

Priority Focus Area #3 - Safety Model

The safety model workgroup is comprised of statewide Child and Family Services staff as well as the directors of the Attorney General's Child Protection Division and the Guardian ad Litem's office. A public defender has also participated in the meetings. This multi-disciplinary group met regularly to analyze how the safety model could be improved and re-energized across the state. Some areas of the state have incorporated the practice/language and emphasis on safety more than others. We will share those adaptations with areas still struggling. The workgroup began to study the structured decision making model. We engaged with the Children's Research Center to better understand the model they've developed. We also surveyed numerous areas across the nation that have adopted this model in regards to better supporting and guiding staff when making incredibly important decisions related to safety. We are currently in the process of engaging in a contract with the Children's Research Center to develop a structured decision making model and the assessment tools that will be unique to Utah and improve our system of ensuring safety for children.

Our goal is to have the contract signed by April 1, 2010 and have the first phase of the development of the model finished by September 15, 2010. Child and Family Services is providing the funding for this first phase. The court improvement project through the Juvenile Court is funding the remainder of the assessment tools and training for our staff and legal partners. The goal for this to be completed is June 15, 2011.