



Screening and Eligibility II
DCF Family First Infrastructure Practice and
Policy Workgroup

December 18, 2020

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Existing tools and processes:
 1. Family Assessments Tools, Mary Ellen Hass
 2. Case Plan and Family Strengths and Needs Assessment, DCF
3. Breakout session
4. Discussion
5. Next Steps



Why focus on Screening and Eligibility?

Purpose: We want to ensure that we effectively engage and assess the intended children and families identified within Connecticut's candidacy population.

How: By reviewing existing screening tools and mechanisms we can determine:

1. What modifications are needed to align with Family First requirements?
2. What modifications are needed to align with effective family engagement and assessment?
3. What from current practice do we want to embed in the new community pathways engagement, screening, and assessment process and what new strategies are needed?

We want to know the following for each candidacy population:

- How and when are children and families screened for possible intervention?
- How and when are children and families' needs assessed?
- Where is screening and assessment information documented? Is that information easy to track and extract?
- What information exists about the quality of the screening, assessment and documentation processes?
- Which part of the candidacy populations might be missed by existing screening, assessment or documentation?

Family Assessment Tools

Mary Ellen Hass

- Overview of Norwalk “Pathways” System
- Assessment Tools for Contracted Programs
 - To work with families to assess their needs and develop plan to address them
 - Required to deliver DCF models for IFP, RTFT, CST and SHF

Family Assessment Tools

- For IFP: Protective Factors Survey (PFS) - dev by FRIENDS (Family **Resource Information, Education, and Network Development Service**).

<https://friendsnrc.org/evaluation/protective-factors-survey/>

Family Assessment Tools

- Five Domains:
 - Family Functioning/Resiliency
 - Social Supports
 - Concrete Supports
 - Child Development/Parental Knowledge
 - Nurturing/Attachment

Family Assessment Tools

- For RTFT, CST, SHF: North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (G and R) (NCFAS) -
Developed by National Family Preservation Network

https://www.nfnp.org/media/8d86b246ba6880f/ncfasg_scale_defs.pdf

Family Assessment Tools

- Eight domains
 - Environment
 - Parental Capabilities
 - Family Interaction
 - Family Safety
 - Child Well being
 - Social/Community Life
 - Self Sufficiency
 - Family Health

Existing Tools and Processes — Case Plan and Family Strengths and Needs Assessment

SDM® FAMILY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The strengths and needs assessment serves several purposes:

- It ensures that all social workers consistently consider each family's strengths and needs in an objective format when assessing need for services.
- It provides an important treatment planning reference for workers and supervisors.
- The initial strengths and needs assessment, when followed by periodic reassessments, permits social workers, their supervisors, and families to easily assess changes in family functioning and thus assess the impact of services on the treatment/permanency plan.
- In the aggregate, needs assessment data provide management with information on the problems families require services to improve. These profiles can then be used to develop resources to meet family needs.

Existing Tools and Processes — Case Plan and Family Strengths and Needs Assessment

SDM® FAMILY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Which Cases: All CPS treatment cases.

(The child assessment portion is completed for each child in the home or placed as a result of a CPS issue)

Who: The treatment worker who is responsible for developing the initial treatment plan in conjunction with the family.

When: Prior to the development of the treatment plan.

For in-home cases, within 45 days of the investigation disposition. For placement cases, within 45 days from the date of removal.

Decisions: Identifies the three highest priority needs of caregivers and all needs of children that must be addressed in the treatment plan. Goals, objectives, and interventions in a treatment plan should relate to one or more of the priority needs.

Existing Tools and Processes — Case Plan and Family Strengths and Needs Assessment

Assessment Components in SDM® FAMILY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Caregivers
 - Substance Abuse/Use
 - Household Relationships
 - Social Support System
 - Parenting Skills
 - Coping Skills
 - History of CA/N
 - Resource Management/Basic Needs
 - Physical Health
- Children
 - Physical Health
 - Emotional/Behavioral
 - Education/Development
 - Substance Abuse
 - Social Support



Two additional components are added to the assessment (in the Case Plan)

- Education/developmental issues.
- Other life experiences, including employment, housing stability, and cultural/ethnic considerations.

Existing Tools and Processes — Case Plan and Family Strengths and Needs Assessment

The priority needs identified in the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment go into the development of the **case plan**.

The DCF develop case plans using a family-centered, trauma-informed approach in:

- 1) assessing families' strengths and areas of need,
- 2) providing services to address those needs, and
- 3) providing ongoing monitoring of their progress.

The family case plan include a comprehensive assessment of the strengths and needs of all relevant family members.

The assessment of the family :

- is an evaluation of the circumstances that resulted in DCF involvement and that recognizes patterns over time,
- examines child and family strengths and protective factors,
- identifies and addresses the needs of the child and family,
- considers contributing factors and incorporates information gathered through other means.

The assessment helps identifying services that matches the strengths and needs - and can be used in developing appropriate goals, plans and interventions.





Breakout Session

Two groups

- 20 minutes break out
- Guiding questions:
 - *What are some of the strengths we heard?*
 - *Where do we see gaps in the current practices?*
 - *What could we potentially 'build' on?*

Discussion

Large group report out on overall takeaways:

	<i>What are some of the strengths we heard?</i>
	<i>Where do we see gaps in the current practices?</i>
	<i>What could we potentially 'build' on?</i>
	Additional comments

→ *Where do we go from here (recommendations moving forward)?*

Next meeting

January 8 - Child–Specific Prevention Plans:

- Review current service planning processes and determine how to leverage and align with child-specific prevention plans requirements.
- Determine who will be developing those plans, and how those plans will be monitored and refined throughout the length of service for children and families.
- Identify IT modifications or specifications needed to support the development and monitoring of prevention plans.