

Andrew Choens, MSW - Example Projects

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Hornby Zeller Associates

Mental Health Trust Beneficiary Study Update: 2013 Alaska Department of Corrections

Conducted onsite case reviews and interviews of Trust beneficiaries along with data analysis of other social services programs to determine the extent to which individuals with untreated mental health problems may be kept out of the criminal justice system and in treatment, as well as to reduce their rate of recidivism.

Evaluation of Title IV-E Waiver: 2013 - 2017 (Expected Completion Date) Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services

Co-managed a multi-year evaluation of the implementation of a program designed to improve placement stability of youth. Developed a logic model, protocol and tools to measure program fidelity, outcomes and cost-neutrality. Conducted data analysis using the SACWIS data.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program - Community Based Child Abuse Prevention: 2013 Iowa Department of Human Services

Conducted data analysis of the Iowa Family Protective Factors survey used to measure change through a pre- and post-test.

Workload Study: 2012

Alaska Office of Children's Services

Conducted onsite interviews and focus groups of agency staff to identify activities and preliminary ways for support staff to provide additional assistance to front line caseworkers. Led the training of local participants through a series of webinars. Conducted data analysis of time available for case work and time needed to handle a case. Assisted in the update of time caseworkers require to handle cases.

Evaluation of Jacob's Law Implementation

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

Led the data analysis component of an evaluation aimed at addressing the placement stability needs of foster care children age four to ten with difficult behaviors. Developed a web-based Child and Adolescent Needs and Strength assessment tool for case managers to use to identify service needs and measure progress. Participated in meetings with the Steering Committee guiding the project. 2011 - 2014.

Pahrump Office Review: 2011 - 2012

Nevada Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services

Conducted case record reviews of investigative, protective and foster care cases for an evaluation which focused on Nye County's adherence to policies and practices and its ability to provide for the safety, permanency and well-being of children.

Children's Rights, M.D. v. Perry Litigation: 2011 - 2012

Texas

Formulated the sampling methodology used to select cases for a comprehensive case record review assessing the practices of caseworkers for children in permanent managing conservatorship.

Sebastian Study: 2011**Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services**

Analyzed data from case record reviews of protective services and foster care cases collected to help identify the reasons for the county's high caseloads.

Evaluation Services for Family Helpline, Family Navigator and Post Adoption/Post Guardianship Services: 2010 - 2012**Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children's Behavioral Health**

Conducted data analysis of case record review information collected from the Family Navigator and Right Turn programs as well as that of the quarterly data extracts for both programs.

Financial Assessment: 2010 - 2012**Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services**

Conducted an analysis of the Divisions' SACWIS data to determine if additional Title IV-E and Title XIX federal funding is available to support DFCS programs. Assessed the Random Moment Sampling process to determine its efficiency and capacity to maximize federal funding. Developed an automated process to identify and quantify maintenance and medical related costs for retroactive Title IV-E and XIX claiming, respectively.

Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant: 2009 - 2011**Maine Department of Health and Human Services**

Generated county-level reports for grant participants, using 2004, 2006 and 2008 MY-DAUS datasets in the evaluation of Maine's Strategic Prevention Framework Incentive Grant at the state, community and program levels.

Division of Child Welfare, Random Moment Sampling Methodology for Claiming Title IV-E Allowable Administrative Costs**Colorado Department of Human Services - 2010 - 2012**

Conducted interviews with Child Placement Agency (CPA) directors to better understand the contracting and rate setting processes for foster care children placed into the care of CPAs. Assisted in the development of the automated Random Moment Sampling web-based application, automating the percentage calculation of eligible Title IV-E administrative activities to be applied in calculating the quarterly claim for Title IV-E funding of allowable CPA activities.

Quality Assurance Unit: 2010 - 2013**Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services**

Conducted case record reviews, interviewed contract staff and their DCFS clients and assessed the findings of the case record reviews and CHRIS data as a part of the contract monitoring functions of the unit. Drafted reports detailing the extent to which contractors satisfied contract performance standards and met the needs for children served.

Overdue Investigations: 2009**Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services**

Participated in a statewide review of overdue investigations assessing what actions caseworkers should take to complete the investigations using defined criteria.

Administrative Case Reviews: 2009**Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services**

Conducted case record reviews of protective services and foster care cases to assess the quality of casework and identify barriers to successful outcomes for children. Interviewed caseworkers and/ supervisors as part of the review of casework practice.

Child Welfare Workload Study and Analysis: 2008 - 2011**Minnesota Department of Human Services, Division of Child Safety and Permanency**

Participated in a workload study designed to measure resources required for the state and its counties to achieve positive safety and permanency outcomes for children served. Conducted data analysis of Time Study data for a sample of workgroups to measure time needed to handle specific types of workgroups and Random Moment Survey data to measure time staff have available for casework. Developed the automated tool designed to correlate workload need to the ability to achieve positive outcomes and satisfy practice standards as well as an automated tool to generate workgroup type counts by unit. Participated in the onsite training of counties in the use of the tool and interpretation of its results.

Workload Study: 2008 - 2009**Westchester County, NY Department of Social Services**

Participated in focus groups as part of the development of an inventory of tasks and definition of case types. Assisted in training of county staff and monitoring of participation. Conducted the data analysis measuring time needed to handle various types of cases and time caseworkers and supervisors have available for casework.

Performance Audit: 2008 - 2009**Oklahoma House of Representatives, Oklahoma Department of Human Services**

Conducted interviews of key stakeholders and assisted with case record reviews to assess the department's performance in terms of organizational and management structure especially as it relates to child welfare. Assisted with the data analysis of surveys administered to department staff and resource families.

Statewide Assessment of Systems and Services Pertaining to the Sexual and Physical Abuse of Children: 2008 - 2009**Connecticut Department of Children and Families**

Conducted a literature review of services needed to serve sexually and physically abused children. Assisted in the case record reviews and interviews with child advocacy center and multi-disciplinary team members.

Juvenile Court Assessment: 2008**North Carolina Judicial Department**

Compiled a catalog of relevant state and federal statutes, regulations and policies pertaining to the interstate compact for the placement of children.

Interstate Placement of Children Review: 2008**Wisconsin Supreme Court, Director of State Courts Office, State Courts**

Role in the Effective Interstate Placement of Children, Madison, WI: Created a catalog of federal and state statutes, regulations and policies involving the interstate placement of children. Participated in case reviews of select cases across the state as well as interviews with key stakeholders.

Title IV-E PIP Case Review: 2008**Georgia Department of Human Resources**

Conducted on-site case reviews of Title IV-E eligibility cases to ensure determinations were correctly made and documentation was available in the file folder to support the determination as part of Georgia's Title IV-E Program Improvement Plan.

Florida Abuse Hotline Prevention Referrals Assessment: 2008**Florida Department of Children and Families**

Analyzed data collected to assess whether there was an alternative response to referrals to the Abuse Hotline and what the outcomes of those responses were. Assisted in drafting the final report.

Evaluation of Independent Housing with Services Program: 2008**Maine Office of Elder Services**

Evaluated the results of surveys administered to consumers and resident service coordinators and assisted in drafting the summary report of findings.

Title IV-E Penetration Rate Study: 2008**Georgia Department of Human Resources**

Developed a tool for conduct of a review of training contracts to identify opportunities for increased IV-E funding. Participated in the review of contracts with universities and colleges, along with their curricula, to identify programs eligible for Title IV-E funding.

Needs-based Planning and Budgeting and CFSR Support: 2007 - 2013**Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families**

Participated in the analysis of focus groups conducted as part of the self-assessment for the second round of Child and Family Services Reviews. Assisted in the identification of key highlights in regard to safety, permanency and CFSR measure performance on a county-by-county basis as part of the production of semi-annual county packages. Developed presentations for county-specific and statewide trainings designed to provide guidance in the use of the county packages in decision-making.