



QUARTER 2
PIP 1.2.1(A)
Rural

**DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
RURAL REGION RESPONSE TO PIP ITEM 1.2.1 (A)**

Based on the analysis conducted under PIP Item 1.2.1 from Quarter 1, the Rural Region did not find any barriers or inappropriate practice to prevent the removal and placement in foster care due to parental incarceration.

The Rural Region was extremely pleased with the findings and discovered in every case that efforts were made to contact the arrested parent to identify relative placements, relatives were contacted and there was good collaboration with law enforcement in all cases. The Rural Region believes all efforts were made to prevent placement in foster care and reduce trauma by placing with a relative. We used the below evidence to support this decision:

There was a total of 9 cases (11 children) analyzed.

- 6 out of the 9 cases reviewed concluded that the parental incarceration was not the sole basis for the CPS allegation.
- The DCFS Social worker transported the children in 8 out of the 9 cases; Law enforcement transported in the remaining case as the parent was arrested in Washoe County and after the child was placed it was discovered that the family resided in Carson City, therefore the case was transferred to the Carson District Office.
- In 8 out of 9 cases Law Enforcement contacted CPS **prior** to transporting the children to receiving. In the remaining case the parent was incarcerated and left the child with a relative who brought the child to the DCFS office as the relative was unable to care for the child.
- In 5 out of the 9 cases efforts were made to affect a parental placement. Those parents were contacted and asked to identify alternate caregivers, which they did provide and placements with relatives were made. In 3 out of the 9 cases the alternate caregivers were unable to pick up the child until the following day due to the distance between the relative and the child and in the remaining case it is not known whether the parent was contacted due to lack of documentation, however the parent was released from jail the next day.

In response to the last bullet where it is not known whether the parent was contacted, the caseworker was provided with a copy of the Statewide 0601.0 Documentation Policy and was instructed to follow it in its entirety.



QUARTER 2
PIP 1.2.1(A)
Washoe

Washoe County
ACTION PLAN – INCARCERATED PARENTS
PIP ITEM 1.2.1A

Washoe County Department of Social Services has a multi-pronged approach to addressing concerns regarding short-term placements as a result of parental incarceration. WCDSS and DCFS jointly are developing full implementation of a comprehensive safety model. In addition to the review conducted by WCDSS, the National Resource Center for Child Protection (ACTION for Child Protection) conducted a separate review analyzing implementation to fidelity of the Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA). This review suggested WCDSS staff could improve safety analysis and decision-making which may impact short term placements.

Strategy 1

WCDSS embarked on a strategy in August 2008 to initiate Family Solutions Team (FST) meetings to address safety concerns and to keep children safely out of department custody. The Department has successfully avoided placement for 297 children in 2010. Analyzing a period of six months from January to July 2010, the Department avoided placing 164 children through the FST process with 142 children continuing to avoid placement 6 months later (see attached report). The FST model continues to develop and will be strengthened during Strategy 3 through refinement in the Permanency Innovations Initiative grant.

Strategy 2

The National Resource Center for Child Protection (ACTION) is consulting with WCDSS and DCFS to further refine the safety intervention focusing on development of a present danger plan and refinement of the current NIA process. ACTION has made recommendations to the Agencies related to Family Solution Team meetings to move such meetings further in the case to allow for adequate assessment of safety be concluded to guide decision making. Staff is currently working collaboratively with DCFS and ACTION for model development and training. Please see that attached development plans.

Strategy 3

Currently, most children in Washoe County who are identified with present or impending danger are placed into foster care. It is anticipated that some children currently placed in foster care due to impending danger may be protected with in-home safety plans. WCDSS through the Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII) grant funded by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will implement a comprehensive safety system utilizing the National Resource Center for Child Protection's model (SAFE). The population served by the grant will be unsafe children and their families who may be served with in-home or out-of-home safety plans. The focus of the project's intervention is on families of children with impending danger with an emphasis on meaningful engagement of parents and their children and the implementation of safety and change focused services appropriately tailored to each family based on a comprehensive assessment. The SAFE model incorporates focused safety interventions including present

and impending danger assessment, caregiver capacity to protect the child, supervisor consultation, and safety plan development and monitoring. The model is currently being integrated with Nevada policy and practice and will be complete by August 2011. Staff selection into the pilot program for the grant will be completed by December 2011 and training on model design will be complete by April 2012. The model will be tested and evaluated by research staff and will be assessed for full implementation in the Agency at the conclusion of the study period (2016) per grant requirement.

Strategy 4

WCDSS is working with a non-profit organization, Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN) to consider the feasibility of implementing a Drug Enforcement Committee (DEC) in Washoe County. There is verbal commitment from all three law enforcement agencies (LEA), District Attorney's Office, community service providers, and medical staff to explore a comprehensive DEC model. The following exploratory actions occurred:

1. A meeting is scheduled with Marcia Williams, State of Nevada Attorney General's Office to explore resources available through the AG's Office and commitment by local agencies to develop a comprehensive program.
2. WCDSS is communicating with Orangeburg County representatives regarding initiatives taking in that community related to DEC development (please see attachments).

Commitment regarding formulation of a DEC protocol will be considered at the July 2011 meeting and appropriate action plans developed.

Strategy 5

WCDSS will be incorporating changes to emergency response specific to parents who are unable to provide care due to arrest and incarceration. The Department will be working with law enforcement to enhance initial assessment of the circumstances and to locate alternative safety planning in an effort to eliminate the need for short term placement. This will occur in concurrence with the previously mentioned intervention strategies but will be specifically focused on collaboration with law enforcement and first responders.