

Trend Analysis Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: DHS Building, room #224 - 228
(120 North 200 West, Salt Lake City)
In Attendance: Aude Bermond-Hamlet, Beverly Hart, Carol Miller, Casey Christopherson (by phone), Darla Taylor, Dawn Hollingsworth, Jeff Harrop, Judy Hull, Katy Larsen, Linda Prince, Linda Wininger, Mike Pomeroy, Navina Forsythe, Sam Syphrett (by phone), Tonya Myrup
Guest: David Phelps, Treatment Program Administrator for the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Notes

We'll look at the trends for the first quarter of FY2009. Which trends need our attention? Trend data measures and Quarterly Report measures - discuss overlaps and needed additions.

Aude presented a summary of the most recent quarterly trend report for all to review. This summary shows which trends are trending in the right direction along with trends needing attention.

- *Trend #2 – Children who are abused in foster care. Trending down from last quarter, but 0 is desirable.*
- *Trend #4 – Recidivism: child victims with a prior supported allegation within 12 months. Trending slightly up from the previous quarter.*
- *Trend #6 – Children entering foster care who reach permanency within one year. Trending slightly downward from last quarter. One reason may be that kinship providers are keeping children longer to make determination if they want custody and guardianship.*
- *Trend #7 – Reentry. Reentry within 12 months is up from last quarter, meaning fewer reentries.*
- *Trend #8 – Average number of months in custody by sex. Trending up from last quarter, which may also reflect that children are staying longer in foster care while kinship providers determine if they want custody and guardianship.*
- *Trend #10 – Children with fewer than 3 placement changes. Trending up from last quarter, but remains low. We need to have a way to track when a child is placed in shelter and the next 24 hours to meet kinship and counting placement requirements. **Linda W. will staff this issue with Navina. Judy H. will also the have kinship workgroup look at this issue. Both will report back to this committee.***
- *Trend #15 – Children who are legally free and placed in an adoptive home within 6 months. This is trending positively and is a small sample of*

children in care. **We are working toward defining an “adoptive home” due to changes in practice – Linda P. will report back to the committee once this is determined.**

*Aude presented a handout and overview of trends that we track in the DCFS Quarterly Performance and Outcomes Report, which correlate with the Milestone Plan trends but use slightly different criteria than those trends. **Aude will look at the trends and assign each program administrator trends to review to see if it makes sense to continue to track both sets of trend indicators or if we can combine some trends for ease in tracking. She will ask that they present their analysis at the next Trends Analysis Committee meeting. Regional milestone coordinators will think of any other data trends that would be useful to track and will present this information to the committee for consideration.***

Navina Forsythe: presents data from the delinquency report. Also presents the instructions for entering substance abuse as a contributing factor in SAFE.

Navina addressed questions from the previous meeting.

- *In our last meeting, it was suggested that substance abuse as a contributing factor seems to be under-reported in SAFE. Our data shows that children in care due to substance abuse are in care for a shorter period of time than those with other contributing factors. Navina presented a handout about how we document substance abuse in SAFE. Training about how to enter this data may be given to all staff. Navina will look at cases that do not have substance abuse listed as a contributing factor to see if that is accurate. **Navina will send a sample to Aude and regional data analysts for review.** Once it is determined if this is actually under-reported, we can decide what steps to take.*
- *Navina presented the Report on Placement Stability and Delinquency for review. Youth coming into care due to delinquency are not experiencing more placement changes or longer time in care, so this is an inadequate assumption. The age of the child seems to be the issue. Youth that come into care due to delinquency are placed in residential facilities more than other youth.*

Katy Larsen and Dave Phelps: presents the survey conducted by Ken Brown on the prevalence of substance abuse in our client population.

Dave Phelps, Treatment Program Administrator for the Division of Substance Abuse, attended the meeting to help present this survey. Katy gave the presentation on the work that Ken Brown accomplished before he left the agency, so this information is in draft form. A handout of this presentation was given to all committee members.

- *The data shows that most Child and Family Services staff do not understand that substance abuse is a disease, so the treatment approach may not be helpful.*
- *Evidence shows that fetal alcohol syndrome is the most harmful to children.*
- *It may be more useful to understand how many workers feel comfortable talking with clients and children about their drug/alcohol abuse, instead of what training they have received. Northern Region has their workers attend a two-day training session around substance abuse issues.*
- *There are not adequate prevention programs for children of parents who have substance abuse problems.*
- *By statute, counties are responsible for their local substance abuse programs, with county commissioners overseeing these programs. Each region is working on a memorandum of understanding with their local substance abuse/mental health authorities.*
- *David commented that prevention staff should refer children of substance abusing parents to substance abuse prevention programs.*
- *Priorities from the Region Directors are to develop protocol regarding drug testing including education of judges, develop training module, and improve relationships with county commissioners and local substance abuse authorities.*