

Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center

Iowa: Implementing the Parents' Perspective

Steve Martens, Project Manager, Midwest Child
Welfare Implementation Center

Kyla Madsen, Community Partnership Training
Liaison, Iowa Department of Human Services

Geri Derner, Parent Partner Statewide Coordinator,
Iowa Department of Human Services

Sandy Lint, Community Partnership State
Coordinator, Iowa Department of Human Services



Who is MCWIC?

- The Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center (MCWIC) is one of five Child Welfare Implementation Centers.
- Support and facilitate communication and networking across public child welfare systems and to assist States and Tribes with multi-year strategic plans for sustainable systems change.
- Each Child Welfare Implementation Center is regionally-focused, serving two of the ten Federal ACF Regions. MCWIC works with States and Tribes in Region V and Region VII.





Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center

The Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center (MCWIC) is one of five Child Welfare Implementation Centers established by cooperative agreement with the Children's Bureau in October 2008. Our role is to support and facilitate communication and networking across public child welfare systems, and to assist States and Tribes to develop and execute multi-year strategic plans for sustainable systems change to improve the quality and effectiveness of child welfare services. These changes will be focused on organizational culture, administration, and direct practice with children and families. Each Child Welfare Implementation Center is regionally-focused, serving two of the ten Federal regions. The MCWIC will work with the States and Native American Tribes in Region V (Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota) and Region VII (Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas).

Upcoming Events

- [08/27/2009 - Tama, IA](#)

[More...](#)

Mailing List & E-mail Discussion Sign-up

Enter your email address:

[Continue](#)

[More Info...](#)

Iowa: Implementing the Parents' Perspective

- MCWIC issued a Request for Proposals for multi-year projects from states and tribes in its regions.
- Project originated from a proposal by Sandy Lint – Community Partnership State Coordinator for Iowa DHS. Iowa DHS already started pilot sites.
- Each proposal was independently scored.
- Iowa scored high, project selected, and Children’s Bureau’s approval sought.
- Children’s Bureau approval process helped revise project.



What is a Parent Partner?

- Parent Partners are mentors who have had previous involvement with the department and have been successfully reunified with their child for at least a year.
- Parent Partners are paid to work with families involved in the DHS system who need mentoring and support.
- Parent Partners work with community based organizations to provide resources for the parents they are mentoring.



Developing the guiding tools

- Logic Model to show how inputs and activities flow into outputs, outcomes and system impacts.
- Workplan to coordinate resources, establish timeframes, and to define scope.
- Evaluation plan to measure the outcomes and system impacts.

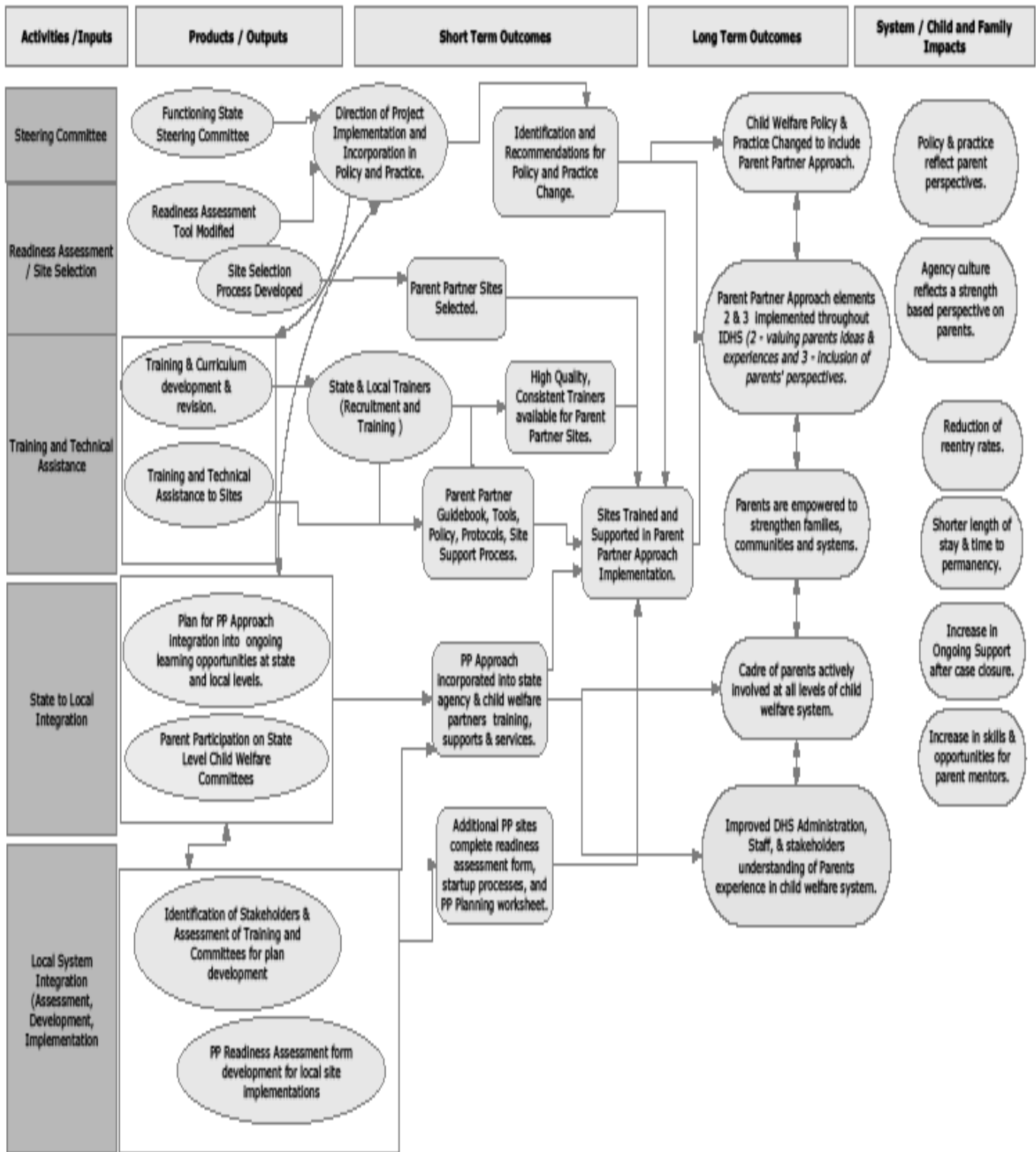


Engagement strategy or systemic change?

- Parent Mentoring is a family engagement strategy.
- Implementing the Parents' Perspective is meant to be an organizational culture change for Iowa DHS.
- How do we implement the Parents' Perspective throughout the system?



Iowa Department of Human Services -Partnering with Parents for System Change Project - Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center Logic Model



"PP = Parent Partner"

"PP Approach" = 1) Parent Mentorship Program, 2) Valuing Parents Ideas & Experiences, 3) Inclusion of Parents' Perspectives

Local Site Selection/Creation

- Parent Partner sites build on existing Community Partnerships
- Iowa DHS established funding requirements for the local Community Partnerships in order to create sites.
- MCWIC resources help pay for local site coordinator position.
- Variety of relationships for coordination/funding. Some sites use a provider agency for coordination. Some sites couple the coordination with the local community partnership.



Timeframes for local site creation

- 9/30/09 Six Sites are operating.
- 9/30/10 Five more sites are selected, trained, and become operational.
- 9/30/11 Two more sites are selected, trained, and become operational.
- 9/30/12 Seven more sites are selected, trained, and become operational.
- 9/30/13 Seven more sites are selected, trained, and become operational.



Implementation Framework

Stages of Implementation:

- **Exploration and Adoption**
- **Program Installation**
- **Initial implementation**
- **Full Operation**
- **Innovation**
- **Sustainability**

Informed by the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN):

<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~nirn/>



Implementation Framework

Drivers to effect system change:

- **Training**
- **Coaching**
- **Systems Intervention**
- **Facilitative Administration**
- **Leadership**

Informed by the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN): <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~nirn/>



Training – Building a Better Future

- Building a Better Future is a three-day foundational training required for potential Parent Partners.
- DHS social workers, supervisors, and community partners attend the training alongside new Parent Partners.
- Provides Parent Partners with mentoring skills
- Educates DHS workers, supervisors, and other child welfare providers on the Parent Partner Approach
- More importantly, it builds teamwork, relationships, and shared perspectives.



Additional training activities

- Parent Partners present on the parents' perspective at statewide new worker training in Des Moines.
- Parent Partners present to stakeholder groups including Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, Iowa Head Start, and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children.



Coaching

- The core of the approach consists of a cadre of Parent Partners who are involved in leadership roles.
- Site Coordinators and Iowa DHS provide opportunities for professional development including writing and presentation workshops.
- Parent Partner Site Coordinators work with Parent Partners to help build engagement skills.



Systems Intervention

- The Parent Partner Approach involves a larger system than Iowa DHS; it includes local community partnerships consisting of a large variety of stakeholders.
- Iowa established their Community Partnership Approach in 1995.
- Community Partnerships bring together parents, youth, social service professionals, faith ministries, local business, schools and caring neighbors to create a continuum of care and support for families.
- These systems naturally build stakeholder inclusion and community responsibility for child safety.



Facilitative Administration

- MCWIC will review Iowa DHS policy in order to recommend policy changes.
- The State Steering Committee, which is made up of Iowa DHS, Parent Partners, DHS staff and supervisors, and community partners, will decide on which policy changes to pursue.
- There are practice changes as a result of the relationships between social workers and Parent Partners, e.g., increased communication between reunifying parents and foster parents, Parent Partners attending court hearings and participating in Family Team Decision Making meetings.



Leadership

- Parent Partners will participate on state-level child welfare committees, which will facilitate communication between Parent Partners and state leaders.
- MCWIC will meet with the Iowa DHS leadership team on a semi-annual basis to review the project and focus efforts on successful implementation.
- As part of MCWIC's involvement, Iowa DHS leadership will participate in an evaluation of change in perspective as a result of the program.



Evaluation Plan



SYSTEM IMPACTS/ LONG TERM OUTCOMES	METHOD/S	TIME FRAME	INFORMANT/S – DATA SETS	SAMPLE FRAME	COLLECTION	ANALYSIS
Policy and Practice reflect parent perspectives.	Documentation & Document Review	pre/post post only	DHS Policies / DHS Guidebooks Comparison w/ recommended P&P changes	State State	DHS DHS	MCWIC MCWIC
Agency culture reflects a strength based perspective on parents	Web-based survey	pre / post	DHS staff / administration	State	BOSR	MCWIC
Parent partner approach implemented throughout IDHS	Administrative data / checklist	Annual	DHS Administration / PP Sites	State	DHS / Sites	MCWIC
Cadre of parents actively involved at all levels of	Administrative data	Annual	DHS Administration / PP Sites	State	DHS / Sites	MCWIC

Quasi-Experimental Design

SYSTEM IMPACTS/ LONG TERM OUTCOMES	METHOD/S	TIME FRAME	INFORMANT/S – DATA SETS	SAMPLE FRAME	COLLECTION	ANALYSIS
Reduction of re-entry rates	Quasi-Experimental design on PP Mentor program in single site w/ comparison families. DHS CWIS data analysis / site v. non-site comparisons and/ or PP	Ongoing / longitudinal – 3 year pre / post	DHS CWIS data / DHS CWIS data	Selected site State	DHS / Selected Site Regional service area DHS	MCWIC MCWIC
Shorter length of stay & time to permanen	Quasi-Experimental design on PP	Ongoing / longitudinal – 3 year pre / post	DHS CWIS data / DHS CWIS	Selected site State	DHS / Selected Site Regional service	MCWIC MCWIC

Peer to Peer

- Parent Partner Summit.
- Conference calls with other states' parent partners.
- CONNECT – Your Child Welfare Internet Community.





CONNECT

Your Child Welfare
Internet Community

Please remember to keep **CONNECT**

Professional

Confidential

Brought to you by the [Midwest Child Welfare Implementation Center](#) • A service of the Children's Bureau and a member of the Training/Technical Assistance Network

[Home](#) [My Account](#) [My PPN](#) [My Teams](#) [Peer Search](#) [Q/A Forums](#)

Peer search:

Home

Hello Gregg! Please Remember to Keep Connect:

Professional

Connect with your peers as you would at work.
Take personal topics to another place.

Confidential

Do not use any information that would personally
identify children or families with whom we work.

gwright

- My Account
- Personal Peer Network
- My Teams
- My Messages
- Q/A Forums
- Create content
- Administer
- Log out



What's on your mind:

Taking baby steps . . .

Date

Message

08/21/2009 -
15:44

[jrice](#) updated their profile - Comment

08/21/2009 -
15:44

[jrice](#) updated their profile - Comment

Questions?

Steve Martens: smartens@ccfl.unl.edu

