

Join Hands for Children
Advisory Committee on Site Selection and Transition Issues Meeting

Monday, October 31, 2011

List of Transition Issues

1. Random Assignment
 - a. Develop a process to monitor case types and workload throughout the demonstration period and a strategy to realign if they are significantly out of balance.
 - b. Potential Trumps From Random Assignment (cases that ordinarily would be randomly assigned that are not)–
 - i. Sibling Groups - So they can be managed by either the state or private but not managed by 2 different caseworkers.
 - ii. Nearing permanency
 - iii. Extreme Outliers
 - iv. Families returning to care?
 - v. Conflict of Interest
 - c. How and what should be monitored during the random assignment
2. Case transfer – How/when it happens?
 - a. The decision point to offer/not offer services?
 - b. We need a lot more information about the design?
 - i. Enlist CATS to assist in developing a protocol. They are poised to help
 - ii. The random assignment decision should be made without the knowledge of the investigating social worker or supervisor. One possibility is to wait until there is supervisory approval before revealing the case management assignment.
3. Overriding Authority
 - a. What is a normal distribution and when would there be an override to the random assignment.
 - b.
4. Training:
 - a. Who will train the private contractors? And provide ongoing training?
 - b. Training – WA-ICWA needed
 - c. SACWIS Training
 - d. AG Training
 - e. Cost analysis needed
5. Interaction Rules
 - a. Rules for interaction between CA and Private Agency Social Workers
 - b. Courtesy supervision and how that would work between DSHS Children’s Administration (CA) and the supervising agencies in the demonstrations
6. Access to Services and interface with Part 1 – Performance Based Contracts

- a. Equitable access to services for tribes and for state case managers specifically if a private agency is a large contractor under Part 1 PBC and also provides case management under Part 2.

7. Questions/Issues relating to Washington State Tribes

- a. Training – WA-ICWA needed
- b. If a tribe opts out, does that option extend to their children living in the demo sites?
- c. Impact to urban Indians in both Seattle and Spokane sites
- d. Relationship between tribes and the local DCFS offices have been built over years; it may be difficult for a private contractor to come in new with no working history with local tribes. What safety nets can be put in place for those families while trust is developed and relationships built? What do “Opt in” and “Opt out” mean for a tribe?
- e. How will a private contractor who is providing services to Indian families now, assure those services will continue, if they begin this new demonstration as the private contractor?
- f. Will contractors in demonstration sites have to follow the new WSICWA law?
- g. Who will mediate disputes between a tribe and a private contractor? Who will identify the arbitrator?

8. Contracts:

- a. How will compliance and quality be monitored, statewide as well as in the demonstration sites?
- b. What to include?
- c. What will be the ‘enforcement’ for non-compliance by a private contractor?

9. Disproportionality?

10. Case Oversight

- a. Who will monitor success of the family? Progress or lack of progress?

11. Opting Out

- a. Can the court decide they aren't happy with the way either the department or the private agency is handling a case and order that the case be reassigned? Can this be done at the request of counsel (ie. OPD, private attorney)?
- b. Are families involved in the demonstration site notified that of their participation. Will they be allowed to request which condition to which they are assigned?

12. Resources

- a. What safeguards will be put into place to assure CA funds/resources are not diverted from offices statewide to the demonstration sites? – Divert/share with finance committee
- b. Process to ensure comparable access to services between control and experimental conditions

13. Measuring Success

- a. After the demonstration timeline – two years, what resources and structures would be needed to return to state case management if the demonstration is not successful?