

POST-SUMMIT PLANNING FORM

TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1, 2008

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As they relate to the *safety, well-being and permanent home environments* for children in your county, please complete the following:

WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE ISSUES AFFECTING THE SAFETY, WELL-BEING AND PERMANENT HOME ENVIRONMENTS OF CHILDREN?

1. **PARENTAL CHARACTERISTICS.** Parents of many of the children served in the child welfare system have limited ability to parent effectively. These limitations are often associated with domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, poverty/lack of financial resources, and/or criminal activity (related to the factors listed above).
2. **FUNDING.** Due to limited funding, community-based options are not fully developed. Funding restrictions make it difficult to pool funding in the most effective way and Medicaid rules make it difficult to deal with the family as whole.
3. **DISRUPTED ADOPTIONS.** Many of the disrupted adoptions involve adoptions of children from other countries and/or adoptions arranged out-of-county.
4. **CROSS-SYSTEM COMMUNICATION.** For youth served by several systems, on-going effective communication is always a challenge.
5. **UNFUNDED MANDATES.** Unfunded mandates continue to increase, straining staff resources and limiting the ability of local systems to focus on the child and family.

WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE STRENGTHS AND/OR RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

1. **COLLABORATION.** Cross-system collaboration is strong and agencies work together. Providers know each other and have developed a level of respect and trust across systems.
2. **SCHOOL SUPPORT.** Schools are involved in cross-system efforts.
3. **RELATIVELY HEALTHY COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS.** Compared to other counties, Greene County has healthy demographics in terms of unemployment, poverty rates, parent education levels, etc.
4. **COMMITTED TO YOUTH.** County residents support efforts to improve child well-being through volunteerism, levy support, etc.
5. **COUNTY SIZE.** County size makes addressing youth/family issues easier because some of the issues faced by large urban counties and small rural counties are not present or are limited in scope.

WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY?

1. **FUNDING.** Unstable and uncertain revenue levels, including decreasing tax revenues, projected decreases in TANF funding, and potential reductions at all levels (i.e., local, state, federal).

2. **PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT.** It is difficult to involve and engage many parents in positive ways so that they actively support efforts to assist their children. Some of these parents have significant issues of their own, some are overwhelmed, and some have simply given up.
3. **PLACEMENT COSTS.** Costs of out-of-home placement for youth continue to increase and, given the fiscal environment, it is difficult to develop community-based options that might help reduce placements and/or placement length.
4. **CROSS-SYSTEM CONNECTIONS.** Need to “tighten” the connection among all the systems working with most at-risk youth so that **there are well coordinated interventions that address the youth, the parent, and the family has a unit.**
5. **FAMILY FOCUS.** Organizations have tended to focus on the youth or the parent, with little attention to the family as a system.

WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE MOST NEEDED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?

1. THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE
2. INTENSIVE HOME-BASED SERVICES
3. COMMUNITY-BASED AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICE OPTIONS FOR JUVENILE SEX OFFENDERS.
- 4. FAMILY SYSTEM THERAPY**
- 5. MORE WRAP AROUND TO PREVENT SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT**

WHAT ACTION STEPS WILL BE TAKEN LOCALLY TO DEVELOP NEEDED SERVICES OR ADDRESS LOCAL CHALLENGES?

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of youth currently in placement or at high risk of placement to more clearly identify common patterns of youth and family characteristics, history of cross-system involvement, and service gaps/needs.
2. Identify service priorities and determine potential costs and models.
3. Examine/map current cross-system funding targeting youth meeting the profile developed.
4. Explore possible ways of realigning current resources and/or developing alternative funding to fill service gaps/needs most critical for youth meeting the profile developed.
- 5.

BEYOND FUNDING, WHAT ACTION DOES THE COUNTY NEED FROM THE STATE TO HELP ACHIEVE ITS ACTION PLAN.

1. Create networking opportunities with other counties doing similar work.
2. As action plan progresses, there may be a need for state technical assistance in addressing program and fiscal restrictions and constraints that inhibit efforts.
- 3. Identify evidence-based models that are effective with the target population.**
- 4.
- 5.

