

## **Eastern Shoshone Exit Meeting**

**Date: May 11, 2007**

**Location: Eastern Shoshone Department of Family Services**

**Attendance:** Dr. Phill Rector, Rick Robb, Kelly Hamilton, Challis Coulston, Mazie Goggles, Glenda Lacey, Olivia Perry, Rita Phillips, Larry McAdams, Vicki Murdock, Rowena Day and Diana Schafer

**Team's Desired Outcomes:** To make a Program Improvement Plan from what was learned during the recent Mini CFSR and the 2005 assessment

**Strengths:** The group identified the following strengths for the Eastern Shoshone office:

- Well organized and prepared for the onsite review
- Creativity in individualized plans
- High intensity child protection cases
- Same day response or next day response by child protection staff to intakes
- Willingness to learn and to do quality work
- Physical case file organization in the child protection unit
- Family involvement in case planning due to the recent employment of a MDT coordinator
- Families generally do not return after case closure
- Workers make extra efforts to keep families together
- Workers have a good working relationship between one another
- The office has good working relationships with
  - i. the State of Wyoming;
  - ii. The Federal Bureau of Investigation;
  - iii. Indian Health Services (mental health)
  - iv. tribal prosecutor
  - v. local DFS offices, and
  - vi. the Northern Arapaho social service program.
- The program enjoys strong support of the Eastern Shoshone Business Council (ESBC)
- Diligence
- High caliber case work
- High levels of professionalism, while respecting cultural values
- High rate of relative placements

**Needs:**

- Functioning WYCAPS system
- Memorandum of understanding between the Eastern Shoshone child protection unit and the Northern Arapaho social service program, to be shared with all workers in both offices
- Improved timeliness of initial court orders to place children
- Improved collaboration and communication between FBI, BIA Law Enforcement, local DFS offices and Eastern Shoshone DFS agencies during investigations may help;
- Foster parent recruitment and retention

- Formal agreement between kinship care providers and the agency
- Defined relationship and protocol for communication between Eastern Shoshone DFS and Eastern Shoshone Juvenile Services
- Resolution of cross jurisdictional court related issues
- Video conferencing equipment and training to use the equipment is needed for:
  - i. Training;
  - ii. allowing visitation between children and families, and
  - iii. participating with other DFS forums
- Addition to the contract with the State of Wyoming of three positions currently funded by BIA

**Program Improvement Plan:**

1. Foster Care:
  - i. Write appropriate cultural standards (*Larry McAdams/Pat Hans/Mary Huyser*);
  - ii. create therapeutic foster care resources (*Dana Ward, Lisa Brockman and Dr. Phill Rector*);
  - iii. highlight positive foster care (*Juliette Rule*)
  - iv. certify of kinship homes (*Larry McAdams*), and
  - v. hire a foster care coordinator.
2. Training on coordination of multi jurisdictional issues to include law enforcement, social work staff, child protection team, prosecutors, judges, and investigative personnel (*WYCRP*)
  - Make all DFS training available to workers in the tribal offices and all tribal training available to DFS offices
3. Enhanced coordination between the Eastern Shoshone Juvenile Services and Eastern Shoshone Department of Family Services Unit (*Larry McAdams, Bob Quick and David Snyder*)
4. Family centered practice for juvenile services
  - Case plans need to include medical and educational records, and
  - updated training.
5. Case plans for both CPS and Juvenile Services
  - Scanner;
  - use MDT coordinator to develop case plans with the family;
  - written plans to be in the file, and
  - training on concurrent planning.

At the program directors request, this program improvement plan will be reviewed in August including Juvenile Services.

A report and presentation to be given to the Eastern Shoshone Business Council in the near future.

## **Needs which cannot be met by the local office but need addressed:**

1. An effective collaboration between the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of Family Services and Eastern Shoshone Business Council is necessary to develop technology that will ensure the support of WYCAPS for use by Eastern Shoshone programs. Without access to WYCAPS, there cannot be a fully functioning caseworker. WYCAPS is currently not useable by either of the Eastern Shoshone programs:
  - Access to WYCAPS is vital to good case management practice. The inability to access WYCAPS affects:
    - Payment of providers;
    - the of use required case management tools, and
    - the ability to enter vital information regarding perpetrators into the system which informs central registry; therefore safety of children is compromised.
  - Fiber optics strung with telephone lines may be a possible solution to make WYCAPS operational.
2. Eastern Shoshone juvenile services program does not reflect current standards of practice due to a lack of updated training and supervision as reflected by scores during the recent onsite review involving:
  - Placement re entries;
  - child and family involvement in case planning;
  - assessment and services to meet needs of the child and family,
  - and worker contact with children and parents.
3. Video conferencing and training on using the equipment:
  - For out of community placements to allow for:
    - Worker contact;
    - staffing;
    - family counseling;
    - case planning, and
    - family contact.
  - Video conferencing for shared training with DFS
4. Residential treatment facility specifically for tribal youth on the Wind River Indian Reservation
5. Availability of therapeutic foster care; Indian Health Services (IHS) support to seek funding
6. Indian Health Services social work position available to help with case management of children's mental health needs
7. Support positive news stories through use of the DFS public information officer
8. Scanners to allow incorporation of written case plans into WYCAPS

6/4/2007 3:25:48 PM