The Sauer Collaborative for
Child Well-being

People Interviewed to Create/Validate Map of System

Alicia Groh, Hennepin County Citizen's Review Panel
Amelia Franck Meyer, Anu Family Services
Ann Ahlstrom, DHS Children's Services - Children's Justice Initiative
Ann Ploetz, County Attorney's office
Anne Gearity, Children's Mental Health Practitioner/Consultant
Anne Tyler Gueinzius, Children's Law Center
Carole Wilcox, Child Safety & Prevention, MN Department Human Services
Chris, foster youth
Denise Graves, Hennepin County Guardian Ad Litem
Dr. Mark Hudson, Pediatrician
Eric Skog, Law enforcement
Erin Sullivan Sutton, Assistant Commissioner, MN Department of Human Services
Janine Moore, Director Hennepin County Human Services
Jason Sufka, Married foster adult w/kids
Joan Riebel, Family Alternatives
Judge Mark Ireland, Second Judicial District
Justice Kathleen Blatz, Former Chief Justice, MN Supreme Court
Kim Cleminson, Ramsey County & Tribal Children's Services
Kristen Talbert, ICWA Court Monitor
Kristen Trebil, Guardian Ad Litem
Kyle and Debbie Etter, Adoptive parents
Larene Broome, Parent Mentor Program
Lucy, foster youth
Nicole Gronneberg, Parent attorney
Queen West, Foster parent
Representative Rena Moran
Rich Gehrman, Safe Passage for Children
Susan Ault, Casey Family Programs
Tami Baker & Dave Haley, Ramsey County Child Protection
Traci LaLiberte, Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare
Womazetta Jones, Ramsey County Child Welfare
Yvonne Barrett, Deputy Director, Office of Indian Policy

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Goal
Align the child welfare system to child well-being.

By 2020, 80% of the children in Child Protection/Foster Care will experience well-being with 10% re-entries and 0 deaths.

Highest Impact Levers to Align
the
Child Welfare System to Child Well-Being

1. Quality alignment to a standard of child well-being (the positive goal)
2. Quality of metrics for measuring a child's current state relative to well-being.
3. Degree of reliance on evidence-based methodologies for well-being outcomes
4. Quality of data & computer systems
5. Quality of training, development, & supervision
6. Quality of community resources and relationships
7. Quality of the initial child assessment
8. Quality of the initial investigation of the case

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Our Teams

Standard/Definition & Metrics of Child Well-being Team

Gene Roehlkepartain, Search Institute, is the Team Leader

Michelle Chalmers, Ampersand Families

Mary Regan, MN Council of Child Caring Agencies

Gregg Gardner, retired from Hennepin County Child Protection

Jennifer Bertram, Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare

Jessica Rogers, Connections to Independence

Dr. Mark Hudson, Pediatrician

Molly Kenney, Crisis Nursery

Rich Gehrman, Safe Passages for Children

Jackie Crowshoe, Child Welfare Consultant

Joan Riebel, Family Alternatives

Judy Schumacher, Safe Passages for Children

Keith Kozerski, Catholic Charities St. Joseph's Home for Children

Anne Gueinzius, Children's Law Center

Dana Ahlness, Ramsey County Guardian Ad Litem & CASA MN

This team commissioned research on how other states are defining and measuring child well-being. They have begun crafting our definition which gives us a positive goal of improvement for our children. The domains of well-being are intercorrelated but the anchor domains are as follows:

- Relationships/Social Functioning
- Emotional/Behavioral Functioning
- Physical Health and Development
- Cognitive/Educational Functioning
- Community Supports/Cultural Identity

These critical domains overlap with the domains named in the definitions from Hennepin County, Ramsey County, UC Berkeley, CASCW Youth Well-Being Tool & Bryan Samuels, Administration on Children, Youth & Families.   The team's next step is to identify the decision-making points along the way where assessing these domains is important. The assessments tell us whether the child is moving toward well-being.

Evidence-Based Methodology Team

Susan Ault, retired from Casey Family Programs, is the team leader

Jim Koppel, Department of Human Services

Hank Marotske, Foster Care Alumni MN

Angela Lamb-Onayiga, Hennepin County

Kevin McTigue, Hennepin County

Larene Randle, Parent Mentor Program

Michelle Lefebvre, Hennepin County

Mike Scholl, Casey Family Programs

Nicole Deters Spader, Evolve Adoption & Family Services

Liz Snyder, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW)

Tim Zuel, Hennepin County

This team commissioned research to find the evidence-based practices from across the country. The report has recently been completed. Their next steps are to look at practice models to see if there are gaps and to look at evidence-based practices that align with the domains of well-being and the assessments.

Data & Data Systems Team

Alicia Groh, Hennepin County Citizens Review Panel & national child welfare consultant, is the team leader

Brian Doerner, Hennepin County

Cam Counters, Ramsey County

Cynthia Shypulski, DHS

Erik Erickson, Hennepin County

Kristy Piescher, Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW)

Michelle Gerrard, Wilder Research

Rebecca Schultz, Wilder Research

This team has been looking at data systems across the country that are easy for caseworkers and supervisors to use and gives them the data they need to make good decisions for children and families. A good data system can also reduce worker's administrative caseloads. Their next steps are to look at how DHS is planning to upgrade the data system in Minnesota to see if they can work together.