.

An In-Home Model is not:

- For situations not connected to abuse, neglect, or delinquency.

- For situations that would be better served by a referral to another resource.
- For evidence gathering; not punitive.
- Liability protection where foster care seems safer.
- The answer when safety cannot be assured.
- Completely separate from Out of Home Services.
- A multiplier of paperwork.

Committee members brainstormed what tasks would need to be accomplished to meet the committee's project objective. Deliverables are identified as concrete things that provide verification that a specific task has been completed. Each task was assigned a lead from members of the committee. Committee members determined how much time they need to complete each task. The tasks were mapped out in the required order of completion based on which task needed to be completed before the next task could be started. The timeline also identifies which tasks can run concurrently. The complete list of tasks, leads, and timeframes were captured in a Gantt chart.

On May 31, 2011, the In-Home Services Model Selection Committee met for the 2nd time. Reviewed committee members' progress on their identified tasks. Reviewed the project Gantt chart. One of the challenges associated with the research tasks is sorting through the volume of information out there. Also waiting on some National organizations to return calls and provide information. Committee members refined some of the tasks and deliverables. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for July 12th to provide updates on the tasks and begin making more definitive decisions on model selection.

In-Home Assessment Selection Subcommittee

The In-Home Assessment Selection Subcommittee held their first meeting on May 12, 2011. The subcommittee's task is to choose one of the three assessment tools currently being reviewed (CANS, SDM in-home assessment, and NCFAS) and determine when and how it will be used and how it will be implemented across the state using existing funding and have it ready to be implemented by September 31, 2011. A brainstorming session was used to help define what an In-Home Assessment is and what it is not. Committee members were to review available information on the CANS, SDM and NCFAS. Committee members would then rank the nine identified qualities the In-Home Assessment should have. Rank the qualities in the order of importance that the assessment has that quality.

An In-Home Assessment is: (37 items group into the following nine qualities)

- Draws conclusions (provides direction).
- Comprehensive.
- Strength-based.
- Evidence-Based.
- Do-able.
- Sensitive to change (measureable changes).

- Reliable (Inter-rater reliability).
- Objective.
- Applicable.

An In-Home Model is not: (eight items grouped into the following five qualities)

- Not done on every individual.
- Clinical / diagnostic.
- A safety assessment.
- Doesn't dictate, has overrides.
- Subjective.

On June 13, 2011, the In-Home Services Model Selection Committee met for the 2nd time. Committee members had identified nine qualities that would be critical for any assessment selected for In-Home Services. Members had individually ranked the nine items in the order of importance. There was group consensus that all three assessments (CANS, SDM, and NCFAS) were insufficient as they currently stand. The outcome of the compiled ranking of the qualities is listed in the table below.

	RANK
Draws Conclusions (provides direction)	1
Do-able	2
Applicable	3
Evidence-based	4
Reliable (Inter-rater reliability)	5
Comprehensive	6
Objective	7
Sensitive to change (measures changes)	8
Strengths-based	9

A guest presenter, Tanya Albornoz, one of the CANS experts in the state, was brought in to provide committee members with as much current information as available regarding the CANS assessment and address committee member's questions. Tanya provided information to support the use of CANS as the In-Home Assessment. The CANS assessment is being used by numerous other jurisdictions. The CANS assessment is public domain so states have leverage to add items. The way the process works is for the states to submit requests to add items to Dr. Lyons (author of CANS). Dr. Lyons will need to approve or sanction requests for additional items. Another option is to ask other CANS community member for their items. Some states have been using CANS for a longer period and have more data to support the items they have added. CANS does item validity testing. CANS is an evidence-based assessment. It has inter-rater reliability. There is consistency in the scaling. A CANS assessment is done on every child. Some other states are using CANS to assess caregivers but not doing a full CANS assessment on every child if it is not needed. Another benefit of CANS over other assessments is that workers are already familiar with the scaling and assessment. Implementation of CANS as the In-Home Assessment would go fast.

The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2011. The next meeting will include a presentation from the Children's Research Center (CRC) regarding the SDM Assessment, the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment (FSNA) so that committee members will also have sufficient information regarding that assessment to make an informed decision.

In-Home Services Workgroup

The statewide In-Home Services Workgroup met on June 14, 2011. Participants included all of the Region Directors, state office administrators, and program and practice improvement staff. Kevin Jackson provided a presentation to update the workgroup on the current status of the three subcommittees: Model Selection, Assessment Selection, and CPS/In-Home Relationship. Reviewed the project objective, tasks, and progress of the model and assessment selection subcommittees. As the subcommittees' sponsor, the workgroup is more interested in an In-Home "Program" rather than an In-Home "Model." An In-Home Program is more of a continuum of services or options such as parenting classes or wrap-around services. The group would like to get a whole package rather than a fragmented portion. There is a need to also get more caseworker and parent voices on the committees or at least as part of the project development. One idea is to take the top two program options to the focus groups to get their input and feedback rather than have them on the subcommittees (who have a narrower project scope). The Workgroup's next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2011. There will be no workgroup meeting in July to allow the subcommittees more time to meet and report.

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