

Rock County Steering Committee Meeting 6-6-22

Abbreviations & Acronyms

CPS – Child Protective Services

CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates

Welcome Opening Remarks & Introductions

Attendees

Butler Institute for Families

- Brenda Lockwood, Sr. program associate with Butler Institute for Families. In Child Welfare for over 20 year. Will be part of the onsite review team, and also doing work with some of the focus groups.
- Ashley Brock-Baca, Senior Research Associate at the Butler Institute for Families
- Charmaine Brittain, Principal Investigator Rock County Child Welfare Case Review project; Director, Practice Innovation, Butler Institute

Steering Committee Members

- Rachel Belanger – Foster partner
- Jamie Proctor, CPS Supervisor Rock County
- Kate Luster, Rock County Human Services Director
- Tera O'Connor, Deputy Human Services Director, Rock County
- Robin Gleason, CPS case manager
- CASA Rock County representative

Review of Group Agreements & Decision-making

Focus Groups Update

- We conducted interviews /focus groups with anyone who made a request
- There were some focus groups with no attendees (people not showing up).
- Spanish-speaking focus groups were offered, but no sign-ups yet

To date:

- 16 Focus groups with 60 people
- 10 interviews

Stratified Sampling & Case Review Discussion

Research Questions

It's important these be fresh in our minds. We'll discussing possible exclusions and categorizations.

Stratified Sampling

Ashley presented the technique of 'stratified sampling,' sharing the first 1 minute 14 seconds of a video. https://www.investopedia.com/terms/stratified_random_sampling.asp

These are the proposed categories (to randomly select 10% of each, stratified by race and ethnicity):

- Screened out
- Closed
- In-home
- Out-of-home

Questions From the Group:

- In home to out-of-home how categorized?

Ashley: Cases that go through different phases are categorized according to the highest level of care in the past 12 months.

- Question – Race / ethnicity based on community population?

Ashley: Based on the child population.

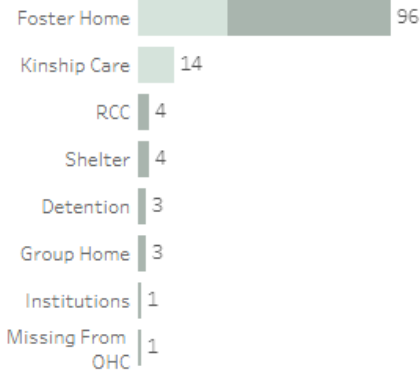
Out-Of-Home Placement Cases

Do we want to Include relative care that was not court-ordered (unlicensed relative providers), if possible?

- Include them. Big push to keep families together.
- Non court-ordered excludes the IDA cases.
- Court-ordered and licensing are not always present together.

Group Recommendation: Include all of out-of-home relative-care cases, even if not court-ordered

Children by Placement Type



Should we include out-of-home placements in detention, residential facilities, shelters, institutions, and group homes? Missing?

The group discussed whether each of these categories should be included, and identified recommendations.

Ashley: What is meant by 'institution'?

- Youth service center.
- A hospital is considered an institution placement.
- Winnebago, which is a state mental health facility. We wouldn't consider that placement but it is categorized that way in the data system.

Ashley: what is meant by 'Shelter'?

- A non-secure shelter in the community. There is a youth shelter.

Ashley: What is meant by 'missing from Out-of-Home care'?

- Unable to locate the child

Ashley: The numbers in each of these categories are small. Some might not be relevant. To what extent are the research questions geared toward this kind of placement? Should we be including / excluding any of these categories?

- Do these include justice children?

Ashley: only the kids who crossover as CPS case and are in detention. Not all youth justice cases but crossover.

- Detention number on the slide seems high.

Ashley: the data this is based on is the last 11-12 months. To review, children are categorized by their highest level of involvement in the category.

- Excluding things is a slippery slope, based on the amount of scrutiny. Maybe create an 'other' category.

Ashley: we weren't planning to stratify by these categories. Kinship care might be a larger group because some categories aren't included here. My inclination is to not exclude any, with the

possible exception of 'detention'. CPS isn't making the decisions about the child if they are in detention for the majority of the sample period (11-12 months)

Group Recommendation: include all placement types. Do not not exclude any.

Should we separately consider cases in which the child was out-of-home for an extended period of time (for example, more than 18 or 24 months)?

Ashley: Should we add a 5th category, 'Extended out-of-home cases'? Stakeholder feedback indicated that it's worth examining these cases as a separate category. If so, what is the number of months that will determine the separate category?

- Separating these out will be useful in pulling out variables to help us understand.
- Aligning the number of months with how federal benchmarks are measured would make sense.
- I suggest 18 months with the understanding that court is every 6 months. I agree that there are lots of differences between children out-of-home and those who were kept in home.
- In deciding the number of months, take into consideration the impact of COVID.

Group Recommendation: Create a separate category for extended out-of-home and use 18 months or longer as the definition of extended period of time.

In-Home Cases

Will ICPC (Interstate Compact for Placement of Children) and youth justice be included? Child from out-of-state placed in Rock County, or vice versa.

- ICPC could include children being placed from out-of-state in Rock County, or vice versa.
- With 2 parents, one parent could be either in Rock County or out-of-state.
- If mom neglected child in Rock County, and dad is out-of-state

Out-of-home vs. out-of-state ICPC.

Ashley: For in-home should we include ICPC or not? Sounds like they would be either in Rock County or some place else.

- What if the case handled out-of-state and instate?

Ashley: We would only be able to review the portion of the case handled by Rock County.

Ashley: Decision to talk to data analyst and find out more about ICPC cases, both for in-home and out-of-home. The data analyst didn't mention ICPC for out-of-home.

What about youth justice – exclude out-of-state and out-of-home youth justice cases?

- We have some where youth justice is primary but we have an open assessment on them.
- If it's a joint case type, I would think include them.

Group Recommendation: include crossover youth justice and out-of-state.

Closed cases. Exclude any of these closed-case types? Particularly ‘no court jurisdiction’ because often the family doesn’t live in rock county.

Exclude any of the following reasons for closed cases?

- Case Closed – Child Safe (684)
- Case Closed – Child Safe – Re-referral to Community Response Program (1)
- Case Closed – Child Safe – Referral to other services (126)
- Case Closed – Clients Unavailable or Cannot be Located (15)
- Case Closed – Family Refuses Services – No Court Jurisdiction (12)

- In some cases family refuses services means the case worker is not able to connect with the family.
- These look like cases that have been closed.
- What constitutes a closed case? End of initial assessment or something else?

Ashley: Screen-out is a separate category

- ‘Clients unavailable or cannot be located’ should be taken out. But leave everything else in there.
- Does this include the IDA cases?
- IDA would be in-home.

Ashley: this would be any case closed in the past 12 months. Not that many.

- Leave it in. Something to learn here.

Ashley: We can do that but keep in mind we won’t be stratifying across all these categories. So we won’t be separately considering ‘unavailable or can’t be located’. Due to the very small number, it’s likely that none of these will be sampled. It’s up to the group on whether we should exclude them, or include them and possibly end up reviewing 1-2 of them if they happen to be randomly selected.

Group Recommendation: include all of these reasons for closed cases.

Screened out cases. Almost all are ‘no threatened harm or maltreatment’. What would we want to exclude if anything?

Exclude any of the following reasons for screen out?

- Not Accepted for Services – Referral to Community/Agency (24)
- Not Accepted for Services – Services Not Available (8)
- Not Accepted for Services – Insufficient Information Per Request (20)
- Screen Out – Insufficient Information to Identify for Locate (4)
- Screen Out – Multiple Referrals on Same Incident (45)
- Screen Out – No Threatened Harm or Maltreatment (1,778)
- Screen Out – No Threatened Harm or Maltreatment - Refer Other Services (67)
- Screen-Out – Non-Caregiver (149)
- Screen-Out – Out-of-State Jurisdiction (27)

- Regarding the first three – are those from services reports?
- I would exclude them because they're from service reports. Not actually abuse and neglect reports in Rock County.
- Take out the top 3, as well as non-caregiver?
- Non-caregiver can be sex trafficking. A non-caregiver could also be a peer maltreater, or some other external person. Random. (A baby-sitter is not part of the non-caregiver category)

Ashley: multiple referrals and out-of-state?

- Multiple referrals might result in duplicate consideration in this project.
- Out-of-state is not in our jurisdiction.

Ashley: What are guidelines for CPS when it is out of your jurisdiction?

- We're supposed to identify correct jurisdiction.

Ashley: including this could help us understand if they fail to do that, but that's probably all that could be gleaned.

Decided: Include 'out-of-state jurisdiction'. Exclude 'multiple referrals on same incident'.

Ashley: what about not accepted for services?

- Exclude them
- What if standards weren't applied. It's important to be able to look at whether standards applied.
- That's covered under
- Ok, that makes sense.

Group Recommendation: Exclude 'not accepted for services.'

Ashley thanked everyone for sticking through a lengthy and valuable discussion and left the meeting.

Case review process – Charmaine.

Slowing down the Process

Stakeholders are saying this process has been rushed. In response, we're slowing it down. Also because there are so many unusual situations we need to take a look at sampling and instrument to ensure we include them. And, also want to make sure there's sufficient time to gather input on the case review instrument.

Revised Schedule

- Test for sampling and pilot instrument July 18-19
- Butler Team and CPS current or former employee application

➤ Case review – August 16-18

We need to do prework to ensure we cover everything during Aug 15-17.

There are 2 groups of 3 reviewers, and we want to make sure we open it up to anyone who has the expertise.

The application serves to ensure we equitably and fairly select reviewers who also understand CPS practice.

- Are they getting paid?

Charmaine: we'll need to look at the budget. We may consider an honorarium for a person(s) not currently employed by Rock County.

- Ensuring access to records. How do we ensure?

Charmaine: We'll have someone from the Department available to help with questions, and with accessing records. The reason we're doing both former and current, is to provide largest pool of people as well as make it transparent.

- How will individuals be selected?

Charmaine: It's random selection. First the application, and if applicant answers yes to all questions, they go into a pool. From there they are randomly selected.

- When do applications go out? People have their schedules booked 6 to 8 weeks forward.

Charmaine: in the next week or 2.

Charmaine: Do I have your agreement to move forward with case review and these questions?

Decided: move forward with case review application, commit to getting it out next week.

Communicating with Rock County Stakeholders

How should we communicate with our stakeholders? To get word out to reviewers. This is especially important when we're talking about honorarium.

- HR could help you.
- HR might have info about CPS staff who left in past 3 years. And we could forward to the last known email address.

Next Steps –Develop Case review instrument

Our next 2 meetings will focus reviewing and finalizing the case review instrument. But both dates conflict with holidays.

- Reschedule 6/20 (Juneteenth) to 6/27
- Reschedule 7/4 (Independence Day) meeting to 7/11

We'll be finishing up with focus groups and interviews in the next few days.

Thank you for this very productive meeting. We appreciate you, our steering committee.