

Rock County CPS Case Review Status Update

We heard you! We've slowed down the process!

Project Values:

Integrity

Equity

Transparency

Partnership

Competence

Co-created Research Questions with Steering Committee:

1. What are the barriers to timely permanency?
2. What improvements can be made around accountability for all members of the team (bio-parent, caseworker, CASA, legal, GAL, etc.)?
3. How are safety standards balanced with avoiding family separation?
4. Are there disparate outcomes for families of color in various stages of the case, including reunification?
5. What is the level of parental engagement in decision-making and goalsetting in cases?
6. Are reasonable efforts being made to find kin for children of all races and ethnicities?
7. What contributes to placement changes/stability?
8. How frequently are family interactions occurring, and how do family interactions impact the outcome of the case?

Focus Groups and Interviews:

Over the last few months, our research team has worked diligently to listen to stakeholders and engage them in focus groups and interviews. Butler honored every request for an individual interview. Also, our team offered Spanish-speaking focus groups/interviews.

To Date:

16 focus groups offered
15 interviews offered

Participants:

Foster parents: 21
Parents with past/present CPS case: 2
Court personnel/CASAs: 6
Human services staff: 23
Providers/Other interested parties: 21

Steering Committee: Our steering committee has met every two weeks since March. We skipped meetings on May 23 for focus groups. Meeting minutes are available to all.

Upcoming Activities:

- Analyze focus group qualitative data with Atlas-ti
- Use focus group findings to inform case review instrument
- Gather best practices to inform case review instrument
- Engage steering committee in case review instrument
- Develop case review instrument
- Invite applicants by former or current CPS staff to join each three-person review team (two teams)
- Provide training to three-person review teams
- Coordinate stratified sampling with state data analysts
- Conduct a case review pilot in Rock County in mid-July
- Revise instrument as necessary
- Coordinate logistics with Rock County for on-site review
- Guide Rock County staff in filling out face sheet for each selected case (as approved by Steering Committee)

Questions: Contact Butler Institute, University of Denver Project Director Charmaine Brittain via email at Charmaine.Brittain@du.edu