

THERAPEUTIC VISITING PILOT PROJECT

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK TITLE IV-E EDUCATION FOR CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR FAMILIIES

Annual Report Budget Year 6/15/01-6/14/02

Section 1. Program Highlights:

- During the contract year, a project implementation workgroup comprised of representatives from each collaborating entity met on 8/2/01, 8/21/01, 9/5/01, 9/19/01, 10/3/01, 10/17/01, 11/7/01, 11/14, 12/12, 1/24/02, 4/3/02, and 6/4/02.
- Workgroup discussions regarded project planning and implementation. The following accomplishments were made:
 - 1) Identification of the target population and referral process
 - The target population is children between birth and 6 years of age and their siblings placed into foster care primarily due to neglect. The pilot project will target children entering foster care for the first time.
 - Therapeutic visiting will be implemented following the child (ren)'s commitment to the agency after a 30-day shelter period. The cases of children (and families) meeting the participation criteria will be assigned to one of the participating foster care units or the Title IV-E student unit upon entry into care. If the child(ren) returns home instead of being committed to the agency, the interventions will not be implemented.
 - 2) Identification of staff to provide therapeutic visiting
 - The Title IV-E Research assistant was assigned the task of researching and compiling resources related to the goals of the visitation intervention: enhancing the parent-child attachment, teaching parenting skills, and providing child development information to families.

Section 2. Evaluation Highlights:

A. Process Evaluation

1. Notes were taken during meetings to record decision-making.
2. Quarterly reports were prepared.

Section 4. Accomplishments/Challenges:

- 1) Development of a computer-assisted interview
 - A computer-assisted interview was developed that is administered to the participants of the Therapeutic Visiting Project before and after their participation in the project. A pretest version is administered within 30-days of the child's commitment to the agency. The posttest version is administered 4 months after initial participation in the Therapeutic Visiting project (see attached matrix for specific interview content).
- 2) Development of an interview manual including question by question specifications for the computer-assisted interview
- 3) Development of an integrative database
 - An ACCESS database integrates data from several sources, produces a case assessment and other reports, and provides the capability for analyzing characteristics and outcomes of project participants.
 - Data sources include:
 - 1) computer-assisted interview data collected pre and post of intervention
 - 2) caregiver and child data from FACTS database
 - 3) worker assessments

Attachments:

- Measurement Matrix
- Database Documentation

Report prepared by Clara Daining, Joe Wechsler, and Diane DePanfilis