Bureau Name: Children's Bureau  
Grant Number: 90CW1111  
Target Population: At-risk children and families

GRANT INFORMATION:

Name of Grantee: The Research Foundation of SUNY  
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ACF Region: 2  
Congressional District Served: 21

ABSTRACT:

The Research Foundation of SUNY will oversee the evaluation of the New York State collocation model, a state policy initiative designed to address parental substance abuse problems among families in the child welfare system. The collocation programs place substance abuse specialists in local child welfare offices to facilitate early identification and treatment compliance of substance abusing parents. The goals of the collocation program are to decrease foster care placements due to substance abuse issues, reduce repeat indicated CPS reports of families with substance abuse involvement, reduce the length of stay in out-of-home care, if foster care is deemed necessary, and increase family reunifications from foster care placements. The collocation programs show great potential as an effective approach to the co-occurring problems of parental substance abuse and child maltreatment. The project will study four programs - two in New York City serving largely minority populations and two in upstate New York serving predominantly rural, white populations. The project employs both implementation and outcome studies. The implementation study will use interviews, focus groups, and programs statistics to understand the process and practices of the programs. The outcome study adopts a quasi-experimental design using a comparison group as the control. Data for the outcome study will be collected through a review of case files of the families using a case record extraction form. The evaluation will identify factors for successful implementation and assess the effectiveness of the collocation programs. Findings from this evaluation will be used to provide feedback to service providers in the child welfare and substance abuse treatment systems and to state policy makers to further refine the model, if necessary. The project will advance knowledge in the field with new insights into the promising yet largely unexamined model of collocation.

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