



## ***King County Systems Integration Initiative***

### **Summary of Accomplishments & Current Activities**

#### **Background**

Since the spring of 2004, a leadership group representing juvenile justice and child welfare systems has met on a regular basis to examine and improve the way they work together on behalf of King County children and youth. The King County Systems Integration Initiative, governed through a charter agreement, is envisioned as a permanent planning and service coordination body concerned with normal growth and well-being of youth. The goal is to disrupt the path from child maltreatment to delinquency and improve outcomes for children, youth and families through greater multi-system integration and service coordination at both the individual case and system levels.

The Initiative is led by an Executive Steering Committee of a dozen leaders representing all major public systems working within King County with youth and families in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. This includes several state and county agencies, education, key community agencies, judiciary and other elected officials. A much larger Oversight Committee meets less often to advise and expand the scope of the integration work. The Child Welfare League of America provides ongoing consultation and assists in facilitating some of the planning and other activities of the Initiative.

#### **Accomplishments and activities near completion**

- **Charter agreement:** Commitment and terms of governance for the collaborative Initiative were finalized and undergo periodic review.
- **Guide for Information-Sharing in King County:** This critical document provides a resource for legal, policy and practice matters for all Initiative partner agencies regarding the exchange of case-related information necessary for joint case assessment, planning and integrated service delivery.
- **King County Integrated Data System:** Design work is completed for a web-based method of accessing sharable case-related information between the public systems involved with children and youth; funding is required for implementation.
- **Protocol:** A working agreement is near completion which details joint policy and procedures regarding how juvenile court probation and the state Children's Administration work together in support of dual status youth and their families.
- **Cross-system training:** Design work completed for training among personnel of the Initiative partner agencies, to increase familiarity and develop relationships which support shared responsibility and services; to be piloted by late spring.
- **Educational Engagement Task Force:** A cross-system group has been established to address the needs of dual status children/youth that have dropped out, are at risk of dropping out or are under-performing. This work will include the design of more appropriate services through re-claimed and re-programmed education funds.
- **MacArthur Foundation:** The Initiative was instrumental in securing the selection of Washington as the 4<sup>th</sup> state to participate in the MacArthur Foundation's *Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice Initiative*, a 5 year commitment to the state of up to \$1.5

million per year in grant funds, consultation and technical assistance, with the added possibility of matching funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

- **Child Welfare League of America (CWLA):** Engagement of CWLA consultative assistance through 2006, with significant support from the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, Casey Family Program, and Washington state Children's Administration.

#### **Activities in Progress**

- **Mental Health Services:** A subcommittee on mental health has been established to develop an integrated plan for improved access to services for children and youth served by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- **Assessment instruments:** A subcommittee on Assessments has completed an inventory of instruments in use by the partner agencies of the Initiative, and is working on an analysis of purposes and possible sharing if not common use of some of these instruments.
- **Blended Funding:** The Initiative is committed to the development of expanded mechanisms for shared funding and responsibility; the vehicle(s) for this have not as yet been developed and agreed upon.
- **Evaluation Committee:** This effort is under development, the purposes of which will be to track Initiative accomplishments and to design methods of gathering and evaluating client-related outcome information over time.
- **2007 Budget development:** Work is underway to plan and secure 2007 funding for the Initiative, which will include administrative support necessary to its various activities and funding required for implementation of the shared case-related information system.
- **Aggregated data sharing:** Planning will soon begin on options for shared data in aggregated form between the agencies, which will be necessary to inform the on-going planning functions of the collaboration.
- **Further protocol development:** Once the juvenile probation – Children's Administration protocol is completed regarding dual-status youth, similar protocols will be developed regarding other identified populations of concern to Initiative partners.

#### **Contact Information**

For further information regarding the Initiative, contact:

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