Implementation Of Problem Solving In Family Support Magistrate Session

Workgroup: Development of Local Resources

The Workgroup met on November 17, 2009 and reviewed the group's objectives 1) to develop a comprehensive catalog of services and providers to refer parents to the New Haven area, and 2) to examine the role that Court Service Center may play in providing information and services to parents and the problem solving magistrate. In attendance were representatives from the Family Support Magistrate Division, New Haven office of Support Enforcement, Court Service Centers, and New Haven Family Alliance.

Task 1: Catalog of services and providers. Catalog of providers and programs:

The New Haven SES office, together with the newly assigned New Haven Problem Solving SEO, will be responsible for collecting and cataloging service providers and programs.

The New Haven office of Support Enforcement has developed an internal spread sheet of programs and services available in the area. A copy is attached. SES was tasked with drafting program summaries that identify target population, capacity of the program, eligibility for program (if any) , start time of programs and intervals of program offerings including the projected time period to complete the program; cost if any for participation; and any other pertinent information.

Additionally, the New Haven Court Service Center maintains a catalog of programs and services in the New Haven area. Court Services will send a copy of the programs and services they have identified to SES for consolidation of cataloging.

New Haven Family Alliance also maintains a listing of providers and services that will be forwarded to New Haven Support Enforcement for consolidation of cataloging.

Recommendation: Any program a problem solving participant is referred to will be fully vetted for appropriateness of referral, capacity and ability to achieve outcome goals of referral. New Haven Family Alliance agreed to assist in the vetting process.

Not determined:

- **Assignment of future responsibility to maintain and update community resources.**

- **Invitation for other program(s) and organizations to self submit information for inclusion in catalog of community resources.**
- **Format for program submission, i.e. how many copies to be submitted; electronic conversion or printed copy;**

- **Need for a "request for program submission", including identification of program summary, target population, eligibility, cost, if any, capacity, time to start to finish, intervals when offered.**
- **Create electronic and hard copy catalog;**
- **Where will the materials be maintained, i.e. SES New Haven office, access to public for electronic catalog or limited to SES personnel**

Thing To Do:

-Review program self submissions to ensure consistent with goals of Statute, safety checks for domestic violence, non-discriminatory.

When a parent has been referred to a program or provider that has been vetted, it will be necessary that the parent provide the program with the source of the referral. It was discussed that a referral sheet should be provider to the parent.

Additionally, it was discussed that the Court may wish to have information from the program concerning compliance with the referral and other programs that the parent may have been referred to address his or her barriers.

Things to Do:

- **Create a referral sheet for obligor to take from court and give to provider/ program.**

- **Create a compliance form.**

NEXT MEETING: Date to be determined.

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