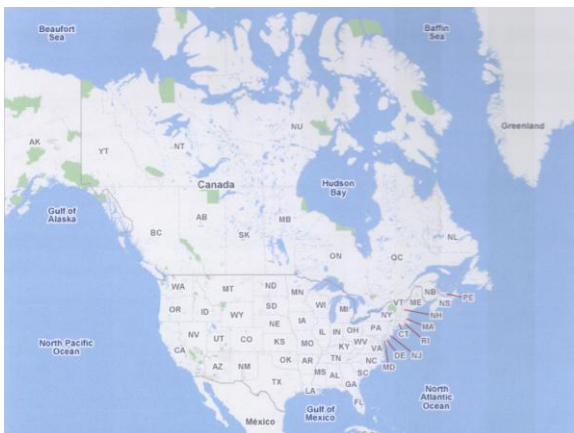


National Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response in Child Protective Services

Introduction to Differential or Alternative Response in Child Protective Services

Presentation

- Introduction – Setting Context
- Rethinking Child Protection
- Differential Response – Alternative Response
- Core Elements
- Findings
- Questions



Setting Context

National Quality Improvement Center
On Differential Response in
Child Protective Services

Sponsored by the U.S. Children's Bureau

Collaboration for Differential Response Research



Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response
in Child Protective Services: Purpose

- ✓ Support implementation of DRS in CPS
- ✓ Implement evaluation to study the impacts of DRS in CPS
- ✓ Build innovative and replicable knowledge about DRS
- ✓ Identify best practices



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Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response Research Sites

Colorado

Illinois

Ohio

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Resources

- www.differentialresponseqic.org
 - Literature Review
 - Resource Section
 - Press Releases and Updates.



Setting Context

Rethinking Child Protective Services

Where were we before we recognized strength based work with children, youth and families?



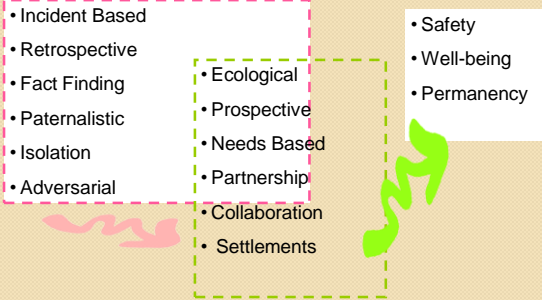
Rethinking Child Protection

Issues:

1. Over Inclusion: Scope is broad impacting low risk families
2. Capacity: Number of families exceeds capacity to serve
3. Under Inclusion: Families not reported or not CPS but need services
4. Service Orientation: Traditional approach not appropriate for low risk
5. Service Delivery: Needed services may not be available

Jane Waldfogel 1998

Child Protection Transformation
Towards Partnership & Collaboration



Sawyer/Lohrbach 2004

Differential Response

In a

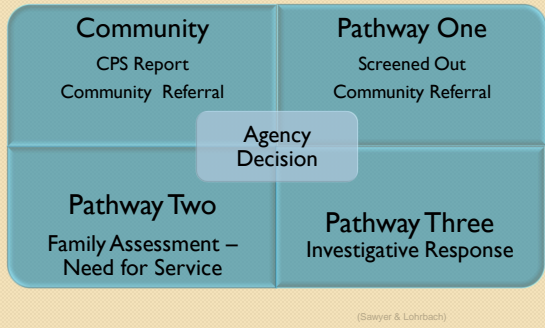
Child Protective Services System

Differential Response

A Differential Response System organizes a child protection agency to respond in a proportional manner to reports of possible child maltreatment.

Sawyer - Lohrbach

Differential Response System in a Child Protective Service System



Differential Response System

Choice in how child protective services responds to reports of child maltreatment
Three Pathways:

- 1) Family support intervention for screened out reports
- 2) Family Investigation of maltreatment
- 3) Family assessment of maltreatment

An opportunity for a practice shift

Sawyer - Lohrbach

Differential Response

“A formal response of the agency that assesses the needs of the child or family without requiring a determination that maltreatment has occurred or that the child is at risk of maltreatment.”

US Department of Health & Human Services 2005

Core Elements: Differential Response

- Two or more discrete responses to reports of maltreatment that are screened in and accepted
 - **Family Investigative Response (FIR)**
 - **Family Assessment or Alternative Response (FAR)**

Core Elements: Differential Response

- Assignment to response pathways is determined by an array of factors:
 - ✓ presence of imminent danger
 - ✓ level of risk
 - ✓ number and nature of previous reports
 - ✓ source of the report
 - ✓ type of alleged maltreatment
 - ✓ vulnerability of the alleged victim.

Core Elements: Differential Response

- Original response assignments can be changed
- Ability of families who receive a Family Assessment or Alternative Response to accept or refuse to participate in services or to choose the Investigative Response

Core Elements: Differential Response

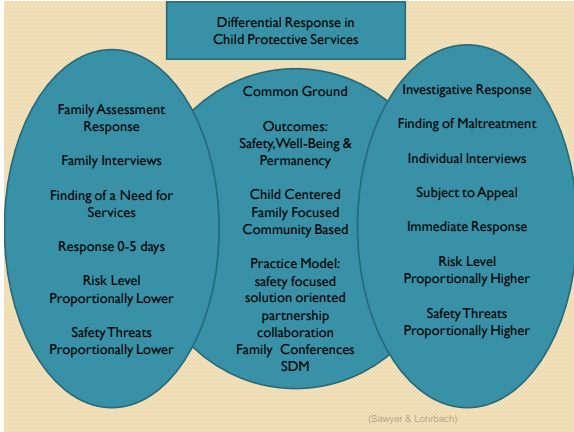
- After assessment, services are voluntary for families who receive a Family Assessment or Alternative Response – as long as child safety is not compromised
- Establishment of discrete responses is codified in statute, policy, or protocol

Core Elements: Differential Response

- No substantiation of alleged maltreatment from a Family Assessment or Alternative Response
- Services are offered without a formal determination that maltreatment has occurred for families served by the Family Assessment or Alternative Response

Core Elements: Differential Response

- Use of a central registry is dependent upon the type of response
- Family involvement in decision-making



Transformative Strategy

Social Work Practice Model

Partnership Based Collaborative
Social Work Practice



Practice Model

1. Constructive engagement
2. Inclusion of family, extended family & community
3. Collaborative engagement
4. Utilization of research

Lorhbach - Sawyer

Practice Model

5. Safety organized
6. Responsible use of authority
7. Comprehensive assessment of risk including protective capacity

Lorhbach - Sawyer

What We Are Learning

- Mobilize hope with service recipient
- Promote positive expectations with service recipient
- Technique matters no more than "placebo effect"

- Prepare service recipients to take action to help themselves
- Expect service recipients to do something different
- Emphasis on possibilities
- Emphasis on service recipient activity

- Quality of a service recipients participation
- Service recipients perceptions of the helping professional
- Service recipients strengths and resources
- Social supports available and active

- Partnership between service recipient and the helping professional
- Service recipient participation – engaged in purposeful work
- Empathic, genuine and respectful practice – core conditions
- Constructive practice focused on outcomes

Miller, Hubble, Duncan; Networker March/April 1995
Kieran McKeown 2000

Evaluations Already Conducted

- All conducted by the Institute for Applied Research
 - Process and Impact Evaluation of The Missouri Family Assessment and Response System 1995 - 1998
 - Report: Missouri Family Assessment and Response Demonstration
 - Evaluation Report, January 2000 (Digest)
 - Five-Year Follow-up of the Statewide Missouri Implementation
 - Report: Differential Response in Missouri after Five Years, February 2004
 - Minnesota Alternative Response Evaluation 2001-2004
 - Report: Minnesota Alternative Response, Final Report, November 2004
 - Ohio Alternative Response Evaluation 2007 – 2010
 - Report: Ohio Alternative Response Pilot Project Evaluation: Final Report, April 2010

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Minnesota Study Highlights Differential (Alternative) Response

1. Child safety "uncompromised"
2. Fewer new child maltreatment reports
3. Fewer children in foster care
4. Less costly in longer term
5. Families liked the approach
6. Social workers supported the approach

iarstl.org

Ohio Study Highlights
Alternative Response

1. Child safety “uncompromised”
2. Fewer new child maltreatment reports
3. Fewer children removed from families
4. Evidence of family engagement & satisfaction
5. More services by social workers

iarstl.org

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Evidence Based Practice

“Minnesota Family Assessment Response”
(Alternative Response)

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

July 2008

Evidence-Based Practice in Child Protective Services

Minnesota’s “Alternative Response” in Child
Protective Services

“Promising Research Evidence”

California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child
Welfare (June 2008)

Are there differences in state vs county systems

- We don't know.....both systems have implemented DRS
- QIC DRS supported studies in Illinois, Ohio & Colorado may increase knowledge on this question

Are the potential gains worth the investment?

- Outcome data from studies in Missouri (comparative study), Minnesota (controlled study) & Ohio (controlled study) support an organizational and practice change in child protective services.

Are the potential gains worth the investment?

- Studies underway in Colorado, Illinois & Ohio will provide increased information in the next two years.
- Is what you have, what you want for children, families, communities & staff?

Changes in law?

- 2011 - Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act amended to require states to implement “Differential Response” in child protective services.
- Statutory base for child protective services
 - 1) modify to allow a pilot implementation
 - 2) modify to require full implementation

Child Protection - 2005

To require a family assessment, when appropriate, as the preferred response to reports not alleging substantial child endangerment; to require an investigation when the report alleges substantial child endangerment; and to provide protective, family support, and family preservation services when needed in appropriate cases.

MN Statutes 2004, Section 626.556 Subd. 1

What next?

- If what you are doing today is working then do more of it....
- If what you are doing today is not working as well as you would like, then try something different....

What Makes A Difference?

- Do Something Different – Innovate
- Do the Work – Social Work Practice
- Do Engage Families – Partner
- Do Collaborate – Community Resources
- Do Track Trends – Data Matters
- Do What Works - Success
- Do Lead – Keep a Vision

Sawyer - Lorhbach

Resources

- Quality Improvement Center on Differential Response in Child Protective Services

- www.differentialresponseqic.org

- American Humane Association's Differential Response Initiative

- www.americanhumane.org/differential

- Institute of Applied Research

- www.iartstl.org



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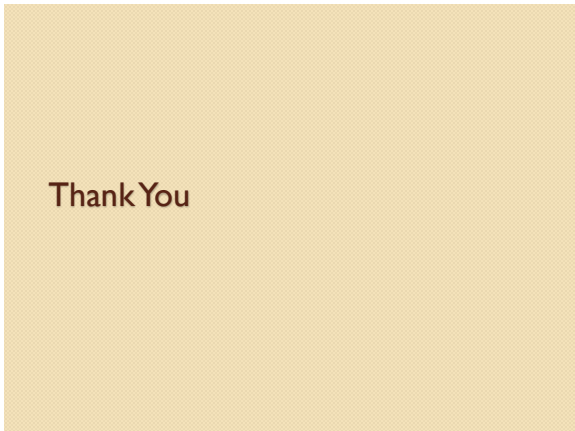


Partnership Based Collaborative Practice in Child Protection: Overview

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Thank You
