September - a significant month for child protection

We know there have been lots of events across the State to mark Child Protection Week and the Practice Leadership Unit thought it an ideal time to launch a new suite of posters that encourage the inclusion of fathers in child safety work.

These posters are part of the Engaging Fathers Strategy which has seen Engaging Fathers forums rolled out across the State over the past 18 months. These forums have included presentations by Dr Richard Fletcher of Newcastle University and a range of community leaders.

Male staff from across the department helped create the posters and every CSSC across the State will receive the posters and some genogram rulers in September. The rulers have been designed to draw genograms with children, young people and their families to identify their family relationships and patterns of safety and support.

We would like to mention that the genogram rulers were produced by Urban Dogs Production, a North Coast company that employs young people who have been in care.

IPMS – Final Workshops

September also sees the last of the seven-two day Intensive Practice Module Series training sessions that are attended by senior practitioners and practice leaders and on-delivered across the State.

Modules 13 and 14 are titled Bringing the Vision Alive – Embedding the Framework in Practice.

The modules focus on mentoring, coaching and Appreciative Inquiry as processes to further embed the Framework for Practice learnings and skills into everyday practice.

**Coming Soon **

eLearning Modules Launch

The release of eight e-Learning modules designed to assist with the on-going embedding of the Strengthening Families Protecting Children Framework for Practice is almost here. These e-Learning modules have been designed to be accessible and quick-to-use resources to teach and refresh workers on the use of the key Framework for Practice tools and concepts.

Look out for the eLearning modules home page on iLearn and the department’s intranet site. We are trying to work out how we can make these available to our partners too.
Structured Decision Making (SDM)- did you know???

In the spirit of practice learning we are keeping our focus on SDM tools and how they assist decision making across the continuum.

This newsletter we look at when to complete the Safety Assessment tool. The Safety Assessment assists the assessment of whether any children in the household are currently in immediate danger of serious harm; and to determine what interventions should be maintained or initiated to ensure the safety of the children.

For all new investigations and assessments the process of assessing the child’s safety begins at the first face-to-face contact. For ongoing cases workers should also subsequently use the Safety Assessment whenever changing circumstances or new information indicates a threat to the child’s safety that does not reach the threshold of a notification.

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- information that a parent/household member stops taking necessary medications for a mental health condition,
- birth of a new child
- parental separation
- parent is not complying with a current safety plan or case plan.
- prior to placing a child home after a previous unsafe Safety Assessment
- the child self-places him/herself back in the home from an out-of-home care placement.
- prior to closing an ongoing intervention

Keep an eye out for the SDM Yammer group where we will share ideas for SDM refinement.

Coaching

Face to face coaching for Managers and Senior Team Leaders is continuing and we are keen to hear how it is going. Please provide feedback to our survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QWTJ67Q

Working Across Difference

The Childrens Research Centre’s Amy McDonald Cipolla Stickles Wynen will start a series of workshops titled Working Across Difference in late September.

Regional Directors, Practice Leaders, Senior Team Leaders and Managers, as well as some of our key partners, will join Amy for a two-day workshop. Nominations are being coordinated by Practice Leaders and we will see further sessions in November 2016.

Innovative Ideas

We love highlighting regional creativity and this month the Central Queensland Region has developed Three Houses Tool papercraft. This papercraft promotes a way to have conversations about good things, worries and hopes in a super creative 3D model.

Want more?

Contact the Practice Leadership Unit at: PLUmailbox@communities.qld.gov.au