

## **Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee**

### Tasks and Activities

The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee undertook an in-depth examination of programs and services offered by the partner agencies to the KC-SII resulting in the construction of comprehensive services matrices and the identification of service gaps within those systems. Additionally, the Subcommittee constructed a matrix of the assessment and screening instruments currently utilized by the King County Juvenile Court, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The Subcommittee also identified and compared organizational missions, mandates and policies, which helped determine existing collaborative efforts, opportunities to explore coordinated approaches, and identify the real and perceived limitations in achieving the goals of the KC-SII.

The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee conducted a study of case processing and management in each organization to further examine the existing intersections, overlaps, and barriers either supporting or precluding system coordination. The Subcommittee consistently engaged in a rich cross-system discourse regarding strengths and weaknesses of services for cross-system youth and families and committed to the identification of principles for cross-system support of children/youth and their families. These will guide the KC-SII in the implementation of inter-agency agreements, protocols, policies, practices, and legislative actions. This work resulted in a reinforcement of the existing commitment to utilization of evidenced-based practices supported by accurate data and credible research.

The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee also identified specific cross-system target populations that will be the focus of improved multi-system interventions. The Subcommittee concluded that these target populations often necessitate a broad array of services and penetrate more deeply into these multiple service systems. However, these target populations of cross-system youth will require further study in order to design services, program interventions, and system responses that more effectively meet their multiple service needs.

Throughout the project, the Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee convened regular monthly meetings, attended meetings and events involving all members of the Systems Integration Initiative, and communicated via scheduled conference calls and electronic mail. The Subcommittee summarized preliminary pertinent findings in the *Resource Inventory and*

*Assessment Subcommittee Preliminary Report*, which was distributed to all Initiative participants in November 2004. The major findings from these efforts are briefly summarized in the following section.

### Findings

1. Strengths and conditions already exist in King County which are supportive to the sharing of responsibility and resources, and collaborative resource development:
  - Protocols exist or are in development between many of the partner systems in the KC-SII that provide a solid foundation and example for future collaborative effort.
  - There is good will and a spirit of openness between the leadership of these organizations, demonstrated by their enthusiastic engagement in the work of the KC-SII and this subcommittee.
  - The current service matrix includes a number of evidence-based approaches which subcommittee members feel could be explored for expansion or enhancement.
  - A Systems of Care (SoC) approach has been embraced within King County, bringing participant systems together based on a common set of practice principles.
  - The successful Blended Funding Project has been in existence for a number of years, supporting a narrow band of high-needs multi-system children/youth and may serve as an example in the further development of blended systems efforts.
  
2. The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee confirmed its fundamental commitment to building a cross-system infrastructure for DSHS and the King County Juvenile Court that supports a coordinated and integrated approach to service delivery for dual jurisdiction (dependency and delinquency) youth and families. This commitment will require the development of multi-system screening and assessment of dual jurisdiction youth, construction of interagency staffing teams to determine needs and access services for identified target populations of dual jurisdiction youth, development of multi-agency protocols and procedures that guide these processes, and development and implementation of additional blended funding strategies to serve these populations.

Specific King County target populations will require focused cross-system action. The subcommittee determined that the focus of its multi-system efforts will need to be on the

following priority populations of children/youth who are in contact with both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems:

A. The Offender population entering the juvenile justice system at 8 - 12 years of age with past or current involvement in the child protection system. This target population may also have been involved in other service systems as well. This target population of youth is at high risk for a broad range of negative outcomes. The Subcommittee seeks to interrupt the increased risk of further penetration into multiple service systems.

B. The offender population entering the juvenile justice system at 12 - 17 years of age with past or current involvement in the child protection system. This target population may also have been involved in other service systems as well. This target population of youth is at high risk for a broad range of negative outcomes. The Subcommittee seeks to interrupt the increased risk of further penetration into multiple service systems.

C. Youth released from JRA institutions and county detention in the intersection of juvenile justice and child welfare, including those who are identified as needing additional placement in order to protect the community.

D. System-failure youth, including foster care runaways and homeless, who have been the responsibility of our systems but have become disengaged from service interventions.

E. Children and youth with mental health issues who are not getting their needs addressed through current system access or interventions, including the aforementioned system-failure youth and families that have become exhausted in their efforts to rectify that which the family defines as problematic conduct or behavior.

F. Adolescents aging out of our systems without adequate skills, competencies, and capacities to effectively transition to independent living.

The Subcommittee understands that these identified populations are somewhat overlapping and may be challenging in their further study. The Data and Information Management Subcommittee has been asked to explore methods by which an accurate data and information profile for many of these youth populations may be constructed.

3. Cross-system youth who are not well served by our social service systems are also not appropriately or fully served by our educational systems.
4. Our systems, individually and collectively, are not doing enough to engage families in assessment, planning and services, nor to support and enforce their role and responsibilities as parents.
5. The partner agencies of this collaboration, having learned much about each other, still have much to offer each other in terms of evidence-based models of practice and the development of new approaches that might be developed in partnership for youth and families shared between systems.
6. Mental health services are inadequate to meet service needs, difficult to access, and over-reliant on institutional and client-focused (rather than family-focused) treatment responses.

#### Action Strategies

1. It is recommended that an overarching memorandum of understanding (MOU) be drafted and adopted, including the signatory agencies working on the KC-SII, to be completed on or before July 1, 2005 to confirm the commitment to building a cross-system infrastructure for DSHS and the King County Juvenile Court that supports a coordinated and integrated approach to service delivery for dual jurisdiction (dependency and delinquency) youth and families.. This MOU will articulate the organizations commitment to screening and assessment of dual jurisdiction youth, construction of interagency staffing teams to determine needs and access services for identified target populations of dual jurisdiction youth, development of multi-agency protocols and procedures that guide these processes, and development and implementation of additional blended funding strategies to serve these populations. The MOU will also commit to regular meetings of an Executive Committee that provides oversight and leadership in the implementation of the recommendations and action strategies delineated in this strategic plan document. The MOU will be time limited and subject to review and revision on an annual basis.

The Executive Committee will task a subcommittee to develop and/or adapt multi-system screening and assessment instruments that will more effectively “flag” the dual jurisdiction youth and identify their service needs through the eyes of an inter-agency staffing team that is empowered to make case management and disposition recommendations. The examination will result in a recommended protocol for cross-system utilization of screening, assessment, and inter-agency staffing for dual jurisdiction youth. In concert with the recognition of specific sub-target populations, this work will also explore the creation of inter-agency staffing teams for these youth and families as well (i.e., 8-12 years of age, etc.)

2. The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee made the commitment to explore the expansion of blended funding as a means of better addressing the complex needs of multi-system youth and families
  - Specifically focus on the Systems of Care project and expand to include juvenile justice.
  - Specifically focus on Functional Family Therapy and expand to include the DCFS and cover Becca and dependent youth
  - Examine additional opportunities for blended funding utilizing the resource matrices completed by the Resource committee members from the five youth serving systems.

The Executive Committee will form a work group to further examine the possibilities for additional blended funding efforts. It will be the responsibility of the group to construct blended funding strategies that are accompanied by a protocol defining access to these funding opportunities. From this examination, the group develop a set of recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before September 30, 2005.

3. The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee made the commitment to develop an in-depth Cross-System Training Academy for practitioners in the child welfare, juvenile justice, and treatment systems. A work group from the KC-SII has been formed to create the Cross-System Training Academy. Initial leadership for this group has been

assigned to Lois Nicholas, retired Administrator for Region IV of the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration. The purpose of the training is to help personnel in each system to understand the roles, responsibilities, and key decision points unique to each system, to identify and appreciate commonalities and dissimilarities in these work processes, and to work together to identify methods by which their work could be done in a more coordinated manner to reduce duplication of services and improve outcomes. The training will also serve to de-mystify legal aspects and delineate specific policies that often interfere with coordinated case work. The work group will develop a set of recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before September 30, 2005.

4. The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee made the commitment to better engage with our educational systems to improve outcomes for the populations identified. Recognizing the failures of both the social services and education systems to address cross-system youth, the commitment is made to have our education, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems work more effectively together. The Subcommittee has created a Task Force to address multiple issues concerning the coordination and integration of services for youth impacting these multiple systems. Initial leadership for this group has been assigned to Mick Moore, Assistant Superintendent Puget Sound Education School District. The Task Force will develop a set of recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee on or before September 30, 2005.
5. The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee made the commitment to improve Mental Health services for children and youth in the county. There is a great increase in the need for services (the numbers served have doubled in the last five years) which must be addressed at the same time there are continuing decreases in state funds for these services. The Subcommittee plans to:
  - improve access to services through improved dissemination of information about the referral process
  - improve cross-system coordination through dissemination of interagency working agreements already in place
  - improve cross-system education and understanding through a structured training program

- close the gap for non-Medicaid eligible consumers by advocating for funding for those in need of service
  - assist in implementing the King County Children’s Mental Health Plan
6. The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee made the commitment to increase the involvement of families in the King County System Integration Initiative, and ensure the full engagement of families in the delivery of services.
- (Appointment of Family Representative on the Executive Committee & Monthly “Family Meeting Day” at both DSHS/CA and the Juvenile Court – can explain in detail about this idea)
7. The Resource Inventory and Assessment Subcommittee will explore, plan and implement Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care in the county by
- Learning about the pilot/demonstration project currently underway in Eastern Washington and considering replication in King County.
  - Identifying the populations and numbers of King County youth this evidence-based approach could serve

One additional question I think we must address – Should we examine further the current court process, docket, etc. (i.e., special docket to serve dual jurisdiction youth coming out of Inter-agency staffing teams) ???