

Michigan Substance Abuse/Child Welfare Collaborative Project
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In May of 1999, Michigan created the Substance Abuse/Child Welfare Interagency Task Force in recognition of the need for greater collaboration around the issues of child welfare and substance abuse. Representatives participated from key entities including:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health of the Department of Community Health,
- Family Independence Agency (FIA) which is Michigan's child welfare agency,
- State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) of the Michigan Supreme Court,
- State Prosecuting Attorney's Association,
- Federation of Private Child and Family Agencies,
- Office of the Ombudsman,
- Field representatives from Wayne County FIA and Macomb County FIA,
- Field representatives from Community Mental Health in Lake, Mason and Oceana Counties.

A report of subcommittee work was developed in October 1999, and in March 2000, the Interagency Task Force accepted the report and adopted 4 priority outcomes on which to concentrate:

1. Community Educational Forums,
2. Protocol Development,
3. Family Drug Treatment Court Pilots, and a
4. Substance Abuse Reference Guide

A Substance Abuse/Child Welfare State Team (State Team), consisting of FIA, Substance Abuse and Mental Health, SCAO, and Children's Charter representatives began meeting in March 2000, to implement the outcomes of the Interagency Task Force.

The State Team organized into 3 sub-groups to address the priority areas: Services Committee, Coordination and Collaboration Committee, and Systems and Program Support Committee. To promote community interest in cross-systems training, the State Team sponsored 5 workshops on the following topics: 1. Family drug courts (October 2000), 2. Annie E. Casey Family to Family community project (March 2001), 3. Miami-Dade family drug court model and services intervention program (February 2002), 4. Women's gender specific treatment based on the Project Safe model in Illinois (October 2002), and 5. Benefits of collaboration for substance abuse/ child welfare by Dr. Nancy Young (May, 2003).

In addition, the State Team began a strategic planning process in March 2002 and met twice with Dr. Nancy Young and Shaila Yeh of Children and Family Futures to develop cross-system values and principles, and to begin work on goals, outcomes, and an action plan for each of the sub groups.

In May 2003 members of the State Team answered a request for proposal from The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. Under the signatures of the Director of the

Department of Community Health, Family Independence Agency and State Court Administrative Office a proposal was submitted for in depth technical assistance to finish work on the strategic plan and begin implementation. Michigan was one of four states nationally to be selected to receive the in depth technical assistance. On September 10 and 11, 2003 staff from the National Center came to Michigan to meet with the State Team to finish the strategic plan and develop a scope of work.

The purpose of the attached letter of support is to formally obtain the endorsement of the Directors for the continuation of this work. The strategic plan and a list of state team members are also included for your review.

If you have any questions concerning this initiative please contact:

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