

Policy Rules for SAMS Implementation

Second Phase

Introduction

The introduction of the Safety Assessment Management System (SAMS) is being conducted according to a phased implementation schedule. The implementation of the second phase will be conducted in a manner similar to the process used for the first phase. Training for the implementation of the second phase will begin in July, 2010. The consultants known as Special Forces will be trained first. After the completion of this training the staff in the Pilot Counties will then be trained. The policy rules contained in this release were developed in order to provide guidance for staff during the implementation process.

In developing policy rules it is not possible to anticipate in advance every possible case scenario that may occur. The goal is to identify the most common situations and develop rules for them. Cases that fall outside these rules should be discussed with the members of the Special Forces assigned to provide consultation to a worker's Pilot County.

These policy rules must be applied within the broader framework Of Child Protective Services. Sam is a vital component of CPS but it does not constitute all of the casework actions that are required by policy.

A. Policy Rules for Pilot Counties

1. Cases That Are Open at the Time of the Implementation of the Second Phase

At the time that staff has completed their training on the second phase of SAMS implementation there will be cases that are already open and are being processed according to the policy rules for Safety First. Staff should continue to provide casework services to these families under the current rules for Safety First with these modifications.

At the time of case review the worker will use the SAMS Continuing Safety Evaluation to determine whether or not the child/children is/are safe. If there are no impending safety threats or safety threats are being satisfactorily addressed by the family because of the enhanced capacities of the parents then the worker must discuss case closure with their supervisor.

If at any time during the casework process it becomes necessary to address a safety issue then staff should use the SAMS Continuing Safety Evaluation to do so.

At the time of case closure the worker should complete the SAMS Continuing Safety Evaluation and the Family Assessment and Treatment Plan Evaluation to determine if closure is in fact warranted.

Note: Prior to conducting an evaluation of safety staff must review Section 5.10 of the Revised CPS policy. This policy is titled "Continuing Formal Evaluation of Safety".

2. Transfers from Non-Pilot Counties

Cases transferred from non-pilot counties to pilot counties will be receiving casework services under the rules for Safety First. Staff in the pilot counties that are assigned to these cases should continue to provide services under the rules for Safety First with three exceptions.

At the time of case review the worker will use the SAMS Continuing Safety Evaluation rather than the Safety First Safety Assessment to determine whether or not the child/children is/are safe.

If at any time during the casework process it becomes necessary to address a safety issue then staff should use the SAMS Continuing Safety Evaluation to do so.

At the time of case closure the worker should complete a SAMS Family Case Evaluation to determine if closure is in fact warranted.

B. Policy Rules for Non-Pilot counties

1. Providing Ongoing Child Protective Services to Open Cases

Staff in non-pilot counties will continue to provide ongoing Child Protective Services according to the rules for Safety First until they have been trained on the second phase of SAMS. During ongoing CPS cases are formally reviewed at 90 day intervals. During this review the CPS worker assigned to the case should use the SAMS Formal Continuing Safety Evaluation rather than the Safety First Safety Assessment.

2. Transfers from Pilot Counties

It is possible that an open case will be transferred from a pilot county to a non-pilot county within the same Region. The worker assigned to the case in the pilot county should continue to provide services to the family after the transfer.

It is possible that an open case will be transferred from a pilot county to a non-pilot county in a different Region. If this should occur then the case should be assigned to a worker in a pilot county in the other Region.