Western Service Area

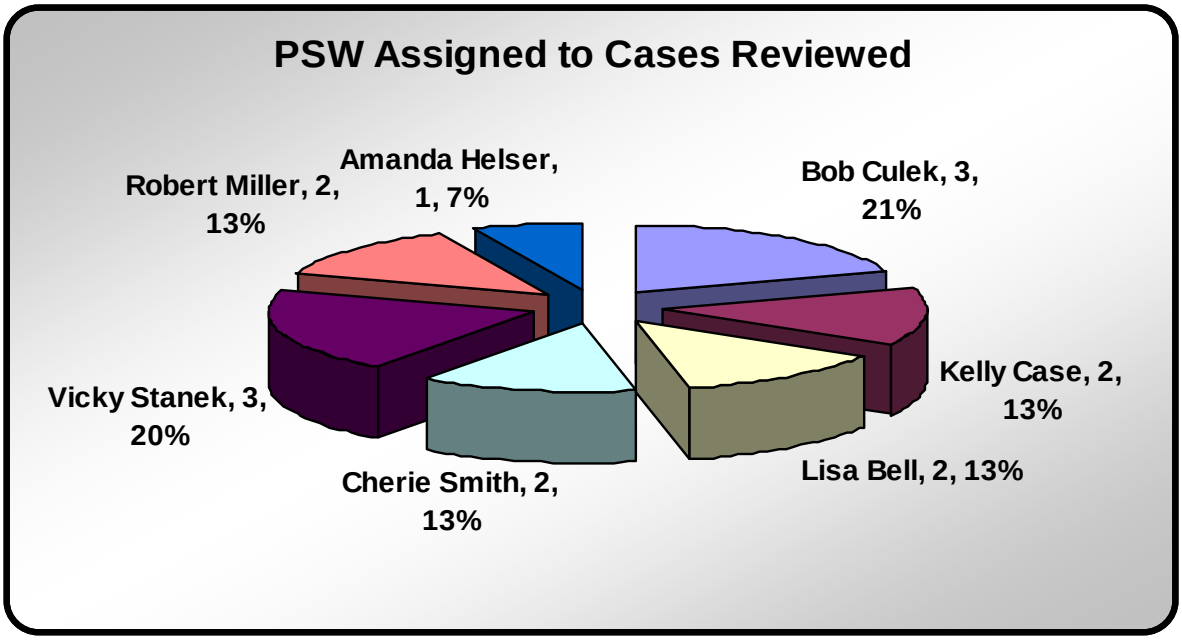
Initial Assessment
2nd Round - Safety Model QA Review

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Quality Assurance

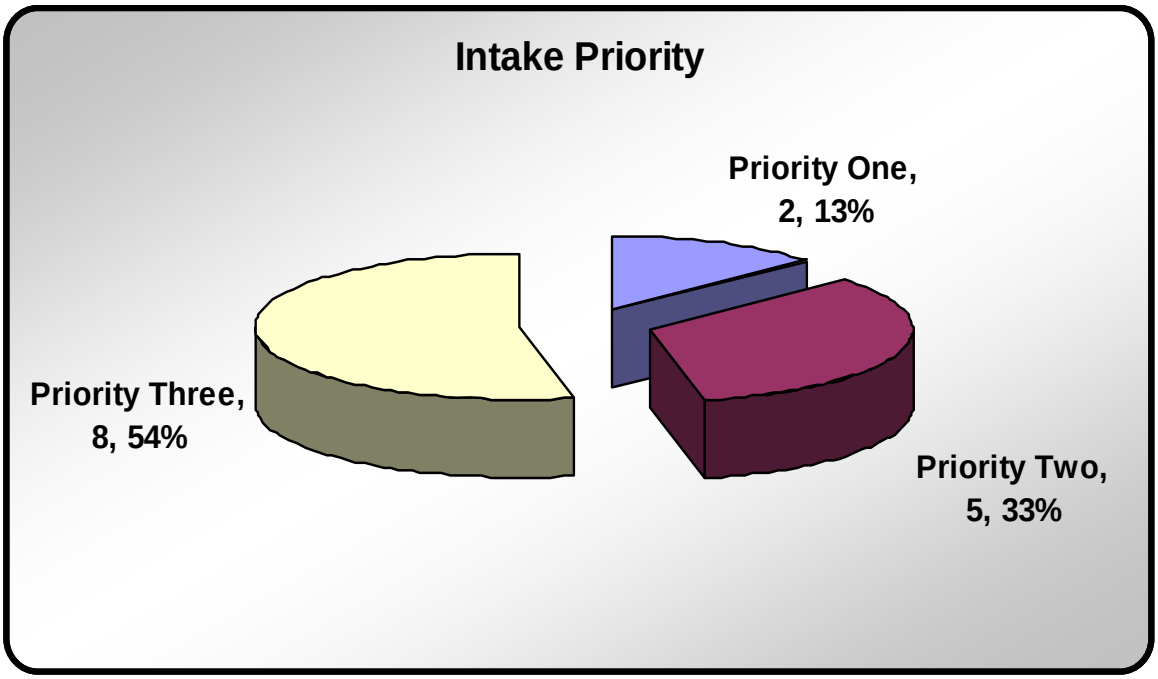
June 2008

The Quality Assurance Team completed the second round of reviews of Initial Assessment cases for the Western Service Area (WSA) in May 2008. A total of 15 cases were reviewed. The reviews consisted of five cases from each of the following protection and safety supervisors: Valerie Gartner, Cyndi Sample and Holly Brandt.

The following is a breakdown of cases per worker:



Of the 15 cases reviewed, 2 were priority 1 cases, five (5) were priority 2 cases and eight (8) were priority 3 cases.



The following is a summary of data from all 15 reviews. Charts containing a breakdown of information by supervisor as well as additional information covered in the Safety QA review can be found in the excel file attached.

Initial Response/Contact Information:

- Initial contact with the child victim was made within required time frame in 67% of the cases (10 out of 15).
- There were other children in the household in 4 of the 15 cases reviewed. These other children in the home were interviewed in 25% or 1 out of these 4 cases and no explanation was given to reasonably justify the lack of contact in the other three cases.
- There were other adults in the household in 3 of the 15 cases reviewed. These other adults were interviewed in only one or 33% of these cases.
- The interview protocol was followed in 7 out of the 15 cases (47%) and only one of these cases contained documentation indicating the reason for the deviation from the protocol.

Present Danger:

- The worker identified present danger at the initial contact with the child victim and/or family in one of the fifteen cases reviewed. A review of this case indicate the following:
    - The reviewer **agreed** with the worker's assessment of present danger at the initial contact with the child/family.
    - An Immediate Protective Action was taken.
    - The reason for the protective action was explained to the parent/caregiver.
    - The protective action included a provision for oversight, however, the oversight requirement was NOT sufficient to assure that the Protective Action was implemented in accordance with expectation and was assuring child safety.
    - The Protective Action Plan did NOT contain a description of the persons responsible for the protective action or detailed information on how the protective action was going to work.

Domains:

- **Maltreatment –** Sufficient information was collected in 12 or 80% of the cases.
- **Nature –** Sufficient information was collected in 3 or 20% of the cases.
- **Child Functioning –** Sufficient information was collected in 7 or 47% of the cases.
- **Disciplinary Practices –** Sufficient information was collected in 8 or 53% of the cases.
- **General Parenting –** Sufficient information was collected in 4 or 27% of the cases.
- **Adult Functioning –** Sufficient information was collected in 3 or 20% of the cases.

Collateral Source:

In 14 out of the 15 cases there was indication that information should have been collected from a collateral source. However, collateral information was collected in only 43% or 6 out the 14 cases.

Maternal/Paternal Relatives:

- Maternal relatives were identified in 11 or 73% of the cases.
- Paternal relatives were identified in 10 or 67% of the cases.

ICWA:

- Information regarding ICWA was obtained in 10 or 67% of the cases.

Impending Danger:

At the initial contact with the youth and/or family: The worker identified impending danger at the initial contact with the child or family in 2 out of the 15 cases reviewed. **The reviewer agreed with the worker's decision in 14 out of the 15 cases.** In one of the cases, the worker indicated that there was no impending danger at their initial contact with the youth and/or family. However, the reviewer determined that there was enough information in the documentation to indicate impending danger at the worker's initial contact with the youth and/or family.

At the end of the Initial Assessment: In 2 out of the 15 cases, the worker identified impending danger at the end of the initial assessment and determined that the child was unsafe and a safety plan was necessary. However, the reviewer determined that the information in the assessment was not sufficient to provide a reasonable understanding of family members and their functioning and/or that the information was NOT sufficient to support and justify decision making in 6 out of the 15 cases.

Safety Plan:

- A safety plan was established at the conclusion of the safety assessment in 2 out of the 15 cases. One of these safety plans was an in home safety plan and the other an out of home safety plan. Neither safety plan involved in home services.
- Both safety plans contained a contingency plan, however, the reviewer judged the contingency plan to be appropriate in only one of these cases.
- Suitability of the safety plan participants was completed in both cases and the reviewer judged that there was sufficient information to support the decision of the suitability of the safety plan participants.
- One of the safety plans did NOT address who was going to make sure the child was protected.
- One of the safety plans did NOT address where the plan and action was going to take place.
- Both safety plans did NOT include timelines or address when the plan or action was going to be finished.
- One of the safety plans did NOT address how the actions involved were going to control the safety threats.
- One of the safety plans contained caregiver promissory commitments.
- Both safety plans included a provision for oversight and the reviewers determined that the oversight requirements in both safety plans were sufficient to assure that the safety plan was implemented in accordance with expectation and was assuring child safety.

Reviewer's Overall Analysis and Conclusion of the Work:

For the purpose of a case review, the reviewer assessed the following information based on their review of the case. This part of the review contains the same information as those included in the Supervisory Review of Nebraska Safety Assessment.

Category	Western	Brandt	Sample	Gartner
The Nebraska Safety Assessment Instrument was completed correctly and completely	7%	20%	0%	0%
Documentation is on N-FOCUS	100%	100%	100%	100%
Required Time Frames were met	67%	80%	80%	40%
A reasonable level of effort was expended given the identified safety concerns.	53%	60%	40%	60%
Safety of the child/youth was assured during the assessment process.	73%	60%	100%	60%
Sufficient information was gathered for informed decision making	33%	20%	40%	40%
Available written documentation was obtained from law enforcement and others as approp.	67%	100%	100%	0%
ICWA information was documented	67%	100%	0%	100%
Information was obtained about non-custodial parent, relatives, and other family support.	53%	40%	40%	80%
An Immediate Protective Action was appropriately implemented to assure child safety.	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
A Safety Plan was appropriately completed and implemented to assure child safety.	50%	50%	N/A	N/A
A Safety Assessment was documented in accordance with required practice.	13%	20%	20%	0%
A Protective Action was documented in accordance with required practice.	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
A Safety Plan was documented in accordance with required practice.	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
The family network and others were appropriately involved in the gathering of information.	47%	20%	80%	40%
The family networks and others were appropriately involved in developing Safety Plans.	100%	100%	N/A	100%
Policy and procedures related to safety intervention were followed.	33%	20%	60%	20%
Safety plan is sufficient to protect child from threats of severe harm.	50%	50%	N/A	N/A
Efforts to coordinate with law enforcement were documented.	100%	100%	100%	100%
Interview protocols were followed or reason for deviation was documented.	60%	60%	60%	60%
The appropriate definition was used in making the case status determination.	93%	100%	100%	80%
The finding was correctly documented in N-FOCUS	93%	100%	100%	80%
Factual information supports the selected finding.	93%	100%	100%	80%
Proof of certified notice to the alleged perpetrator is located in the file.	0%	0%	0%	0%