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Northern Arapaho April 17, 18, 19 and 20, 2007 Mini CFSR Report *Northern Arapaho Tribal Review*

Case Ratings:

#NA304 (Child protection case)

- Perfect scoring case. “Highly respected case worker”

#NA305 (Child protection case)

- 8 areas needing improvement: Item 3-Services to family to protect children in home and prevent removal; Item 17-Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents; Item 18-Child and family involvement in case planning; Item 19-Worker visits with child; Item 20-Worker visits with parent(s); Item 21-Educational needs of the child; Item 22-Physical health of the child and Item 23-Mental health of the child. “Extensive, extended family support”

#NA306 (*Juvenile services case*)

- Perfect scoring case. “Positive attitude of the family and their willingness to make changes; workers willingness to work with the family”*

#NA307 (Child protection case)

- Perfect scoring case. “Service needs met in a timely manner and initial response to safety addressed immediately”

#NA308 (Child protection case)

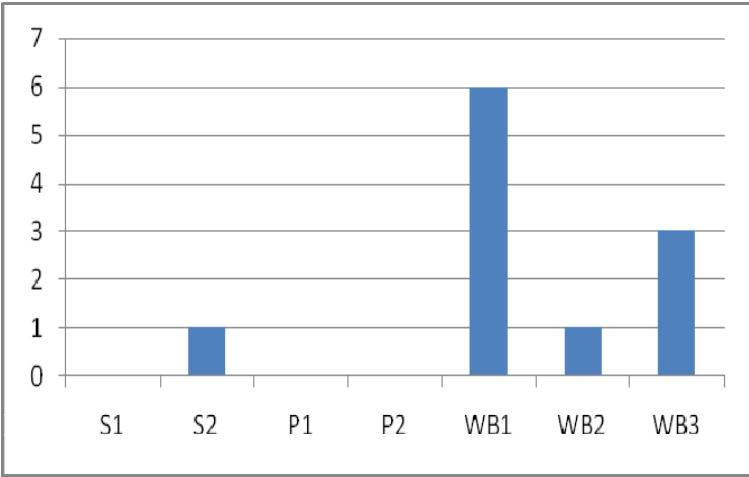
- 3 areas needing improvement: Item 17-Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents; Item 18-Child and family involvement in case planning and Item 22-Physical health of the child. “Safety addressed well, but case needs enhanced documentation”

#NA309 (*Juvenile services case*)

- Perfect scoring case. “Narrative entries are concise, well written and time related; case worker was strength based and case worker was an advocate for native children”*

“Quality of the casework is much improved; safety has greatly improved since the 2005 assessment” – Bob Quick, Juvenile Services Administrator, Wyoming Department of Family Services

The graph to the right shows the number of Mini CFSR instrument items rating as “areas needing improvement” in the broad outcome categories of safety, permanency and well-being.



Italic font indicates juvenile service review comments; standard font indicates child protection review comments.

Issues requiring administrative level/Tribal Council attention:

- Case worker case loads
- Need for family assistance worker(s)
- Need for legal counsel
- Coordination and sharing of information between Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone
- Program vehicles
- Video conferencing capability for out of community placements to allow for:
 - Worker contact;
 - staffing;
 - family counseling;
 - case planning, and
 - family contact.
- Video conferencing between tribal office and tribal court and for training
- Residential treatment facility specifically for tribal youth on the Wind River Indian Reservation
- Availability of Indian Health Services (IHS) funds to support therapeutic foster care
- IHS social work position available to help with case management of children’s mental health needs

Issues requiring local social service office attention:

- Policy requiring early childhood screening for preschool age children
- Safety documentation for relative placements
- Placement tracking in WYCAPS (unpaid relative placements)
- Documentation to include narrative, assessments, case plans medical records and mental health records

Overarching issues which the Wyoming Citizen Review Panel can advocate for and support resolution of:

- Case workers must use their personal vehicle (s) which is a liability
- Housing for families and kinship care providers
- 24 hour crisis placement option needed for interim placements
- Drug Court (facilitation of resolution):
 - No case worker involvement in adult county drug court;
 - juvenile drug court requires three separate data entries, and
 - attention to step down and aftercare from drug court.
- Advocate for local tribal youth treatment options
- Transportation for citizens of the Wind River Indian Reservation

Strengths:

- Collaboration:
 - “Good multi agency collaboration”
- Consistency:
 - “Other providers appreciate the work and consistency of the case worker”
 - “New case worker did a good job of assuming the case from the previous case worker”
 - “One case worker throughout the case provided consistency”
- Documentation and adherence to procedure (case planning):
 - *“Case worker did a great job and family appreciated the caseworker”*
 - *“Great narrative entries; specific, concise, well written and clear outlining concerns and days of sobriety”*
 - *“Strength based case work”*
 - “Safety issues were addressed in a timely and appropriate fashion”
 - “Case worker is very open to learning new things and trying new things”

- "Initial response to safety was addressed immediately"
- "Great job by case worker"
- "Case worker made attempts to contact dad and include dad in the case plan"
- "Early intervention screening"
- "Kin are expressing needs for child's emotional difficulties"
- "ICPC begun for relative placement in Nevada"
- "Frequent, consistent home visits by caseworker occurred"
- Effective use of service array:
 - "Mother is court ordered to drug court and is currently in counseling"
 - "Good wrap around services for mom"
 - "Good and complete services offered for the entire family"
- Engagement of the child:
 - "*Child is currently on an individual educational plan (IEP)*"
 - "*Child is very involved in school and associated with school sports*"
- Family involvement:
 - "*Family was very involved and worked the case plan with the child*"
 - "*Family is involved in the case planning process*"
 - "*Family was given the choice of what drug court to attend with their child*"
 - "Kids stayed with kin, no moves or changes"
 - "Father supported the concurrent case plan"
 - "4 year old male placed with paternal aunt"
- Legal System
 - "Father and grandmother were both included on the court order"
 - "Consistent court orders helped the case move forward"
- Preserving connections:
 - "*Child is involved in sports and family is very supportive*"
 - "Efforts made to keep connections"
 - "Child was placed in the same community"
- Successful outcomes:
 - "*Child is now off probation, is at home and doing well*"
 - "*Dad is maintaining his sobriety and attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings with his son*"
 - "Difficult case to work but had a great outcome"

Additional contributing factors:

- "*Juvenile justice cases often have child protective nuances*"
- "*Case worker has a large case load and must be in drug court at least three days a week*"
- "Child was worried about mother who was grieving about loss of her father (child's grandfather)"
- "Cultural competence present in community services"
- "Permanency definition changes in light of cultural issues; floating placements. The tribes are very collectivist and very clannish"
- "Child filled out food stamp forms because he was mad at mom for not doing it"
- "All six kids were left alone in a motel while mom was in a detoxification program"
- "No centralized place for information sharing between systems"
- "The waiting list for Head Start delays services"
- "Parents found intoxicated; child taken to the emergency room for welfare check"
- "Foster parenting is not the noble profession in the culture; children are cared for by kin"
- "Children are cared for by entire families; case workers are not necessarily seen for the good that they accomplish"
- "The lack of a contract or written agreement between the agency and the State of Wyoming continues to block resolution to some issues"

- “Due to high case volumes, concerns of well being are not necessarily a priority for workers as they are often focusing on new safety issues”

Opportunities for improvement:

- Aftercare:
 - “Mom and child needed counseling when an acquaintance died”
- Case planning:
 - “No immunization records in case file”
 - “No medical assessment done when child entered detention facility”
 - “Child had several probation officers”
 - “Court order is used as the case plan; may need policy addressing that usage and what else should be included in the case file”
 - “Family should be involved in creating a case plan”
 - “Lack of documentation in case file”
 - “Preventive health documentation needs to be in the case file”
 - “Checklists for different processes would help keeping the case file up to date”
 - “Training on how to write an assessment might be useful and then filing them in the correct place”
 - “Need to document why dad was not involved in the case planning”
 - “New incidents need to be created for new allegations of abuse and neglect”
 - “Case narratives need to be done in a consistent and timely fashion”
 - “School would like to have more communication about status of case plan”
 - “No pre school intakes were done”
 - “Case size, intensity and turn over of staff becomes a barrier for documentation”
 - “Needs assessment not completed”
 - “Gaps in documentation due to staff changes”
 - “Services recommended prior to removal of child but were not provided”
 - “Lack of documentation in the case file”
 - “Communication with the Eastern Shoshone Social Services program could be enhanced in order to provide better services for families that have intermarried”
- Communication:
 - “It may be helpful for families and their cases to have enhanced communication and information sharing between the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes”
 - “Foster care provider expressed a need to know what services were available for young children”
- Contact:
 - “Need to make contact with the family and document in the case file when family contacts are made”
- Family involvement:
 - “Father (in prison) was not involved and there was a lack of clarity regarding his status in the family”
 - “Family conflicts between maternal and paternal relatives led to stress for the child”
 - “Fathers are not involved and do not wish to be involved”

Systemic Barriers:

- Area conditions:
 - Housing:
 - 28 people living in a single dwelling
 - Family currently lives in a motel; hoping to move to an apartment”
 - “Poverty was a significant issue in the case”
 - “Housing opportunities are few:
 - Family lived in a motel for almost one year”
 - “Families do not have phones or cars to meet appointments”

- “The family needed housing”
- “There is inadequate housing and financial penalties exist for the number of children in the house:
 - Mother will be looking for housing for 5 kids;
 - \$475 for house with no drinkable water now \$500 per month; grandma is being charged \$25 per child, and
 - there is a great housing disparity and a lack of housing resources on and off of the Wind River Indian Reservation.”
- Legal system:
 - “Tribal drug court, drug court in Riverton and drug court in Lander equates to three different courts and several levels of probation with little or no communication and coordination between the programs”
 - “Lander Police Department does not always notify tribal social services when a probationer gets in trouble”
 - “Riverton Police Department does not always notify tribal social services when a probationer gets in trouble”
 - “Aftercare from drug court and a step down program would be helpful”
 - “Greater coordination with state drug courts would provide better consistency”
 - “Educational system would like some judicial oversight on certain children to help them to finish school”
- Tribal social services program needs:
 - “More case workers are needed”
 - “Workers need state vehicles to drive instead of their personal vehicles”
 - “Case worker case loads are high (33 cases) and the intensity of the cases is heavy; another case worker has a case load of 52 cases”
 - “Family assistance worker(s) is being recommended for the social service program”
 - “Case worker told not to put narrative in the case file as the narrative can be pulled by the FBI and courts”
 - “No legal support for the case worker when they are subpoenaed”
 - “Video conferencing is needed in the agency office”
 - “Resolution for high case worker turnover”

Review process dynamics and considerations:

- Citizen reviewers in this review consisted of:
 - Manager from the Wyoming Department of Health;
 - ICWA coordinator from Casey Family Programs;
 - intake manager from the Wyoming Boys School;
 - diversity coordinator from Casey Family Programs;
 - ACF representative;
 - University of Wyoming professor;
 - minister;
 - University of Texas professor;
 - tribal vital statistics employee, and
 - a representative from Praesidium.
- The period under review was October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007.



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