



Safety Methodology Practice Model Monthly Status Report

March 2014

Published by Office of Child Welfare
Florida Department of Children and Families

FINAL CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF PRACTICE MODEL- ADDING RISK ASSESSMENT

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) initiated a multi-year effort to develop and implement substantial improvements to the child protection system. The goal of these practice reforms is to ensure that unsafe children are correctly identified and that their families receive the right services and interventions to change the family dynamics that create harm.

DCF has worked with several national experts to develop Florida's Safety Methodology:

- ACTION for Child Protection, Inc. (ACTION)
- Children's Research Center of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (CRC)
- Casey Family Programs

ACTION is designated by the Children's Bureau as the National Resource Center for Child Protection Services. The remaining component of Florida's practice model to be finalized is the use of risk assessment. The function of risk assessment is to ensure that families at risk of future maltreatment are identified and provided intervention services. The Structured Decision Making® (SDM) risk tool for initial risk assessment is currently being built in FSFN and is scheduled to be deployed by mid-April.

A three day training and work session involving

Phase 1 Implementation sites was held on February 11-13. With experts from Florida's three national partners and the University of South Florida, participants developed the following practice and policy recommendations for the use of the new risk tool:

- Complete Risk Assessment Tool at conclusion of all investigations involving a Family Functioning Assessment to establish a risk score.
- Families with safe children who have high or very risk scores, who are willing to receive assistance, should be referred to CBC Lead Agencies for prevention services
- Families with safe children who have high or very high risk scores who are not willing to receive services should be staffed with a supervisor for consideration of active outreach efforts to engage family.

Participants determined the need for further input from CBC Lead Agencies to consider how risk tools and scores for unsafe children might inform on-going risk assessment during on-going case management and protective services. Participants also developed a recommended model and schedule for the delivery of training.

UPCOMING STATEWIDE SPECIAL TRAINING EVENTS

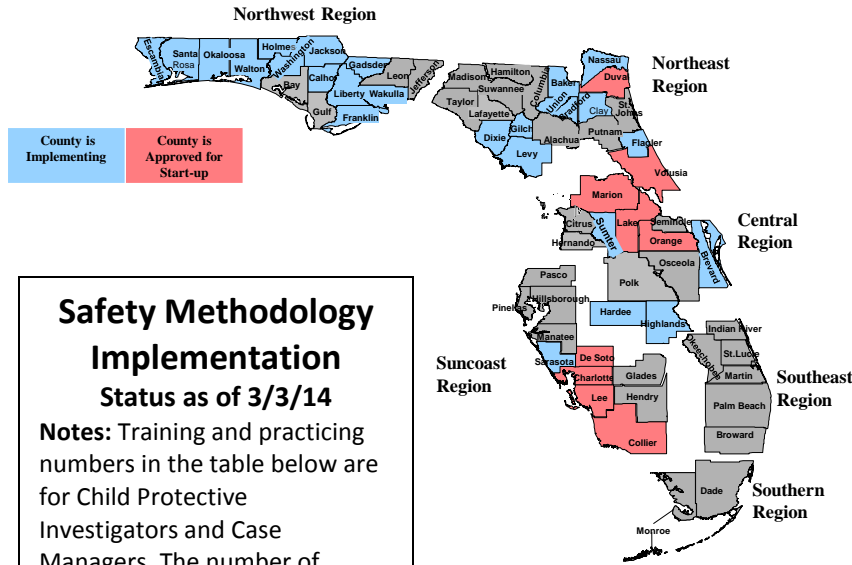
Event & Purpose	Date, Time and Location
FSFN Super User Training (OCW) To develop advanced skills on FSFN functionality including new safety methodology tools.	March 11-13, 2014 and March 25-27, 2014 9:00-4:30 daily Big Bend CBC 1000 West Tharpe St., Tallahassee
Risk Assessment Tool Training & Trainer Development (CRC) Training will result in 350 staff trained and ready to use the risk assessment tool and 50 trainers ready to train in the regions; 16 "proficient" trainers who can observe and train other trainers.	April 15-18, 2014 (times TBD) Northwest Region: Evangel Worship Ctr. 2645 Pebble Hill Rd., Mariana Central Region: Florida Hotel & Conf. Ctr. 1500 Sand Lake Rd., Orlando
Safety Plan Training of Trainers (NRC) To strengthen trainer knowledge about the application of safety plan constructs to actual cases, including criteria for in-home plans and conditions for return.	April 2, 2014 9:00-4:00 CBC of Central FL 5749 Westgate Dr., Suite 201, Orlando



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Safety Methodology Implementation Status as of 3/3/14

Notes: Training and practicing numbers in the table below are for Child Protective Investigators and Case Managers. The number of trainers reflects the number of staff that have taken on responsibility for training and have gone through a trainer proficiency process.

- Readiness Self-Evaluation Criteria**
- There are currently 26 Florida counties in various stages of implementing the Safety Methodology (shown in blue). There are 9 counties that will be starting up in March. Approval for additional start-up counties is based on the following readiness assessment criteria:
- Local leadership ready to support and monitor transition
 - Initial implementation site(s) demonstrate beginning proficiency and fidelity to model
 - Staff prepared/trained on model and practice guidelines
 - Plan for supervisory support
 - Staff development, training and coaching plan including new functionality in FSFN

	Number and % Trained	Number and % Practicing	Number of Trainers	Number of Super Safety Practice Experts
Statewide	2766 (73%)	470 (11%)	148	39
Northwest Region	208 (61%)	175 (44%)	22	5
Northeast Region	448 (74%)	86 (16%)	22	8
Central Region	989 (98%)	178 (18%)	50	9
Suncoast Region	731 (82%)	8 (1%)	32	10
Southeast Region	372 (73%)	23 (5%)	14	4
Southern Region	18 (9%)	0	5	3



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THE STATEWIDE SAFETY METHODOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE had its quarterly meeting in Tallahassee on February 4, 2014. This Committee has responsibility to lead, guide, direct and advise statewide implementation of the Safety Methodology. At the February meeting, the Committee reviewed implementation status thus far, and endorsed the roll-out schedule and criteria each region will use to determine readiness for county implementation. Each future monthly status report will include a summary of activities from the following sub-committees: Policy & Practice, Training, Supervisors, Field Readiness, Quality Assurance/Evaluation, and FSN.

Steering Committee Co-chairs:

David Abramowitz, Northeast RMD, DCF
Dr. Patricia Nellius, Brevard Family Partnership
Andrea Tulloch, Office of Child Welfare Director, DCF

Regional Practice Model Implementation Champions:

Rosa Baez, Southern Region, DCF
Patricia Franklin, Northwest Region, DCF
Patricia Medlock, Northeast Region, DCF
Kimberly Welles, Southeast Region, DCF
Stephanie Weis, Central Region, DCF
Kimberly A. Williams, Suncoast Region, DCF

Child Welfare System Stakeholders:

Alan Abramowitz, Guardian ad Litem Program
James Cheatham, Hotline Director, DCF
Joye Clayton, Children's Legal Services
John Couch, Dependency Court Improvement Program
Judge Katherine Essrig, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
Ginger Griffith, Office of Child Welfare
Ann Harter, Families First Network of Lakeview Center, Inc.
Kristi Hill, Seminole Tribe
Shelley Katz, Children's Home Society
Judge Elizabeth Krier, Twentieth Judicial Circuit
Brandi Lazaris, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Dawn Liberta, ChildNet
Judge Michelle Morley, Fifth Judicial Circuit
Barbara Moss, One Hope United
Grainne O'Sullivan, Children's Legal Service, DCF
Stephen Pennypacker, Assistant Secretary for Programs, DCF
Keith Perlman, Office of Child Welfare, DCF
Trudy Petkovich, Foster Parent
Linda Radigan, Office of Child Welfare, DCF
Julie Ann Rivers, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Samantha Rogers, Former Foster Child
Shawn Salamida, Families First Network
Nadereh Salim, Children's Network of Southwest Florida
Peggy Scheuermann, Child Protection Team, Department of Health
Marc Slager, Information Technology, DCF
Rachel Smith, Eckerd Youth Alternatives
Christine Spudeas, Florida Children First
Terry Thomas, FDLE
Megan Waldron, OurKids
Jim Walker, Broward County Sheriff's Office

For further information about the Steering Committee go to:
<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/initiatives/safetymethodologysteeringcommittee/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event	Purpose	Date, Time, Place
Statewide Implementation Sites Conference Call Stephanie Weis, Chair	For implementation sites to share progress, common challenges and strategies.	3/17/2014 1:00 EST Conference #: 1- 888-670-3525 Participant code: 7795539870#
FCADV/DCF Safety Plan Work Session Contact: Linda Radigan, OCW	To develop best practice examples of safety plans of cases involving domestic violence.	3/24/2014 8:30-5:00 EST Betty Easley Conference Ctr. 4075 Esplande Way, Tallahassee
Statewide QA Managers Quarterly Meeting Contact: Eleese Davis, OCW	Presentation and discussion of new federal process for child welfare system evaluations (Child and Family Service Reviews).	March 25-27, 2014 Ocala
Monthly Implementation Leadership Call Hosted by David Abramowitz, and Stephen Pennypacker	Statewide call to track major issues impacting implementation. All stakeholders invited to join call.	3/28/2014 4:00 EST Conference #: 1-888-670-3525 Participant code: 2827480837#
Work Session with Florida Coalition for Children Contact: Ginger Griffith	To develop policy on use of standardized risk tools and safe or unsafe children in families with high or very high risk factors.	April 2014 (Location to be determined)



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Event	Purpose	Date, Time, Place
Case Plan Work Session Contact: Ginger Griffith	To identify best practices for case plans that support a behavior change model. Session will include CLS, the judiciary, and child welfare stakeholders.	4/3/2014 8:30-5:00 EST Florida Hotel & Conf. Ctr. 1500 Sand Lake Rd., Orlando
Practice Guidelines Work Session Contact: Ginger Griffith	The Policy Committee of the Statewide Steering Committee will conduct a work session to review feedback on safety methodology practice guidelines and produce final recommended drafts.	April 8-10, 2014 Tallahassee Location and time TBD
FSFN Enhancements under development for April release (3rd quarter build)	The functionality in this release will include Risk Assessment, Service Authorization, and Financial/Eligibility functionality to support Safety Methodology implementation and FSFN SACWIS Compliance.	

ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER PROTECTIVE SERVICES (NRCCPS)

DCF applied for and was approved for ongoing technical assistance from the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services. Technical assistance will be provided through the end of September, 2014. NRCCPS has played an instrumental role in helping to design and support the Safety Methodology. Florida will receive continued support for several aspects of continued implementation:

- 1) Hotline. Hotline counselors are learning to gather more information around six domains to determine which intakes will require a family functioning assessment, and response screening times based on suspicion of present or impending danger. TA includes a review of completed calls for quality of screening. Capacity will focus on skills of supervisors and quality assurance staff to improve intake quality.
- 2) Case Consultation Capacity. The TA will provide assistance to develop a sustainable model for supervisory case Consultation. This will include identification and development of supervisory skills to guide, mentor, and coach investigators and case managers.
- 3) Safety Plan Development. The TA will focus on staff capacity to determine fidelity of information collection and analysis related to family functioning assessments, conditions for return, and ongoing evaluation of safety plan sufficiency.
- 4) Case Plans for Behavioral Change. TA will be provided to work with Office of Child Welfare and other stakeholders, including the judiciary and Children's Legal Services, to determine how the case planning process can become more effective with development based outcomes.
- 5) Measuring Practice and Performance. The TA will involve work with the Statewide Steering Committee and the Office of Child Welfare to develop metrics and methods of evaluating fidelity of practice. Casey Family Programs will be a partner in this work.
- 6) Super SPES: TA will provide further skill building and ways to broaden capacity of Super SPES.

