

## **Strategic Recommendations for Sustaining the CJI-AOD initiative**

This document is the final deliverable in the Scope of Work developed by Minnesota's CJI-AOD Workgroup, with technical assistance provided by the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. It contains recommendations for the Oversight Committee regarding longer-term implementation and sustainability of the priority strategies. It is hoped that the Oversight Committee will give thoughtful consideration to the recommendations, and incorporate them as appropriate into the lead systems' respective strategic plans in a way that institutionalizes the collective vision established during the course of this project.

### **Initiative Summary**

In early 2005, the Children's Justice Initiative, working to streamline social service and court functions to better serve children in need of protection, launched the Children's Justice Initiative-Alcohol and Other Drugs (CJI-AOD) Project to serve families affected by alcohol and other drug problems. The CJI-AOD Project team is working to enhance the capacity of the child welfare, chemical health and court systems to address this problem, further develop cross-systems partnerships and improve practices.

### **Workgroup Mission**

*To ensure that, in a fair and timely manner, abused and neglected children involved in the juvenile protection court system have safe, stable, permanent families by improving parental and family recovery from alcohol or other drug problems.*

**CRITICAL  
ELEMENTS**

**CJI-AOD WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Shared Values  
Sustaining the  
Work**

- Parents are engaged earlier in the process of assessment, treatment and recovery.
- Partners in the process are improving practices through cross-systems collaboration, and use of team-based and relationship-focused approaches.
- Children's and families' stability are improving with increased reunification supports and services.
- Community members and stakeholders are improving their knowledge base and communication regarding families' needs and resources.

**Recommendation  
for continued  
involvement**

- Identify opportunities to incorporate these entities into existing agency/system structures that have sufficient resources to facilitate the accomplishment of long-term goals

**Long-Term Goals  
and Strategies**

- Develop practice guidelines for additional priority areas identified by the Statewide Advisory Committee: a) Screening; b) Cross-disciplinary roles; and c) Guidance for local cross-disciplinary communication protocols (system level as well as individual case level), and related practice guidelines (e.g., multidisciplinary team meetings).
- Broaden the implementation of strategies beyond the three County pilot sites, to include Tribes and other Counties.
- Ensure continued access to training when resources become available to support statewide provision of training and technical assistance to support implementation of recommended practices.
- Staff continue to work together to continue ways to identify data matching

**Building  
Community  
Support and  
Capacity**

- Develop broad-based community support by cultivating key champions, and developing strong internal systems to manage and govern effectively.
- Develop a plan to provide State-level technical support to Counties and Tribes.
- Engage Counties in participating in collaborative, cross-system team development and test implementation of recommended strategies, via CJI Regional Trainings in Spring 2006.
- Utilize County self-assessment tool (CFSR component) to inform development and training of County teams.

- Work with the American Indian Advisory Councils to support Tribes with testing and implementing recommended strategies.

### **Potential Funding Sources and Steps Toward Securing Them**

- Identify appropriate fiscal plan in securing additional funds, along with identifying current resources and funding gaps that may occur.

### **Communication and Marketing**

- Maintain website and ensure that key stakeholders and community groups are notified when significant content change is made.
- Maintain tool kit and format to maximize usefulness for workers.
- Develop a Social Marketing plan to ensure that products developed are broadly distributed and accessed.

### **Operational Structure in Place**

- (pending discussion with the oversight committee)

### **Evaluation**

- Take an inventory of the data and information collected in relation to the intended results, the tools used to collect the data and how that data is used to ensure the initiative is meeting goals and being adapted as necessary.
- Identify data gaps that exist which prevent the systems from meeting their goals and working together.
- Develop an evaluation plan that will produce information regarding outcomes for families that can support ongoing sustainability and practice improvement.

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