

County PIP Reduction Strategies and Action Steps document

County: Schuylkill

County Point of contact: Lisa Stevens & Patti Moyer

Email address:

lstevens@co.schuylkill.pa.us

pmoyer@co.schuylkill.pa.us

Add more or delete strategies as necessary

Strategy i: Increase youth and family control in individual and systems planning and improvement

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

Develop Family Group Decision Making program in Schuylkill County.

Participate in Family Finding Training in order to educate staff members to the process. Training of entry level and in-home staff would be a priority.

ICSP team will actively pursue the strategies outlined in 09/10 ICSP plan.

2010

Utilize family finding to locate family members as an alternative to placement, this would occur prior to a planned placement or as soon as an emergency placement occurred.

Work with County Mental Health to develop Youth and Family Teams (high fidelity wrap around)

The County would require assistance from OMSAS to implement the high fidelity wrap around program.

Strategy ii: Facilitate access for behavioral health, housing, education, employment, healthcare, etc... in all three phases of contact (pre, concurrent and post placement).

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

Through cooperation between ICSP, Judges Roundtable, County Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol program, attract more community based providers to Schuylkill County. The agency would require assistance from the Provider Association, Regional Office, or Child Welfare Training Program regarding provider information.

Establish a system with Mental Health and Drug and alcohol community providers and interagency team to prioritize access to services for families with youth at high risk of placement.

Establish a system with local housing authorities to prioritize applications for families with youth whom are at high risk of placement or are in placement due to housing needs. The agency needs to establish a connection with the two local housing authority offices to determine the procedure in order to implement this system, whether it is a referral process or meetings.

Assist families to pay rent on a short term basis as a diversion to placement of youth for housing reasons. This program could be extended to 10 families, providing \$600/month, for a maximum of 3 months. This program would be for families that housing is a reason placement would be needed.

Work with Alternative Education Program, Department of Education, and County CASSP Team to develop evidence based truancy reduction program

Through ISCP cross system training educate all agency staff and community provider staff on health care options.

Assist families to pay for day care services in order for caretakers to seek employment or education.

2010

Expand truancy committee work group; evaluate effectiveness of current county truancy policy and work with community MH/MR and D&A providers and school districts to increase availability of in-school services to children. The work group currently consists of Children and Youth, Juvenile Probation, County Commissioner, President Judge, District Magistrate, Pottsville Area School District Truancy Officer.

Strategy iii: Transition from traditional child welfare services to implementation of evidence based programs and prevention services

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

The Following Programs would be implemented as a diversion to placement:

Implement Family Group Decision Making

Implement Multisystemic Therapy

Implement Functional Family Therapy

County Casework Manager will be attending training and recruiting service providers to initiate the services. Referrals for these services will be funneled through the Casework Manager position.

Strategy iv: Placement of child(ren) in close proximity to home and preservation of connections to their home community and home school.

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

At the time of removal, agency will make a more concerted effort through placement/court committee to locate kinship resource. Participate in Family Finding Training events to educate staff as to the process. Initially this will be concentrated in the entry level and in-home units.

Evaluate current agency foster care policy

Develop policy with area school districts to ensure youth entering substitute care are enrolled and able to begin school in an expedited manner. The agency will utilize the Department of Education to expedite the enrollment of students as needed. The county truancy committee work group will be used to assist with this plan.

2010

Implement Family Finding Initiative by developing agency policy regarding this program. Entry level and in-home units will be utilizing family finding prior to placement or immediately following the emergency placement of children.

Strategy v: Increase quality and quantity of contacts between children and family

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

Expand in home family visitation as opposed to office visits

2010

Implement Family Finding Initiative by developing agency policy regarding this program. Entry level and in-home units will be utilizing family finding prior to placement or immediately following the emergency placement of children.

Identify foster parents who would participate in a mentoring relationship with the birth family

Develop intensive family reunification positions in agency

Strategy vi: Increase community supports and programs by implementing an ideal service array

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

Through coordination with ICSP, Judges Roundtable, County Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol programs, attract more community based providers to Schuylkill County. The agency would require assistance from the Provider Association, Regional Office, or Child Welfare Training Program regarding provider information

Develop Family Group Decision Making Program. County Casework Manager will be attending training and recruiting service providers to initiate the services. Referrals for these services will be funneled through the Casework Manager position.

2010

Work with County Mental Health Program to develop Youth and Family teams (high fidelity wrap around). The County would require assistance from OMSAS to implement the high fidelity wrap around program

Strategy vii: Implement concurrent comprehensive planning efforts at family and system level

Action Steps and timeline:

2009

Discuss with CWTP Practice Improvement Specialist what the training needs are of our staff with respect to concurrent planning

Utilize team reviews of placement cases as outlined below:

- Review cases two months prior to the scheduled six month court review (currently there is no team review of these cases)

- Review case when child is in placement 15 months or longer

- Schedule a review prior to any planned move in placement or within a week of an unplanned move

- Review any case that may require placement prior to the placement occurring and any emergency placement within a week of the placement.

Initially the team will consist of the Administrator, Casework Supervisors and the case manager. The agency would like to consider expanding the Placement team review committee to potentially include the CASSP coordinator and service providers involved with the family.

The team meetings will be one time per week.

2010

Work with LSI to process TPRs timelier

vii. Work with the court system to implement changes to improve the low TPR rates.

2009

Agency Administrator will schedule a meeting with the President Judge to determine a means to proceed with TPRs more efficiently. Improve coordination between Agency Caseworker, Agency Legal Staff, Agency Solicitor, and County Judicial office to expedite the TPR process.

2010

Work with LSI to process TPRs timelier