



Amy "At-Hand"
SSIS Worker Mentor Meeting
August 2014

2014 Legislative Session Highlights



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Legislative Update VPC

- ▶ The Minnesota Child Welfare Training System hosted Legislative Update VPC's in July.
- ▶ If you were unable to participate in the VPC and would like more detailed information about legislative changes related to child welfare (including Northstar Care), an archived streaming session is available on demand through TrainLink until December 31, 2014.

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Accessing the Archived Session

- ▶ Select Children's Services from the TrainLink homepage on the CountyLink portion of the DHS website
- ▶ Search Learning Activities
- ▶ Ensure that the category displayed is All Child Safety and Permanency and SSIS Learning Activities, and click Search
- ▶ Select 2014 Legislative Update
- ▶ Select the Course Content Tab
- ▶ Enter your unique key



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Selected Legislative Changes

Child Welfare and Children's Mental Health

Data Entry Requirements: Screened Out Child Maltreatment Reports

- ▶ "For reports alleging child maltreatment that were not accepted for assessment or investigation, counties shall maintain sufficient information to identify repeat reports alleging maltreatment of the same child or children for 365 days from the date the report was screened out. The commissioner of human services shall specify to the counties the minimum information needed to accomplish this purpose. Counties shall enter this data into the state social services information system."
- ▶ Minnesota Statutes, section 626.556, subdivision 11c

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How to Screen Out Child Maltreatment Reports in SSIS

When screening out a report, workers should:

- create an SSIS intake workgroup with an attached child maltreatment report
- enter the children and parents as clients in the intake workgroup
- enter a narrative as to the nature of the concern
- enter the allegations (each report must have at least one), including alleged offenders and alleged victims.

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Example: Completed Intake

Intake group

Identification
Name: Smith Michael CP Intake # 06/11/2014
Description: Smith Michael SSIS Intake # 107601507

Detail
Start Date / Time: 6/11/2014 09:00 AM Method: Phone
Intake Type: Child maltreatment report
Problem: Alleged child maltreatment
Program: Child Protective Services
Source: Child care provider
Caller: Brown, Sally

Disposition / Close
Close Reason: Screened out maltreatment report
Close Date / Time: 6/11/2014 10:42 AM

Additional Information
Description of Need: Concerns Staff Warning
Nature of concern entered here...

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Example: Completed Child Maltreatment Report

Identification
SSIS Report #: 107608104
Police Report #: Imminent danger: Yes No

Status
Report status: Screened out
End reason: No allegation meets maltreatment criteria
End date: 6/11/2014 10:39 AM Number of alleged victims: 1-2

Classification
Report track: FA - Family assessment
Investigation reason:

Reporter
Reporter:
Reporter detail: Child care provider Mandated Voluntary

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Example: Completed Allegation Screen

The screenshot shows a web-based form for reporting an allegation. The fields are filled as follows: 'Alleged victim' is 'Smith, Michael'; 'Alleged offender' is 'Smith, Jennifer'; 'Offender relationship to victim' is 'Biological parent'; 'Estimated date of most recent occurrence' is '6/10/2014'; 'Allegation' is 'Neglect (not medical neglect)'. Under 'Allegation detail', several checkboxes are present: 'Inadequate care for emotional needs/behavioral problems' (unchecked), 'Inadequate provision for medical needs' (unchecked), 'Inadequate provision for physical needs' (unchecked), 'Inadequate supervision' (checked), 'Perinatal exposure to a controlled substance' (unchecked), and 'Perinatal exposure to alcohol' (unchecked).

Referral to PSOP

- ▶ Screened out reports involving risk that does not meet the standard of an accepted child maltreatment report can be referred to your agency's Parent Support Outreach Program to offer early intervention supports and services to families. This can be done without requiring the entry of a separate Intake.
- ▶ The worker should change the Intake program to "Parent Support Outreach" and enter "Open for Assessment-Intake complete" in the "Close Reason" field. The Child Maltreatment Report remains screened out.

More Information Available

- ▶ Intake workgroups are retained for a four-year minimum. No additional efforts will need to be made to meet the mandated screened out retention of 365 days.
- ▶ An email containing these requirements was sent to local agency directors from Assistant Commissioner Erin Sullivan Sutton earlier this summer. Directors were asked to share this information with staff, particularly child protection screeners.
- ▶ A bulletin from policy staff with more details of specific requirements will be published this fall.

Child Maltreatment Reports: Household Members Who Are Registered Predatory Offenders

- ▶ The law regarding this did not change this session.
- ▶ The local agency must take information that a parent or household member of a child has committed a violation which requires registration as a predatory offender and accept it as a child maltreatment report.
- ▶ See Ann Ahlstrom's handout from the legislative update VPC for more information about practical requirements for handling these cases, including changing tracks from investigation to family assessment.

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Trial Home Visits: Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment

- ▶ Purpose is to provide "sufficient planning for supports and services to the child and family to meet the child's needs following treatment so that the child can return to and remain in the parent's home."
- ▶ Parent and the responsible social service agency must jointly agree to the THV. Either party may terminate with ten days' written notice.
- ▶ Agency maintains placement care and responsibility. THV cannot exceed six months.
- ▶ Minnesota Statutes, section 260D.12

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Functional Assessments for CMH

- ▶ CMH case managers are no longer responsible to complete functional assessments for children on their caseload.
- ▶ The functional assessments have been part of the Individual Family Community Support Plan (IFCSP). This will be changing.
- ▶ Minnesota Statutes, section 245.4881, subdivision 3

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Smoke-free Environments for Children in Foster Care

- ▶ Generally, foster homes must be smoke-free environments for children. Statute outlines specific provisions of what this means and consequences for failure to comply.
- ▶ Placement with a relative cannot be delayed based on the relative's inability to maintain a smoke-free environment unless the relative is unable to provide for the immediate health needs of the child.
- ▶ Native American or religious ceremonies involving the use of tobacco are excluded from these provisions.
- ▶ Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.215, subdivisions 6 and 9

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Selected Legislative Changes

Related to Northstar Care for Children

Kinship Placements and Kinship Assistance

- ▶ Kinship Placement Agreement
- ▶ Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.515, subdivision 4
- ▶ Guardianship Assistance changed to Kinship Assistance
- ▶ Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 256N

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Background Studies

- ▶ In the past, a licensed child foster parent that wanted to adopt a child in their home had to complete an adoption background study prior to the adoption.
- ▶ Because of the revisions to statute, a new background study is no longer required to move a child to permanency and possibly qualify for Adoption Assistance or Kinship Assistance.
- ▶ The foster parent's background study must have been completed on or after July 1, 2007.

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Northstar Care in SSIS

- ▶ Northstar Care necessitates a large volume of new functionality within SSIS as well as changes to existing functionality.
- ▶ The majority of changes for social workers are scheduled to be released in 14.4 and 15.1.
- ▶ SSIS will work to enhance Northstar-related functionality in 2015 and beyond.

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Where can I find more information about Northstar Care?

- ▶ CountyLink has a Northstar Care page in the DHS Program Resources section.
- ▶ A short fact sheet is available on the DHS website:
[Northstar Care for Children: encouraging safe, permanent homes for children](#)
- ▶ Continue to send questions to northstar.care@state.mn.us.

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Training on Northstar Care

- ▶ Child Safety and Permanency staff are developing wide-ranging training on Northstar Care.
- ▶ Trainings will be tailored to different populations whose practice will be impacted by the implementation of Northstar Care.
- ▶ A significant number of trainings are currently available for registration via Trainlink.

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Service Plans

- ▶ Last year, SSIS announced plans to compile all service plan changes in our fourth quarter release.
- ▶ This was to accommodate legislative changes and would benefit developers and local agency workers.



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Service Plans: Upcoming Changes

- ▶ Northstar Care for Children requires modifications to two of the out-of-home placement plans. Those will be released in 14.4.
- ▶ The Individual Family Community Support Plan (IFCSP) will be modified because of legislation passed last session. This will likely occur in 15.1 or 15.2.
- ▶ Other changes to plans are currently on hold unless they are mandated by state or federal law.

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Diagnostic Codes: Mental Health

- ▶ The federal government has delayed implementation of ICD-10 until October 1, 2015. SSIS is working to add ICD-10 codes according to the new timeframe.
- ▶ The American Psychiatric Association released the DSM-5 in 2013. At this time, SSIS does not plan to add DSM-5 codes to the application.

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Mobile App



- ▶ The Mobile App, also known as mCase, has been delayed, but progress is being made.
- ▶ Two agencies will be piloting read-only access in 14.3, St. Louis County and Southwest Health and Human Services.

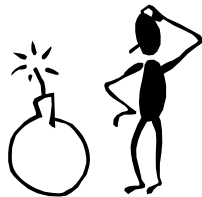
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What's Amy up to these days?



Good days



Other days

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Wisdom from Michael Perry (aka Sneezing Cow)



"Forty-two, and he had hit that stage where more and more he recognized recurrent patterns of behavior in humanity in general and himself in particular. This workaday predictive ability solved pretty much nothing and in fact could be a source of frustration and pique, but the upshot was, it made life more navigable. Good or bad, you sensed what was coming, and which way to steer. It wasn't that you could avoid the collision, but you bought yourself time to brace, or assume a position designed to minimize collateral damage. It wasn't a crystal ball type of insight. It was more a low-grade prescience. You could look at something the younger you would have accepted at face value, solve for the variables of human nature, and shortly extrapolate a narrow range of how things were gonna go."

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