

# Hopetown Hypothetical Agreement

**C**ooperative Agreement Between the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Family and Children Services, and the Hopetown County Juvenile Court.

## **Parties to the Agreement**

This agreement is made and entered into by the Department of Juvenile Justice (hereinafter referred to as “DJJ”), the Department of Family and Children Services (hereinafter referred to as “DFCS”), and the Hopetown County Juvenile Court (hereinafter referred to as “the Court”).

## **Purpose of the Agreement**

The purpose of this agreement is to promote increased cooperation, coordination, and integration at the administrative and service delivery levels for the benefit of children and families within the purview of the DJJ, DFCS, the Court, and any additional signatory agencies party to this agreement.

The parties to this agreement believe that greater multi-system coordination and integration is best accomplished through a comprehensive, strategic planning process that embraces and values inclusion of youth, families, and a broad based representation of youth serving agencies and organizations. Since a wealth of basic and applied research, excellent program and practice models, and accessible resources already exist, the parties to this approach will utilize the best available information, research, and practices to guide the process. This agreement provides a framework for the parties to enhance the level of collaboration and improve the quality of services delivered to youth and families.

## **Areas of Agreement**

The parties to this agreement will identify agency representatives that participate in an ongoing committee organized to address the multiple issues articulated *Guidebook for Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare System Coordination and Integration* in this agreement. The parties will specify the function, roles, and responsibilities of the committee leadership and members.

The parties to this agreement will assess the current management information systems utilized by participant agencies/organizations and provide a report on the current capacity to share information across agencies/organizations. The report will identify barriers and obstacles (both statutory and policy) and jointly provide recommendations to overcome the identified impediments to enhanced information sharing. The report will also identify critical information that must be shared across agencies/organizations to enhance case management and service delivery to youth and families (including but not limited to: previous history of maltreatment; court, educational, medical, psychiatric, and family history; and previous services provided to the youth and family).

The parties to this agreement will identify data sets that must be shared across agencies/organizations (including but not limited to: # of foster care youth detained; # of delinquent youth with previous history of maltreatment; youth referred to the court with active foster care status) and ensure that this information contributes to improved analysis of current trends. This effort will lead to enhanced decision-making, particularly regarding prioritizing the allocation of shared resources among and across agencies/organizations.

The parties to this agreement will conduct an examination of the legal, policy, and procedural mandates unique to each agency/organization in order to

make recommendations for changes that will contribute to improved coordination of initial decision-making, case management, and service delivery. The parties agree to provide a report of their findings and recommendations to participant agency/organization leadership.

In conducting the above, the parties to this agreement will provide each other with a written description of:

- \_ agency/organizational structure and analysis,
- \_ case flow processing and analysis, and
- \_ identification and review of currently utilized case/service assessment instruments.

The parties to this agreement will inventory and assess the available services and resources utilized in behalf of youth and families within the jurisdiction. This effort is intended to reduce the unnecessary duplication of services and provide a cross-agency resource for youth and families.

The parties to this agreement will collaboratively develop an inventory of best practices and model or promising programs, and make recommendations for multi-agency development and implementation of selected practices and programs intended to improve the services delivered to youth and families.

The parties to this agreement will examine and analyze current agency/organization budget and funding requirements to determine the feasibility of blended/integrated/de-categorized funding opportunities to reduce duplication of resources and improve service delivery for youth and families. This effort will produce findings and recommendations and include, but not limit identification of potential additional funding sources for: administrative collaboration, development of management information systems, program development and implementation, and process and outcome evaluation.

The parties to this agreement will develop a timeline for the completion of the tasks enumerated in this memorandum (including reports and analysis and implementation).