

Major Planning Area: Program Model and Development

All DRS programs introduce an alternative method to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect recognizing that one type of response does not meet the needs of every family that comes to the attention of the Department. At the same time, each DRS program differs from the other in varied ways including eligibility criteria, screening and assessment methods, service delivery, closing and track changes criteria, and staffing. This planning area must resolve several policy decisions and develop Connecticut's own model.

Key Activities

- Establish an on-going governance structure and means to assure successful implementation of DRS.
- Establish Connecticut's Family Assessment Protocol
- Conduct a Logic Model process and design model including the following components:
 1. Program Purpose
 2. Eligibility Criteria
 3. Screening and Assessment Methods
 4. Service Provision and Delivery
 5. Staffing and Role Clarity
 6. Case Tracks and Change Criteria (including existing VSP track)
 7. Case Closing Criteria

Leadership

- 1) DRS Steering Committee's Infrastructure Workgroup established to make recommendations on elements of a Ct model.
- 2) DCF DRS Internal Workgroup, in consultation with the Commissioner, will assist in the development of policy and formation of a Ct model.

Status

A Planning Infrastructure has been established existing of the following:

- *DRS Internal Workgroup--Key DCF officials
- *DRS Steering Committee--Broad cross section of stakeholders
- *DRS Subcommittees
- Infrastructure

- Training
- Policy
- Assessment

Final recommendations from the Infrastructure Work group were issued on February 19, 2008 and referred to the Assessment Committee.

Developed a model summary and accompanying Flow Chart.

Completed first draft of the Logic Model and incorporated into a Request For Information (RFI) released on 8/1/08.

Completed first draft of Family Assessment Protocol and Framework.

Next Steps

Model Draft has been completed and will be further informed and revised through policy development, training opportunities, and by responses from the community through their planning efforts.

Further utilize responses to the formal Request For Information (RFI) to inform procurement process, including the use of existing infrastructures in support of DRS. Existing infrastructures may include: Systems of Care, Community Action Programs, Ct Council of Family Service Agencies and Nurturing Families Network.

Finalize Family Assessment Protocol and present at the next Executive Management meeting.

A longer term consideration involves determining an Implementation Governance structure. The Steering Committee is serving a critical function in the development of DRS, but it will be important to task anew and recompose a group that will serve the distinguishable function of monitoring implementation and evaluating program success.