The Sauer Collaborative for
Child Well-being

Effective Practice Strategies to Promote and Support Well-Being

As child welfare systems continue to seek effective, evidence-based and promising practices—especially as part of implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act—having access to information about both practice strategies and where they have been implemented can be valuable for understanding how the strategies are working within the context of various child welfare system structures. ***This document provides a brief overview of several models and practice strategies that child welfare systems may find helpful for promoting and supporting child and family well-being, although it is not an exhaustive list.***

Signs of Safety

According to the Wilder Foundation, Signs of Safety is in use in twenty Minnesota counties. Their website devotes a page to the model and there are links to five reports on an evaluation they have completed. The site states that "The purpose of this evaluation was to understand how parents and caregivers experience child welfare services, determine whether elements of the Signs of Safety model could be discerned from parents' description of their experience, and assess the extent to which the worker's application of the Signs of Safety approach lead to a positive overall experience."

The latest piece of the evaluation completed in May 2015 looks at four MN counties and the effectiveness of Signs of Safety after case closure.

https://www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research/Publications/Studies/Forms/Study/docsethomepage.aspx?ID=925&RootFolder=%2FWilder-Research%2FPublications%2FStudies%2FSigns%20of%20Safety

Signs of Safety Supervisor Practice Fidelity Assessment: Field Test and Evaluation Report

Casey Family Programs completed a comprehensive assessment of Signs of Safety. The link is to the CFP website where the full assessment can be downloaded.

http://www.casey.org/signs-of-safety/

Trauma Informed Practice Models

CW360° Trauma-Informed Child Welfare Practice is a publication on the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare website. The yet-to-be-released Minnesota's Best Practices for Family Assessment and Family Investigation (draft May 2016) recommends the CW360° practice guide as part of its best practices and resources.

http://cascw.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CW360-Ambit_Winter2013.pdf

The draft also recommends that workers read A Social Worker's Toolkit for Working with Immigrant Families ─ Healing the Damage: Trauma and Immigrant Families in the Child Welfare System.

http://www.bettercarenetwork.org/library/the-continuum-of-care/foster-care/a-social-worker%E2%80%99s-tool-kit-for-working-with-immigrant-families-healing-the-damage-trauma-and

Trauma Adapted Family Connections (TA-FC)

This program is run by the Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children at the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

A link to their brochure in on their website. Page 5 of the brochure lists the assessments they use as part of their intervention work. They also offer information on secondary trauma for child welfare workers. http://www.family.umaryland.edu/fc-trauma

Head Start Trauma Smart

The model is a program at the Crittenton Children's Center and is currently provided in Head Start preschool programs in 26 counties in the Kansas City metro area and across Missouri, and includes around 3,200 children annually. The link also includes a PBS video on how the model is practiced and a New York Times article about teaching children to calm themselves – a critical element in trauma-informed practice.

http://traumasmart.org/

This link provides at-a-glance outcomes of the model: http://traumasmart.org/the-model.

Developmental Repair Model

This model is utilized in Washburn's Day Treatment Program and has become a national intervention for working with young children who have experienced complex trauma. It was identified by Casey Family Programs as a promising practice in 2015. Dr. Anne Gearity, the developer of the model, states that primary research such as attachment theory, trauma and stress, social learning and neurobiological responses were used to build the intervention.

https://www.sauerff.org/application/files/7415/4412/2227/Anne_Gearity_Dev_Repair.pdf

Minnesota High School Screens Students for ACEs to Develop Trauma-Informed Education

This is an article about work taking place at Paladin Career & Technical High School in Blaine, MN. https://acestoohigh.com/2015/04/09/minnesota-high-school-screens-for-aces-to-develop-trauma-informed-education/

Selected Early Childhood Interventions

A Call to Action on Behalf of Maltreated Infants and Toddlers

Since the passage of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (2011), the Zero to Three website has developed an agency self-assessment tool to help states and counties include principles for infant and toddler development in their practice models. It is intended to be used with families who have an open case with the child welfare agency and children who are in foster care/kinship care.

https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/454-a-call-to-action-on-behalf-of-maltreated-infants-and-toddlers

Family Engagement

Multidisciplinary Parent Representation Models

The Children's Bureau has a page targeting parent representation. It includes the link to a new report out of the Michigan Law School.

Strange Bedfellows: how child welfare agencies can benefit from investing in multidisciplinary parent representation (August 2016)

This strategy provides birth parents with a collaborative legal team made up of attorneys, social workers, and parent mentors that support and advocate for parents as they navigate complex child welfare and court systems in their communities.

https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=179&sectionid=2&articleid=4797

Miami Child Well-Being Court

A technical assistance brief, "The Miami Child Well-Being Court Model(TM): Essential Elements and Implementation Guidance," includes information about the model and key steps for implementation and sustainability.

http://www.floridaschildrenfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/MiamiChild.pdf

Cass County/Leech Lake Wellness Court Band of Ojibwe

http://www.wellnesscourts.org/files/Leech%20Lake%20Bamenim%20Anishinaabeg%20-%20Restorative%20Justice.pdf

A process, outcome and cost evaluation report was published July 2014.

http://npcresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/Cass-County-Wellness-Court-Process-Outcome-and-Cost-Evaluation-FINAL-FOR-OTS.pdf

The Child Protection Clinic: A mixed method evaluation of parent legal representation (2015)

This evaluation report describes work at the William Mitchell College of Law with low-income parents who require access to quality legal representation. The article states it is a social justice issue as well as a resource for improving the well-being of children.

Family and Community Engagement

This page on The Child Welfare Information Gateway examines family engagement and lists caseworker and agency behaviors, key elements and key practices in child welfare, juvenile justice, behavioral health, education and early childhood education.

https://www.childwelfare.gov/FEI/practice-strategies/

Strategies to Increase Birth Parent Engagement, Partnership, and Leadership in the Child Welfare System: A Review (2012)

This publication is from Casey Family Programs. The page has a link to the full report and the executive summary.

http://www.casey.org/strategies-and-programs-to-improve-birth-parent-engagement/

Family Visitation Models

Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting

Their Core Competencies practice page includes a number of resources for staff including a professional development framework, a guide for supervisors of home visiting programs, and a guide to strengthening parent and child relationships.

http://www.targetedhomevisiting-mn.org/services

This site also includes a portfolio of Minnesota home visiting programs. The detailed matrix (dated 2011) list a number of key elements including targeted populations and the counties where a model is available.

http://media.wix.com/ugd/73d635_113e1377fa5a4027ba1e894ce0b076ba.pdf

Pew Charitable Trust

Using Data to Measure Performance of Home Visiting: A new framework for assessing effectiveness (Oct. 2015)

This framework is one component of their information on family support and coaching programs.

http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2015/10/using-data-to-measure-performance-of-home-visiting

Here is the link to their complete home visiting campaign.

http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/archived-projects/home-visiting-campaign

Chapin Hall

Building a System of Support for Evidence-Based Home Visitation Programs in Illinois: Finding from Year 4 of the Strong Foundation Evaluation (2014)

The Strong Foundation's intention was to strengthen close to 200 evidence-based home visiting programs by focusing on three models:

1. Parents as Teachers
2. Healthy Parents America
3. Nurse-Family Partnership

https://www.chapinhall.org/research/building-a-system-of-support-for-evidence-based-home-visiting-in-illinois/

Continuous Quality Improvement Resources

A Guide to Build Capacity for Child Welfare Using the CQI Process (2015)

This report by the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators captures several areas integral to a successful CQI process:

1. The CQI cycle and the role of evidence.
2. CQI implementation
3. Recommendations that include training, data management support and funding

Lessons from the Field: Assessing and Improving CQI Systems in Child Welfare (2014)

https://ncwwi.org/files/Data-Driven_Decision_Making__CQI/Lessons_from_the_Field_-_Assessing__Improving_CQI_Systems_in_CW.pdf

CQI in County-Administered or Privatized States

The website of the Child and Family Services Reviews has an information portal that includes details on maintaining a CQI focus and process in those states such as Minnesota that are county-administered. They have a cost-free E-Training Platform that offers a CQI assessment tool, how to build a CQI framework, and how to monitor and sustain CQI in a county-administered state.

https://training.cfsrportal.org/section-3-continuous-quality-improvement-cqi-child-welfare/2601

Comprehensive Change Strategies

Gaining Buy-In from the Front Lines During Times of Change (2011)

This brief article from the Department of Health and Human Services gives an overview of steps to take during times of reform to include all workers in the effort.

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/GainingBuy-InFromtheFrontLine.pdf

Adopting a Change Strategy

A website geared towards for-profit businesses offers a straightforward change management strategy that could be adopted by a child welfare system. https://www.prosci.com/change-management/thought-leadership-library/change-management-strategy

Predictive Analytics

Preventing Harm to Children through Predictive Analytics (May 2016)

The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) hosted a webinar this year on using data to predict maltreatment in families. The first link is to a 3-hour long video that features two panels of child welfare leaders. A representative of Eckerd's Kids sat on the first panel to discuss the Eckerd Rapid Safety Feedback, a child safety tool now being piloted in several states. Dr. David Sanders gave his feedback on predictive analytics on the webinar's second panel. There is also a link to the transcript of the webinar on their page.

http://www.aei.org/events/preventing-harm-to-children-through-predictive-analytics-2/

Predictive Analytics: Applications for Child Welfare **(January 2015)**

In their Practice Digest, Casey Family Programs examines the definition and terminology of PA, the ethical issues that have been raised by risk-modeling and some of the research finding. There is also an interview conducted by Dee Wilson with Dr. Emily Putnam-Hornstein and Dr. Barbara Needell on the use of population-based data and practice implications.