Collaboration to Improve Services for Children with Disabilities in Child Welfare

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Introductions
Attendees
Presenters

Establish Baseline

- Definition of Disability
- Child Welfare
- Accommodations
- Modifications

Need

- Increased prevalence and/or visibility
  - Parents
  - Children
- Limited practice capacity
- Increased requests for information/training
- Movement within child welfare policy and practice to develop cross system collaborations

Children and youth with disabilities in child welfare

- Children and youth with disabilities are overrepresented in child welfare system
- Incidence of maltreatment of children with disabilities is 1.7 times greater than the incidence among children without disabilities (Crosse et al, 1993).
- Children with disabilities are 3.4 times more likely to be maltreated (Sullivan & Knutsen, 2000)
- School-aged children with disabilities are 2.16 times more likely to be in out-of-home placement (Lightfoot, Hill, & LaLiberte, 2011).
- Older youth with disabilities make up 60% of the population of youth in out of home placement in Minnesota (Hill, 2012).

Children and youth with disabilities in child welfare

- Experience a higher number of placements and longer periods of time in out of home care (Hill, 2012)
- Experience high rates of educational mobility (Christiansen, n.d.; Hill, 2010).
- Have lower rates of concurrent planning, as well as achieving permanency (Slayter & Springer, 2011; Hill, 2012).
Permanency and placement stability

- Many studies found that children with I/DD do well in adoptive families when the parents are prepared and supported (Glidden 1991, 2000; Glidden & Cahill, 1998; Rosenthal & Groz, 1990, 1991; Barth 1991)
- Disruptions and dissolutions tend to occur more with behavioral issues related to child’s special needs than the special needs themselves (Barth, Berry, Yoshikami, Goodfield, & Carson, 1988; M. Berry & Barth, 1990; Rosenthal et al., 1988; Smith & Howard, 1991)
- Difficulty in finding research specific to disabilities and permanency outcomes because of “special needs” categorization

Parents with Disabilities

- Self Assessment
- Video clip of parenting with disability in child welfare: A Fair Chance

Collaboration

Barriers to Collaboration
- Large Group Discussion

Avenues to Collaboration
- Large Group Discussion

Strategies that Enhance Collaboration
(Waxman, Weist, & Benson, 1999)

- Put time in at the “front end”, building relationships and clarifying expectations.
- Share information and resources
- Schedule regular time to meet and to work toward the collaborative goals
- Clarifying language
- Have reasonable expectations: Rome wasn’t built in a day!
- Respect, understanding, and appreciation for other disciplines/professionals/formal and informal supports
- Have clearly identified responsibilities and goals for the work.
- Believe that things can change
- Maintain an explicit effort to address “turf” issue.

Responding to the Need

National Level
- National Advocacy
- NCD, AUCD, ABA
- Policy development
- Legislation changes
- Training capacity
- CDS
- IHS Training Competencies
- Resource Development – Child Welfare Gateway

State and Local Levels
- MCWTS
- PACC
- PACHER
- University based –LEND
- MOFAS
- Specialty units- Ramsey
- Cross-system case management-Hennepin PSP
- DCWC

Children with Disabilities

- Video clip of innovation practice through Every Child, Inc.
DCWC

- Professionals in different ‘pockets’ of the child welfare and disability systems coming together:
  - Raise Awareness and Understanding of Needs
  - Act as a Resource
  - Foster Dialogue across service providers

DCWC Current Activities

- Development of Website
- Resources
- Development of Tools & Handouts
- Speakers Bureau of DCWC Affiliates
- Communications & Presentations

Next Steps ...

- What have you learned today that is new?
- Who do you know or work with that could benefit from information you learned today?
- What are three steps that you can take to integrate this information to benefit yourself, your organization and/or the children and families with whom you work.

Example of handouts

Resources

- National Disclosure Center for Children with Disabilities
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (www.nami.org)
- National Council on Disability
- National Disability Rights Network
- The Arc MN (www.earcmn.org)
- The Minnesota Foster Care Task Force
- The Minnesota Foster Care Task Force (www.fostercaretaskforce.org)
- Foster Care Today (www.fostercaretoday.org)
- MFY (www.mfyinc.org)
- Minnesota Foster Care Services
- MN Adoption
- PACER Center (www.pacer.org)
- AdoptionLink
- MN AdoptionLink
- MACCH (Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health)
- The Minnesota Adoption Task Force
- The Minnesota Adoption Resource and Education Center (www.marc.org)
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