



Stemming the Tides

Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Prevention Programs

Seventh Annual Citizen Review Panel
Conference

May 22, 2008

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What is the Parent Support Outreach Project?

- Connect families at risk of child maltreatment, who have been reported but not accepted by child protection system, with community-based social service providers for assessment and services



Why do the Parent Support Outreach Project?

- Minnesota county CPS agencies assessed 19,846 reports of child maltreatment in 2006;
- 37,000 reports were screened out in 2006; approximately 35% of screened out reports involve children under five years old
- Many communities in Minnesota have family support programs for families
- Many at-risk families do not access these



The Re-reporting connection

- Many children and families, identified by communities as being at risk of child maltreatment, do not receive services
- A substantial proportion of these children are re-reported (15-45% across country)
- Families who engaged in services are less likely to be re-reported



The Re-Reporting Connection

- Factors predicting re-referral (English, et.al, 2002)
 - substance abuse
 - prior reports
 - lack of motivation to change
 - domestic violence
 - mental health/impairment
 - lack of social support

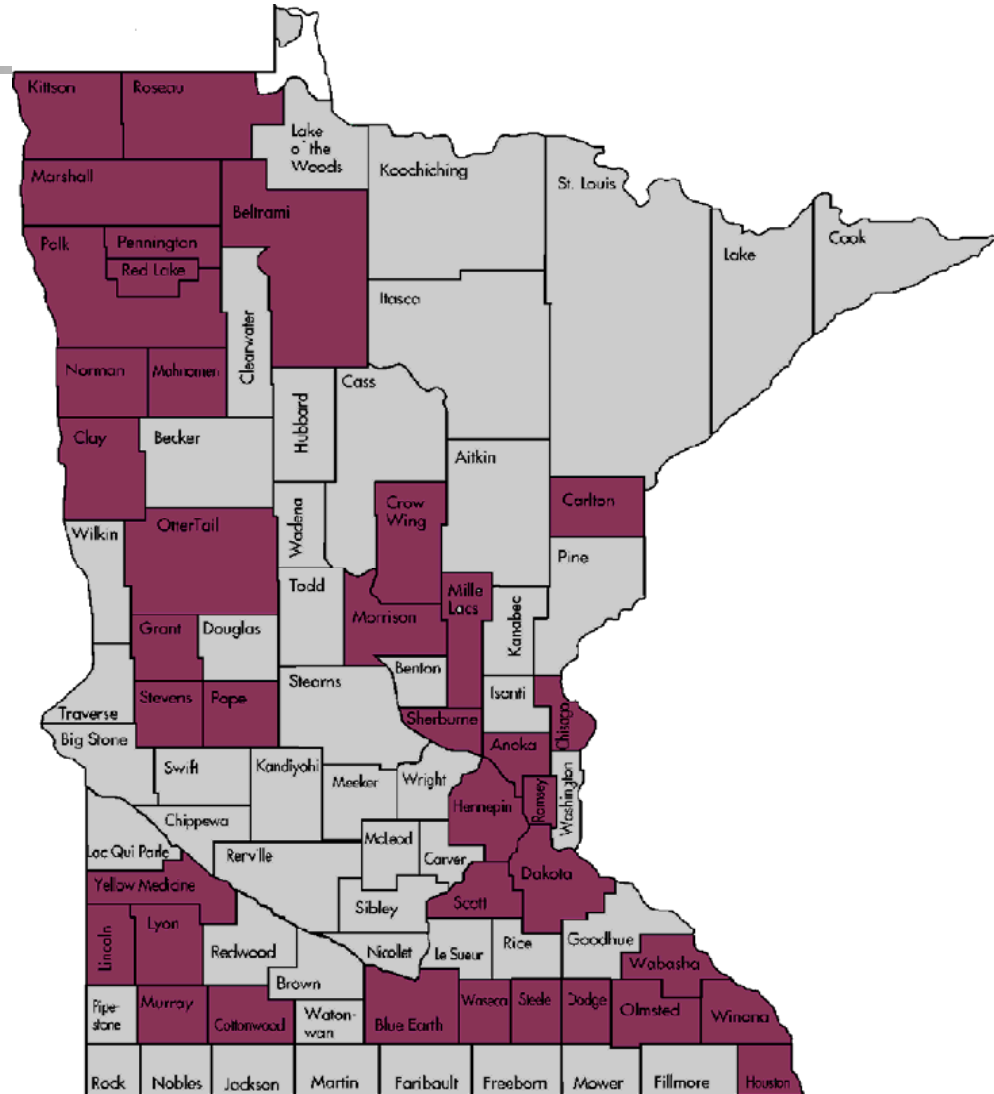


PSOP Parameters

- 3 year pilot program = 4/1/05 to 12/31/08
- Voluntary child welfare program offering family support services to at-risk families
- Eligible families include:
 - Reports screened out by CPS (with at least on child 10 years of age or younger)
 - Self Referrals
 - Community referrals
- Supports and services are offered to address child maltreatment risk factors and unmet family needs that threaten the stability of the family and the well being of children

Grantees

38 counties are participating in the Parent Support Outreach Project





The Purpose of PSOP

- Test the impact of early intervention services on outcomes for at risk families
- Develop systems of engagement and service system infrastructure for families not traditionally served by the child welfare system
- Connect at-risk families with enduring supports within their communities



Research Questions

- Do needs identified for families correspond to risk characteristics and are needs responded to with services?
- Is families awareness of services increased after PSOP?
- Are the following maintained or enhanced through PSOP?
 - family and child strengths (protective factors)
 - child well being
 - family stability and functioning
 - family's ability to secure and maintain adequate resources to meet basic needs
- Is child protection involvement reduced through PSOP services?
- Are impacts better for PSOP accepters as compared to PSOP decliners?
- Are there variations in outcomes for specific types of families approached using different PSOP models



Data Collection in Social Services Information System (SSIS)

- Intake Narrative
- Service Plan
- Worker notes and assessment instruments
- Family and Person Characteristics
- History of reports and cases recorded in SSIS
- Future reports and cases in SSIS, including:
 - Child protection reports and cases
 - Child welfare and child mental health cases
 - Removal and placement records of children



Data Collection

- Families are asked a series of questions about their needs, the assistance they received, and their satisfaction
- In follow-up contacts, families will be asked to provide feedback on various outcomes.
- Workers will be asked to complete Extended Family Surveys about their work with families upon closing a family case in PSOP
- General Surveys of workers and supervisors will be conducted at two points in the evaluation to learn what approach is used by the county, successes and challenges in implementation or approach used in the program, and suggestions for improvement.



PSOP to Date

- 3576 families served
- 7327 offered, 49% acceptance rate!
- Families who accept services very often have many needs and challenges
- 48% of families who received services, continue to exhibit problems or require assistance after the first effort to assist them



Families who received services through PSOP:

- The majority of Families have been:
 - overwhelming satisfied with the way they were treated
 - felt they have been helped by the services that they were offered/received
 - felt that there better off because of PSOP
 - felt that their worker tried to understand their family and their needs
 - felt that the services that were provided were the kind they needed



Some of the Services provided to families

- Food or clothing (31%)
- Counseling Services (28%)
- Parenting Classes (22%)
- Money to pay rent (21%)
- Car repair or transportation assistance (18%)
- Mental Health services (17%)
- Help paying utilities (17%)
- Help getting into educational classes (13%)
- Help in looking for employment (10%)
- Help for a disabled family member (8%)



MFIP Family Connections

National Incidence Study found that children in families with income below the poverty line were 22 times more likely to experience maltreatment than children with income twice poverty level

IAR study of AR in MN found that families with repeat reports of neglect are most resource poor families in CPS

Chapin Hall study of families receiving TANF in Milwaukee were 3x's as likely as the general population to experience a child protection investigation and 5x's as likely to experience out of home placement

Analysis of MN MFIP families found that 15% of caretakers had a child maltreatment determination or a child in foster care



MFIP Family Connections

- The goals of this program are to:
 - Prevent families in receipt of MFIP supports from experiencing child maltreatment
 - Promote protective factors, family stability and child well being
 - Develop working models for joint service planning between MFIP and Child Welfare Programs



MFIP Family Connections Program Parameters

- Three year pilot program (9/07-9/10)
- Eligible families include those in receipt of MFIP supports for a min. of 3 mo's and no longer than 36 mo's
- Coordinate and direct services across income support and child welfare programs
- Family participation is voluntary
- Counties agree to participate in evaluation

Goals of MFIP & Child Welfare



- MFIP: provide need families with financial assistance to meet basic needs, and promote the capacity of families to meet their own needs through employment
- Child Welfare: protect children and promote ongoing safety, permanency & wellbeing of children



MFIP & Child Welfare

- To achieve the goals of both systems, it is necessary to engage parents in a change process and to support them in addressing basic service needs
- Working in partnership makes sense!

MFIP Family Connections Pilot Counties



Beltrami

Olmsted

Cass

Polk

Crow Wing

Ramsey

Dakota

Sherburne



MFIP Family Connections Funding Sources

- Bush Foundation Grant
- TANF Innovation Funds
- Children's Trust Fund



Evaluating MFIP Family Connections

- Wilder Research, a division of Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, has been contracted to evaluate the project
 - Experimental & control groups
 - Collect data from SSIS, MAXIS, closing forms
 - Worker interviews
 - Parent Interviews



MFIP Family Connections data

- February, 2008:
 - 132 families eligible
 - 110 assigned to experimental group
 - 38% accepted services
 - Of decliners 18% actively declined, 82% “passively” declined
 - 22 assigned to control group



Further Information

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