

2009 WYCRP Annual Report Recommendations

Systemic Recommendations:

- Conversations occurring between state agencies and within communities about social service delivery must continue after the 2010 election.
- Changes made after the 2010 election must be based on data; what and who is working should continue.
- Information outside of state government exists about service delivery in Wyoming; that information should be considered by decision makers.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Service Recommendations:

- Publically funded mental health centers are often not timely and willing collaborators in the service deliver network unless through a contractual arrangement.
- Mental Health Center clients must have input into the services they receive.
- Often it takes an escalation in behavior, and the judicial system getting involved before services can be accessed.
- In some instances, the Alcohol Severity Index (ASI) can be done effectively within hours; in other instances it can take months.
- Treatment services for dual diagnosis patients are lacking in Wyoming.
- The funding formula for court supervised treatment programs seems on the surface to be somewhat unbalanced.
- The data system for court supervised treatment programs seems to be cumbersome and of little use for generating meaningful reports.
- A window of opportunity exists for clients to willingly receive services after their contact with the system; sometimes this window is lost due to clients not being able to self admit to substance abuse problems in order to receive certain services.
- Consistent collaboration must be a priority when working with the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes.
- Alcoholic Anonymous groups are needed for juveniles in Wyoming.
- Specialized counseling for juveniles is needed in many areas of the state; particularly dealing with sexual perpetration.
- Greater dispensing accountability for prescription medications is needed for those treatment cases involving abusers.
- Wyoming needs more juvenile and family court supervised treatment programs; in 2009 two quit providing services.

Protective Services:

- Safety should continue to be a priority of the Wyoming Department of Family Services (DFS).
- DFS should remain open minded to community input and be reflective and transparent.
- The Wyoming Legislature should fund the replacement of WYCAPS.
- The Mini PIP process is a conceptually sound way to implement change locally to the greatest extent possible while recognizing the good work that is already occurring.
- A central intake system should be funded by the Wyoming Legislature.
- A calculated return of the Mini CFSR process should be planned for by DFS. The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel is hearing through the SYNC review process that:
 - Phone calls are not returned timely or at all by case workers and consultants at an alarming rate, and
 - home visits are not occurring at the frequency families and children need them.

Juvenile Services:

- Conversations which "bridge the gap" between child protective services and juveniles services should continue.
- The juvenile justice board initiative and related activities needs to be well funded.
- The Northern Arapaho Tribe and Easter Shoshone Tribe should be given the consideration of being separate cultures.
- The philosophical concept that juvenile justice is an effort best initiated at the community level and protective services should be coordinated at the state level should be continued.
- Any document produced by the state for local communities to apply for funding should be concise, non repetitive and afford smaller communities the opportunity to complete.
- The two words, "juvenile" and "detention" need to continue to be discussed and appropriate standards created. Detention for low-risk youth does not produce meaningful results.
- Organizations outside of state government are often the best to study and report on trends; state government leaders should honor and use their work.
- Wyoming needs a true juvenile court.

Wyoming Child Major Injury and Fatality Review Team:

- In 2009, DFS documented ten child major injuries; two resulted in death. Wyoming needs a statutorily created and defined child major injury and child death review process to review all child major injuries and child deaths.

- Improved internal communications between DFS county offices remains a need.
- Guardian Ad Litem (GALs) need training to forensically work with children and families.
- A systemic need for state agencies to collaborate with local law enforcement exists.
- Participation by the Wyoming Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole with child protection team meetings would be beneficial.
- Statutes to allow for stronger sentencing in cases that occur between aggravated assault and attempted murder could be beneficial.
- Stiffer penalties for aggravated assault on juveniles could serve as a greater deterrent.
- Any dealings with children and families need to be family centered.
- The correct assessment needs to be done in all cases.
- Efforts to engage the general public in reporting suspect child abuse and neglect is needed in Wyoming.
- Interviews with mothers should occur without her partner present.
- Communities, possibly through child protection teams, should formulate memorandums of understanding between collaborative agencies and organizations to share information.
- Psychological evaluation requests need to be exact and specific.
- Centralized child abuse reporting through a toll free number is needed in Wyoming
- Prenatal services, such as parenting classes, should aggressively be offered to at-risk parents.
- Greater information dissemination regarding licensed day care providers is needed.
- Placements at residential treatment centers need to be reviewed for appropriateness and effectiveness regularly.
- Children would benefit from day care providers having more training in the areas of child abuse and child neglect.
- Medical personnel need to immediately involve law enforcement when child abuse or child neglect could be a possibility.

