

Cornerstones of the Safety Response System

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Georgia Department of Human Services



Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

Mission

Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

Core Values

- Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.
- Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.
- Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.
- Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.

Safety Response System

- Systemic Safety Intervention that is stable, well-grounded and purposeful;
- Based in Social Casework methods;
- Comprehensive and integrated from “Front Door to Back Door”;
- Safety is the primary basis for intervention throughout the case; and its
- Family Centered.



Cornerstones of SRS



Least Intrusive

- CPS is only involved to determine if children are unsafe and to protect children impending danger while attempting to restore caregivers to their protective role & responsibility.
- Limits CPS intervention to what is absolutely necessary and essential assess safety and implement actions, services and controls to assure a child's safety.

"Ensure that every child that should be in care IS in care ,but not a single child more." –Judge Key Troup County

Cornerstones of SRS

Family Centered

- Levels the “field” with families by empowering families; interpersonal and engaging.
- Safety intervention begins by managing child safety and continues by seeking opportunities to return caregivers to their protective responsibilities.
- To change, a person must decide to change. Safety intervention leads to choice making. Honor caregiver decision making while also fully explaining potential consequences.



Cornerstones of SRS

Parental Protective Capacities

Behavioral- specific action, activity, performance that is consistent with and results in parenting and protective vigilance

Cognitive- specific intellect, knowledge, understanding and perception that results in parenting and protective vigilance.

Emotional –specific feelings, attitudes, identification with a child and motivation that results in parenting and protective vigilance.

Protective Capacities have to be sufficient to keep children safe. This principle also applies to foster caregivers and direct care workers.

- CW Intervention Goal: Caregivers have sufficiently enhanced protective capacities.
- CW Objective: Eliminate, reduce or effectively manage impending danger threats by enhancing caregiver protective capacities.



Cornerstones of SRS

❑ Professional Diligence

- ❑ The intellectual, physical energy and application, emotional and social self-management, and creativity of staff and partners.
- ❑ Diligence is characterized by how we as professionals perform.
- ❑ How we consciously and actively demonstrate the cornerstones of the model.



SRS Features

- Renewed Focus on Using Least Intrusive Placement Option
 - Relative Placements
- Conditions for Return
- Conditions for Case Closure
- Assessments



The Intake Assessment

Safety Intervention and Intake Assessment

The Intake Assessment has two objectives:

- (1) To serve as the point of contact with the community to express concerns, and
- (2) To begin a systemic safety intervention where unsafe children and their families are identified and served.

The Definitions that Guide Us

- **Maltreatment** – refers to one or more forms of neglect, abuse or exploitation. It may be used as a general term or in reference to specific category such as neglect, physical abuse, emotional neglect, medical neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation or exposure to family violence
- **Present Danger** – An immediate, significant, and clearly observable family condition that is actively occurring or in the process of occurring at the point of contact with the family and will likely result in serious harm to a child, therefore requiring a prompt CPS response.
- **Impending Danger** – are dangerous family conditions that represent situation/circumstances, caregiver behaviors, emotions, attitudes, perceptions, motives and/or intentions which place a child in a state of danger that pose a threat to a child's safety and are likely to have a severe effect on a child in the near future.

- **Safety Threat** – defined as a family situation, behavior, emotion, perception, or capacity that is out of control. Out of control refers to family conditions that can directly affect a child and are unrestrained, unmanaged, without limits or monitoring. Safety threats are acts or conditions that have the capacity to seriously harm the child.
- **Protective Capacities** – Personal and parenting behavioral, cognitive, and emotional characteristics that specifically and directly can be associated with being protective of one's young.

- The model for conducting the Intake Assessment is a customer service and requires a high degree of responsiveness to the person reporting the concerns.



Intake Assessment

Purpose

- Determine who to serve
- Identify caregivers who are unable or unwilling to protect their children

Objectives

- Assist reporters to provide behaviorally specific, detailed information
- Identify present and impending danger, vulnerable children, and diminished caregiver protective capacities
- Determine the response time
- Provide resource information

Beginning the Assessment

Intake is the point-of-entry for a referral and where Safety Begins

The Intake Worker:

- Is responsible for receiving and evaluating reports of suspected child abuse and neglect and determines if the reported information meets the statutory and agency guidelines for maltreatment.
- Attempts to gather as much information as possible about each family member and the family functioning
- Analysis all information to determine if there is an allegation of maltreatment, present and or impending danger
- Conducts a check of required screenings
- Recommends disposition of the Intake

Assessment Information Collection

Six Areas of Family Functioning

- Extent of Maltreatment
- Circumstances Surrounding the Maltreatment
- Child Functioning
- Discipline
- Caregiver Parenting
- Caregiver Functioning (General)

Intake Conclusion

Upon gathering and analyzing the information obtained:

- ❖ If maltreatment is determined, the case is screened in
- ❖ Intake Worker (with Supervisor) determines if the report is a present danger situation
- ❖ If present danger is determined, the Intake Worker will review the 14 Impending Danger Threats and criteria to determine if there are indications of impending danger threats.
- ❖ If either present or impending danger is suspected/determined, the case is assigned for investigation (either immediately or 24 hrs)
- ❖ If there is no present or impending danger the case is assigned to Family Support

NEXT STEPS



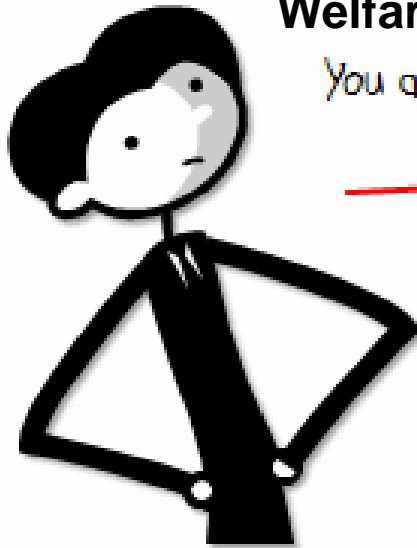
A Journey of 1,000 Miles Begins With The First Step

Safety Response System

You need to be there.

Current Child Welfare System

You are here.



What needs to happen to go from here to there?



Next Steps

- Start Applying Protective Capacity Principles
- Attend SRS Training (Planned for Spring 2014)
- Determine A Change Management Strategy (Implementation Science)
- SRS Resources www.action4cp.org
- Get Involved!

