



CHAPIN HALL

CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

*Community Partnerships
to Protect Children:
Challenges and Opportunities*

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Key Concepts

- Review the purpose and strategies behind the community partnership concept
- Summarize Chapin Hall's evaluation findings with respect to CPPC impacts
- Draw out the implications for improving child welfare practice and formulating broad scale system reform initiatives

CPPC's Program Aspirations

- Develop an Individualized Course of Action (ICA) for ALL families at risk
- Create neighborhood networks
- Change CPS policy, practice and culture to better connect CPS workers to the community
- Establish local decision-making body to mobilize citizens around child safety

CPPC Pilot Communities/Strengths

- **Cedar Rapids, IA:** funding flexibility, training in Family Unity Model, Family Resource Centers
- **Jacksonville, FL:** community support agreements, full service schools, HFA-Florida
- **Louisville, KY:** court mediation, Family Solutions casework, “neighborhood place” concept
- **St. Louis, MO:** dual response system, DFS mandate to expand prevention services, community education centers

CPPC Core Outcomes

- To assure that children will be less likely to be abused or neglected
- To assure that children in the child welfare system will be less likely to be reabused or neglected
- To reduce the rate of serious injury as a result of abuse or neglect

Chapin Hall's Assessment Outcomes

- Child Safety
- Parental access to necessary services and supports
- Agency and network efficiency
- Community responsibility for child protection

Evaluation Components

Study Component	Sample	Core Objectives
ICA participant study	380 caregivers 370 lead workers Baseline/6-months (2002 – 2003)	Assess ICA quality Assess ICA impacts
CPS data: ICA cases	663 ICA/over 5,000 comparison cases 12-month follow up	Subsequent reports Subsequent placement
CPS data: Community trends	All cases reported between 1998-2002 in target and comparison areas	Initial report trends Subsequent report trends Placement trends

Evaluation Components

Study Component	Sample	Core Objectives
Agency manager survey (mail survey)	Time 1 ('99) – 91 managers. Time 2 ('03) – 112 managers	Assess scope of network Collaboration levels Service quality/availability
Worker survey (self-administered in group setting)	Time 1 ('01) – 475 CPS staff Time 2 ('03) – 556 CPS staff	Adoption of CPPC practice Impacts on CPS culture Service quality/availability Interagency collaboration

Standards of Evidence

- Formal statistical tests of differences between groups (intervention and comparisons) or over time (Time 1 and Time 2)
- Preponderance of participants ($> 50\%$) experiencing a positive outcome or process
- Three or more sites demonstrating positive trends on a given indicator

CPPC Impacts: Child Safety

- Workers & participants report high satisfaction with ICA intervention in addressing safety issue
- ICA recipients at all sites improved over time in at least one of four key parental functioning areas; no positive correlations were observed between these improvements and child welfare outcomes
- No consistent reductions in child abuse reports, subsequent maltreatment or placements at either the aggregate or ICA participant levels

Trends Among ICA Samples

6-month Trend	CR	JX	LV	SL
Depression	↓	↓	n.s.	n.s.
Parental Stress	n.s.	↓	n.s.	↓
Parental Empowerment	↑	↑	n.s.	n.s.
Access to Support	↑	↓	↑	n.s.
<i>Vs. Comparison sample</i>				
Subsequent reports	↑	n.s.	↓	n.s.
Subsequent placements	↑	↓	n.s.	n.s.

Aggregate Trends Within Target Areas

1998 through 2002	CR	JX	LV	SL
% change in initial child abuse report rates	+35	+43	n.c.	-30
% change in 6 –month subsequent report rates	+14	+4	-11	+14
% change in 6-month placement rates	+6	--	+48	-40

CPPC Impacts: Access to Support

- No consistent improvements in standardized measure of access to social supports
- Case plans reflected 41% of all family-identified needs; 55% of a family's top three needs.
- Workers report all needed services available in 75 to 84% of all ICA cases
- ICA families received between 65 - 85% of all needed services; one-third of these services were new resources

ICA Quality and Outcomes

Outcome	# problems in case plan	# new services	# ongoing services	Change in Model R ²
Depression	*	****	*	.06
Parent stress	**			.02
Empowerment	*	**		.03
Social supports	*		**	.03
Problem change	****	*		.05
Overall change	***	**	***	.05

CPPC Impacts: Agency/Network Efficiency

- Improved CPS familiarity across all sites; two sites reported improved CPS quality
- Mutual support systems developed among network members
- Respondents did not report improvement in local service quality or availability over time
- Joint case planning or agency-level coordination remained limited at Time 2; pattern was confirmed in worker survey

CPPC Impacts: Community Responsibility

- CPS workers reported no significant change in the allocation of CPS cases or positioning of workers
- No new informal supports were identified through the FTCs provided families in the ICA sample
- Sites report uneven progress in identifying and retaining resident volunteers to support families and provide services to children
- Only one site sustained a consistent program to identify, recruit and train volunteers

Other Related Findings

- Improvements in CPS worker job satisfaction, role clarity and commitment to ICA principles
- Supervisors played a pivotal role in advancing ICA principles
- Use of a “facilitator” to coordinate FTCs improved the responsiveness of the case planning process
- CPPC partnerships contributed to improved shared decision making at the case and system levels

Important Contextual Issues

- General economic challenges
- Restricted state budgets
- Shifts in child welfare policy
- Inconsistent implementation

CPPC Lessons for Child Welfare Practice

- Team assessments and service planning can help address the needs of multi-problem cases
- Practice reforms can alter agency culture
- Opportunities and structural mechanisms for shared decision making improve efficiencies in resource utilization at the case and system levels
- Integrating child welfare efforts into community service systems improves public perceptions of child welfare agency

CPPC Lessons for Refining Theory

- Develop more diverse outreach and assessment strategies
- Identify appropriate use of informal supports, levels of training and ongoing management
- Identify structures for sustaining collaborative networks
- Identify strategies for altering community norms with respect to child protection
- Build effective learning models

Moving From Theory to Practice

Successful initiatives need

- Face validity
- Pathways to progress
- Guidelines for strategic decision making
- Mechanisms for using knowledge to direct ongoing implementation