

SDM Core team
Sacramento
March 18, 2015

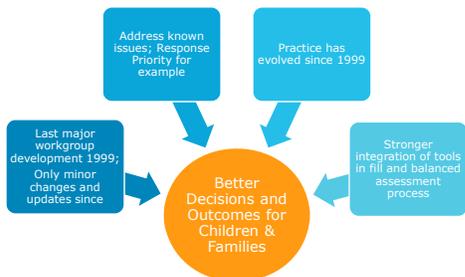


Today

SDM 3

- Introductions
 - CRC – Peggy Cordero and Lynnä McPhatter-Harris
 - County reps
- The tool revisions and context with practice model integration and research
- Considerations and context for tool review throughout the day
 - When to implement - options
 - Planning and needs support for dissemination and training
 - Planning for curriculum updates
- Review of each tool including
 - Overview of key changes to the tool
 - Link to practice and engagement with families
 - 30 minutes and can be flexible
- A deeper look at Web SDM upgrades and planning
- The SDM Report – changes to format and content

Why Update the SDM assessments?



Implementation and WebSDM

Considerations

WebSDM will be upgraded in the next contract year

Planned Changes; some within existing version

- » New look and feel in both current version and upgraded
 - Support for modern browser features
 - When thinking changes in look and feel, think SM4 to SM5
 - What will it take to implement WebSDM with a new look and feel?
 - Workers difficulty with adjusting? Significant, Moderate Minor?
- » New functionality in upgraded version, such as:
 - enhancing security with sign on procedures similar to SM5,
 - use on phones and tablets,
 - strengthening the platform and
 - allowing new possibilities for information linking
 - Preparation for upgrade will include outreach by WebSDM design team with counties to solicit ideas and desires



Implementation Considerations and WebSDM

WebSDM will be upgraded in the next contract year

Planned Changes; some within existing version

- » New functionality in upgraded WebSDM:
 - strengthening the platform;
 - enhanced security; sign on procedures similar to SM5;
 - use on phones and tablets;
 - allows new possibilities for information linking; and
 - Preparation for upgrade will include outreach by WebSDM design team with counties to solicit ideas and desires
- » New look and feel in existing and upgraded version
 - Support for modern browser features,
 - No changes in function
 - When thinking changes in look and feel, think SM4 to SM5
 - What will it take to implement WebSDM with a new look and feel?
 - Workers difficulty adjusting: Significant, Moderate or Minor?



Implementation Considerations and WebSDM

2 Phases or 1

2 Phase

- Incorporate SDM 3 into current WebSDM but only with new look and feel; then upgrade
 - If tools are finalized, SDM 3 available in early July, 2015
 - Would provide about 2 to 2.5 months for SDM 3 and WebSDM training
 - Upgrade and introduce upgrade in 1st 3 months of 2016
 - Would require 2 WebSDM trainings

1 Phase

- Incorporate SDM 3 into upgraded version of WebSDM with enhanced functionality and security and new look and feel
 - This would be an October 1, 2015 rollout
 - Would require 1 training of WebSDM changes
 - Would allow three additional months of preparation for implementation of SDM 3



Hotline

Screening Criteria



Physical Abuse Criteria

Major Changes

- Review of Criteria Not Required moved to beginning of assessment and defined
- Physical Abuse - Substantial Changes
 - Caregiver action that caused or will cause injury generally replaces threats of physical abuse and excessive discipline and more clearly provides a focus on actions by the caregiver and impact on child
 - Includes physical harm as result of Domestic Violence
- Emotional Abuse - Substantial Changes
 - Caregiver actions have led or **are likely** to lead to..... provides a stronger focus on actions by the caregiver and impact on the child
 - Exposure to Domestic violence has the same purpose and impact
 - Above combined removes the need for Threat of Emotional abuse



Sexual Abuse Criteria

Continued

- Sexual Abuse
 - "Physical, behavioral, or suspicious indicators consistent with sexual abuse" was added under "sexual abuse."

Commercially Sexually Exploited And/Or Sex Trafficked

- Sexual Exploitation definition expanded to specifically include a child being commercially sexually exploited and/or sex trafficked **by or with** knowledge and consent of caregiver.

To Neglect, Failure to Protect

- A child has been exploited by a third party, and the person responsible for the child's care has failed in protecting or been unable to protect the child from being commercial sexually exploited and/or sex trafficked. This includes situations where the person responsible for the care of the child has been coerced or otherwise been unable prevent exploitation.



Commercial Sexual Exploitation or Sexually Trafficked

Tracking information for Commercially Sexually Exploited and/or Sex Trafficked

Commercially Sexually Exploited and/or Sex Trafficked Information

Check when an in-person response has been indicated and the maltreatment criterion is either commercial sexual exploitation where the child is sexually trafficked or failure to protect from sexual trafficking.

- Child has been commercially sexually exploited and/or sex trafficked while in placement (notify worker for immediate response and notify licensing)
- Child has been commercially sexually exploited and/or sex trafficked (not in placement)—immediate placement support



Neglect Criteria

Severe and General Neglect

- Unexplained and/or suspicious death changed to more explicit reference to death from and/or suspicious for neglect
- Automatic 24 hour removed from non-organic failure to thrive and child's health safety endangered. Targeted for override issues
- Hygiene added to item on Inadequate Clothing to include an area not adequately addressed
- 'Child has no parent or guardian capable of providing appropriate care' changed to 'Caregiver absence/abandonment'; enhanced definition to better distinguish from Inadequate supervision
- Inadequate Supervision definitions enhanced with examples
- Failure to protect definition adds commercial sexual.....



Hotline

RESPONSE PRIORITY



Response Priority

Major focus – streamline and address overrides

Physical Abuse; separated out questions, refined some definitions; ordered by threat to safety

- Added checkboxes for questions to enable better tracking
- Changed question 'brutal and/or dangerous' to 'caregiver's behavior dangerous or threatening...'
- Added whether non-perpetrating caregiver is aware, supportive and displays ability to protect – removes need to determine if alleged perpetrator has access within 10 days

Emotional Abuse; refined definitions

- 1st question adds parental response to child's behavior, focusing on whether the child is receiving attention
- 2nd question adds clarity to definition and provides more explicit focus to impact on the child



Response Priority

Major focus – streamline and address overrides

Sexual Abuse

- Reduced questions from 3 to 2
- 1st question is similar
- 2nd question focus is on whether a non-perpetrating caregiver who is aware of the allegation, is supportive and demonstrates the ability to protect. Similar in construction to same question on Physical Abuse



Safety Assessment

Threats and Complicating Caregiver behaviors



Vulnerability / Threats / Complicating Behaviors

Changes

All changes to items and definitions to focus attention on specific actions by the caregiver and impact on child

Vulnerability – definitions added

- 'School age but not attending.....' changed to 'Not readily accessible to community oversight' is broader but better matches what staff see with referrals

Threats to Safety

- Substance abuse and emotional stability... that seriously impairs ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child removed as discrete threat
 - Two step process – the condition and the action
 - Actions are included in other safety threats
 - Focus turns to the actions and results (impact on child)



Vulnerability / Threats / Complicating Behaviors

Changes

All changes to items and definitions to focus attention on specific actions by the caregiver and impact on child

- Domestic violence incorporated into #1 'serious harm or threat to cause' and #3 'not meeting child's needs'
- Taken together these three result in focus on impact on the child and leads to consideration of substance abuse, emotional stability, cognitive, developmental, physical health as considerations in safety planning

Complicating Behaviors - Anything that further complicates the work of creating safety but does not rise to the level of harm.

Conditions that make it more difficult or complicated to create safety for a child but do not create a safety threat alone. These behaviors must be considered when assessing for and planning to mitigate safety threats



Vulnerability / Threats / Complicating Behaviors

Changes

- Changes in ordering of threats; allows focus on threats resulting from actions of caregiver
- Definitions modified in some circumstances to enable greater focus on child impact
- Question: Is 'The family refuses access to the child, or there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee' a safety threat? What is impact on child?
 - Rarely used – 4/10ths of a percent of all 2013 safety threats, 1.7% of assessments with an identified threat and generally only used when another threat is present
 - If worker cannot access a child, safety cannot be completed. Worker and supervisor would complete a warrant, safety assessment not a consideration
 - Identifying could only lead to safety decision of unsafe; eliminating safety planning as a possibility



Safety Assessment

ACTS OF PROTECTION AND SUPPORTING STRENGTHS



Considerations for Safety Planning

Child Vulnerabilities	Existing Action of Protection
Household Strengths	Household Complicating Factors



HOUSEHOLD STRENGTHS AND PROTECTIVE ACTIONS

Replaces Protective Capacities

Household Strengths: Resources and conditions that increase the likelihood or ability to create safety for a child but in and of themselves do not fully address the safety threats.

Protective Actions: These are specific actions, taken by one of the child's current caregivers or by the child, that mitigate identified safety threats in the household.

Household strengths and protective actions should be assessed, considered, and built upon when creating a safety plan. *Mark all that apply to the household*

Why? Separates strengths and actions, allowing for a more directed assessment when determining to implement a safety plan and when to remove



Safety Assessment

Safety Interventions and Safety Decision



Safety Interventions and Safety Decision

Reorganization of decisions and definition clarification

- Safety Decisions now follow specific sections based on identification of threats, supporting strengths and protective actions. Parallels presentation in WebSDM.
- Safety interventions divided into in home interventions and placement interventions
 - 'Use of family, neighbors, or other individuals in the community as safety resources' definition refined to better indicate short term family placement
 - 'Have the caregiver voluntarily place the child outside the home, consistent with WIC 11400(o) and (p)' definition refined to better indicate when used

Safety Decision – Now termed Safe, Safe with Plan and Unsafe



Risk Assessment

Validation and Practice Driven Changes



Initial Risk Assessment

Major Changes

- Single Stream Presentation in WebSDM
 - Reduction in common errors (prior investigations, prior open cases)
 - Reduction in discrete # of items
 - Allows grouping of items by content area
 - » prior investigations details,
 - » current investigation details
 - » family characteristics
- Item Language and Definitions
 - Switch from 'Score' this item to identify and choose
 - Neutral language in most items



PRIOR INVESTIGATIONS	Neglect	Abuse
1. Prior Neglect Investigations		
<input type="radio"/> a. No prior neglect investigations	0	0
<input type="radio"/> b. One prior neglect investigation	0	1
<input type="radio"/> c. Two prior neglect investigations	1	1
<input type="radio"/> d. Three or more prior neglect investigations	2	1
2. Prior Abuse Investigations		
<input type="radio"/> a. No prior abuse investigations	0	0
<input type="radio"/> b. One prior abuse investigation	1	0
<input type="radio"/> c. Two prior abuse investigations	1	1
<input type="radio"/> d. Three or more prior abuse investigations	1	2



Initial Risk Assessment

Major Changes

- Validation driven changes
 - Many items are for both primary and secondary
 - » Mental health (A & N)
 - » Hx of abuse or neglect (A & N)
 - » Alcohol or Drug Use (A & N)
 - » Criminal Hx. (N)
 - Items Removed
 - » Physical care of child from N
 - » Primary Caregiver domineering from A
 - Reduced weight
 - » prior investigations
 - » child characteristics
 - Separated Prior Open Case into past open and closed and past open and remains open



Strengths and Needs
Family and Child



Family

Major Change:
New Domain Format

- A. Actively help create safety, permanency, and child/youth/young adult well-being.
- B. Are not strengths or barriers for safety, permanency, or child/youth/young adult well-being.
- C. Are barriers to safety, permanency, or child/youth/young adult well-being.
- D. Contribute to imminent danger of serious physical or emotional harm to the child/youth/young adult.



Family

Major Change:
New Domain Format

- Focused on safety, permanency, and child/youth/young adult well-being as a continuum.
- Structuring the responses in this manner should aid in communicating concerns and strengths in understandable terms to those who are involved with and/or care about the child.
- Assists in clear case plans and measuring progress.
 - Better ability to look at movement between levels
 - Distinguishes between a barrier
- Provides continuity with other SDM assessments that emphasize behaviors and their impact on the child.



Family

Major Changes:

- No point values – Change in structure removes the need for differential points to aid in prioritization
- D choices are always a priority while C choices may be prioritized
- D choices are equivalent to Safety threat and should be identified as well
- New Domains
 - Trauma
 - Family Violence and Domestic Violence
 - Cognitive/Developmental Abilities
 - Cultural item is removed and replaced by...



Family

Cultural Identity

Greater focus on Cultural

- Consideration of whether the caregiver's perspective of culture and cultural identity
- helps to create safety, permanency, and child/youth/young adult well-being;
 - is not a strength or barrier for safety, permanency, or child/youth/young adult well-being;
 - is a barrier to safety, permanency, or child/youth/young adult well-being; or
 - presents an imminent danger of serious physical or emotional harm to the child/youth/young adult.



Child

Major Changes

Addition of the "Household Context" item at beginning of the assessment for similar reasons as mentioned for the caregiver portion.

1. Similar A through D structure but not always
 2. 11 defined domains and "other" in SDM 3.0.
- Cultural identity was removed as a domain, allowing a more thorough evaluation of culture and the child.
 - "Trauma" was added as a domain.
 - For children in placement only, "Relationship With Substitute Caregiver" was added as a domain.
 - An independent living domain has been added that must be completed for youth age 15.5 or older.



Risk Reassessment

Validation and Practice Driven Changes



Risk Reassessment

Major Changes

- Item Language and Definitions
 - Switch from 'Score' this item to identify and choose
 - Neutral language in most items
 - Mental Item changed to similar format and weights as substance abuse
 - Caregiver progress item matches format of reunification progress
 - Definition similar but weights different on progress
- Validation Driven Changes
 - Prior Investigations changed in counting priors and weights
 - New investigation during review period has increased weight



RR. Primary caregiver mental health since the last assessment/reassessment (mark one)		
a.	<input type="checkbox"/> No history of mental health problem	0
b.	<input type="checkbox"/> No current mental health problem; no intervention needed	0
c.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, mental health problem; problem is being addressed	0
d.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, mental health problem; problem is <u>not</u> being addressed	1



Reunification Reassessment

Risk Reassessment



Reunification Risk

Progress Item

Definition:

- changed to emphasize behaviors and the demonstration of behaviors that reduce risk of subsequent harm to a child.
- While participation in services remains a factor, the definitions have a much stronger emphasis on behavioral change that will aid the family in **creating and maintaining safety**.
- Moved from policy to definitions section
- Added definitions for Policy overrides



Reunification Reassessment

Visitation Evaluation



Visitation Evaluation

Changes

- Simplified table so Strong/Adequate is in 1 column and Limited/Destructive is the other column
- Definitions re-written with increased focus on parental behaviors during visits
- Moved definitions from paper form to definitions section



Reunification Reassessment

Safety



Safety

Major Changes

Changed from safety assessment form to be completed to critical evaluation in narrative format. Represents specifically evaluating impact of planning on previously identified threats and emergence or continued presence of threats

1. Are any safety threats identified on the safety assessment that resulted in the child's removal still present?
 - 1a. If yes, is there a safety intervention that can and will be incorporated into the case plan to mitigate these safety threats?
2. Have any new safety threats been identified since the child's removal or are there any other circumstances or conditions present in the reunification household that, if the child were returned home, would present an immediate danger of serious harm?
 - 2a. If yes, is there a safety intervention(s) that can and will be incorporated into the case plan to mitigate these safety threats?



Safety

Other factors

Definitions for the prior threats will be available in WebSDM

Definitions changed in accordance

Safety Decisions are the same as initial safety



WebSDM

Changes

Tim Connell to present via GOTO Meeting



The SDM Annual Management Report

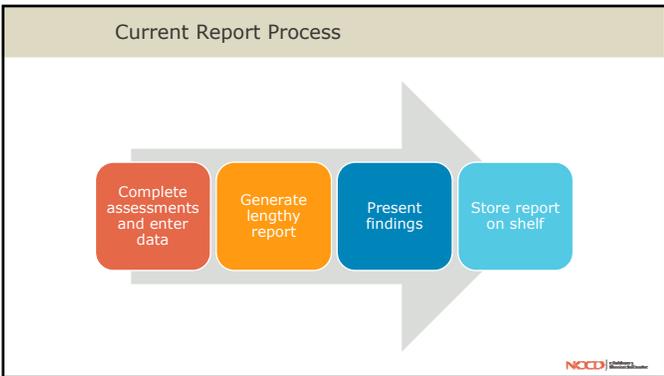
Changes



Current Report Format

- Traditional report style
- Focus on providing basic information about ALL SDM assessments
- Lengthy text description of policy, procedures, and findings
- Figures and tables to demonstrate findings
- Short discussion of findings at the end

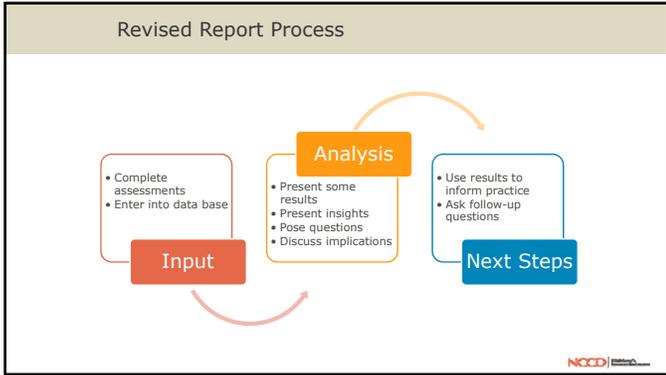




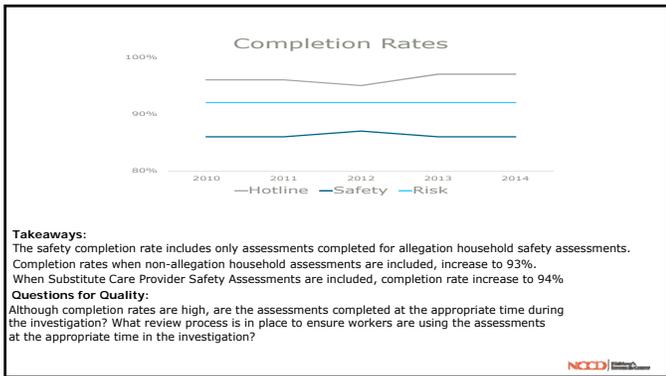
Revised Report Format

- Streamlined presentation
- Focus on findings related to most important SDM-related issues
- Focused figures and tables to demonstrate main points
- Increased emphasis on insights and questions related to findings
- Increased emphasis on what YOU want to know

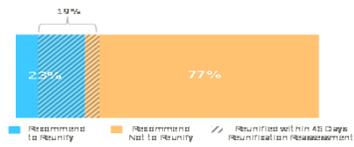




- ### The 'New' SDM Annual report
- Six Content Areas and the Combined Comparison Report
1. Completion Rates, Results and Overrides for Front End Assessments
Hotline (Screening Criteria and Response Priority)
Safety
Risk
 2. SDM Screening and CWS/CMS Screening
 3. Risk, Safety, and Case Promotion
 4. Recurrence by SDM@ Risk Level
 5. Risk Reassessment Recommendations and Actual Closure
 6. Reunification Assessment Recommendations and Actual Closure
- Combined Comparison Report Remains the same
- NCCD |



The Data: SDM Reunification Reassessment Results for Children in Placement in 2014
 In 2014, 19,482 cases, in which the child was in out of home placement, had a completed Reunification Reassessment. For each case, reunifications – defined as placements where a child was returned to a caregiver—were examined for a 45 day follow up period after the most recent Reunification Reassessment.



Takeaways:

- Reunification was recommended for 4,457 (23%) cases and 67% of those were reunified within 45 days after their Reunification Reassessment.
- Of cases with reunification, 20% were cases not recommended to reunify – risk remained high or very high and/or visitation was unacceptable and or were unsafe.