



University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

**Program Evaluation Update
For the Deferred Prosecution
Child Abuse Initiative (DPCAI)
For the RJIP Team**

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DPCAI Diversion Program Enhancements

- Hired a Child Abuse Specialist within the DA's office
- Developed intake system where each case is evaluated for DPU eligibility immediately, rather than waiting for the pre-trial conference
- All participants sign "no corporal punishment" contract
- "Adults and Children Together (ACT): Raising Safe Kids" parenting program was integrated into services; staff were trained and ACT was offered free of charge to increase access and decrease the use of corporal punishment
- "Adverse Childhood Experiences" tool with all participants
- Enhanced use of forensic interviews with child victims
- Developed a participant-level data system to document participant and child victim characteristics
- Increased collaboration with Child Protective Services and other system partners

Update on Current DPCAI Activity

Table 1: DPCAI Program Activity Overview Since Program Start

| <i>As of April 2015</i> | White/ Non-Hispanic | Persons of Color | Overall | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------|------|
| | # | # | # | % |
| # Admitted/Assessed | 28 | 36 | 64 | ---- |
| Pending | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8% |
| Active | 22 | 30 | 52 | 81% |
| Completed | 3 | 3 | 6 | 9% |
| Charges cleared | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| Charges dismissed | 2 | 2 | 4 | |
| Charges reduced | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Did Not Complete | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Other | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2% |
| Referral Type | | | | |
| Direct referral | 9 | 6 | 15 | 24% |
| Post-Plea | 18 | 26 | 44 | 68% |
| Referral with reduction | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8% |

Overview of DPCAI Progress As Part of Larger Effort to Reduce Disparities

- Increase in referrals for Intentional Physical Abuse of Child
- DPCAI revised eligibility criteria have increased direct (pre-charge) referrals
- DA's Office is using diversion more aggressively leading to increased diversion for persons of all races and ethnicities
- DA staff indicate that overall more people are completing Deferred Prosecution Agreements
- Reducing negative impact of CCAP website record
 - If the case appears on CCAP, it is often as a dismissal
 - If the case does not appear on CCAP at all, then advantages related to future housing and employment

When will you be able to determine if DPCAI is helping to reduce disparities?

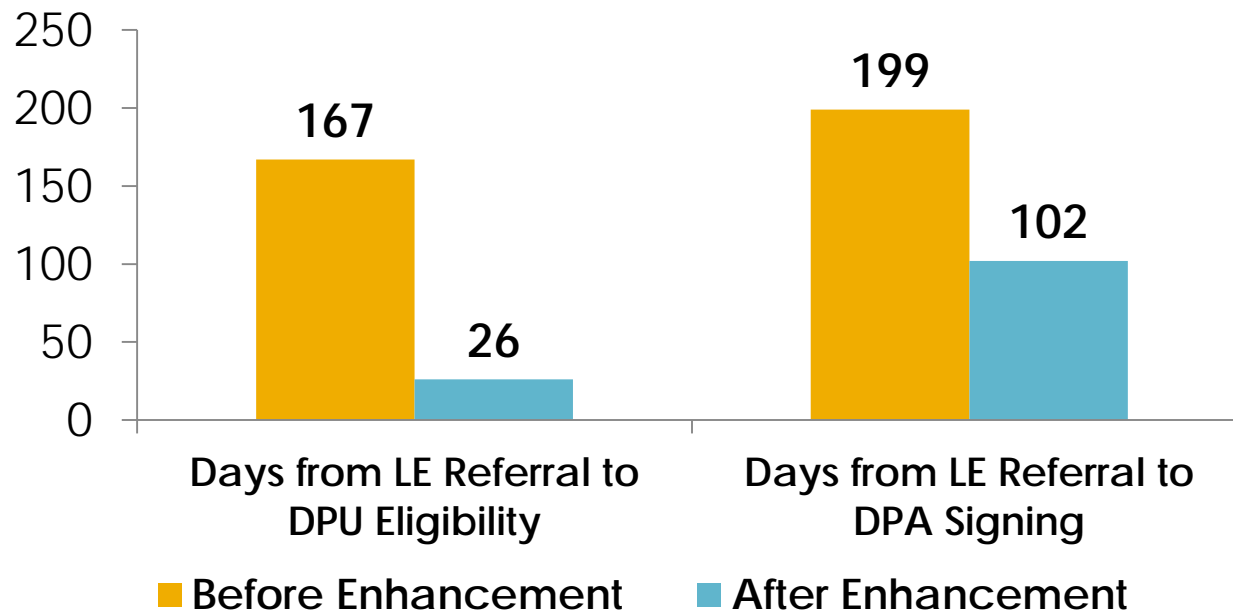
- DPA length is a determining factor: With an average length of 15 months (some longer and some shorter), valid assessment of participant outcomes is a while away. At least 100 cases will need to go through the complete DPCAI enhancement (either completers or non-completers) and have at least 1-2 years elapse after their DPCAI exit. Then need time to collect, analyze, summarize, and interpret the outcomes data.
- A conservative estimate would be that you are still at least 18-24 months away from determining preliminary impacts.
- Efforts of this kind require a strong commitment to the program approach or model, and patient support until outcomes can be measured. However, interim feedback from program participants, program staff, and key stakeholders can be used to make mid-course corrections as necessary to improve program effectiveness along the way.

DPCAI Project Successes to Date

- Program Improvements During 2014 and Early 2015
 - Developed clearly delineated DPCAI mission, goals, and objectives
 - Making progress toward the objectives, and documenting that progress
 - Revised eligibility criteria in collaboration with the public defender's office to increase direct/pre-charge referrals; *Pretrial Justice Institute* experts reviewed eligibility criteria
 - Updated the program description (white paper)
https://www.countyofdane.com/da/pdf/DPU_Child_Abuse_Initiative.pdf

DPCAI Project Successes to Date (continued)

Preliminary results show that the DPCAI enhancement has significantly reduced the average time between law enforcement (LE) referral and eligibility determination, and between LE referral and signing the deferred prosecution agreement



DPCAI Project Successes to Date (continued)

- **Additional DA's Office Efforts to Address Disparities and Improve the Safety of Children**
 - Implemented "No Hit Zone" in the DA's office
 - DA website <https://www.countyofdane.com/da/nohit.aspx>
 - DA public service announcement
 - Links to national and local resources on website
 - **Professional Training Conferences**
 - Offered professional conference on corporal punishment in June 2014, focusing on strategies to end violent parenting and improve cultural competency (in collaboration with community partners)
 - Currently planning more extensive two-day conference in November 2015 that will include presentations by national experts; feedback from 2014 conference participants was used to enhance 2015 conference
 - **Community Discussions**
 - Engaged the community in discussions related to non-violent parenting practices during 2014 and planning another "community conversation" in November 2015 to encourage the involvement of local leaders, stakeholders, and community members, particularly those in the faith-based community
 - **Outreach and Education**
 - The DA team conducted numerous presentations to high school groups, university classes, law enforcement agencies, and community agencies

RJIP Successes to Date

- Collaboration to revise eligibility criteria (DPCAI team reports increase in direct referrals since Dec 2014)
- February 2015 report to ABA (Clark, DA team, & UWPHI)
- Increased collaboration with Human Services-Child Protective Services
- Outreach to national organizations (Center for Court Innovation, Pretrial Justice Institute)
- Surveyed RJIP Team about audience/purpose of brochure and conference opportunities
- Successful communication with ABA (funder)
- Increased depth of partnerships (Children's Hospital, Fontes, Patton)

RJIP Challenges to Date

- Differing perspectives of Human Services and Criminal Justice partners
- Length of deferred prosecution agreements exceed (for most) the length of the RJIP grant award and evaluation
- No RJIP funds allocated to DA's office for project staffing or implementation
- RJIP members-a lack of resources
- Funding for larger communications strategy

Possible Areas for RJIP and Committee Support/Assistance

- Support for November 2015 conference through planning, promoting, volunteering, etc.
- Increase public defender and defense bar knowledge of DPCAI eligibility and participation benefits
- **Suggestions for improving DA staffing** to include a specialized attorney for family violence cases to increase project effectiveness -- current staffing patterns in the District Attorney's Office inhibit the speed and efficiency of the cases
- **Support community outreach and education**
 - Lift the conversation beyond just those involved in CPS and the criminal justice system through community conversations, conferences, billboards, written materials, faith based meetings, and "world café" engagement sessions
- **Continue efforts to increase transparency and communication among agencies**

Areas for RJIP and Committee Support/Assistance (continued)

- Discussion of concrete ways RJIP Team can assist with:
 - Where resources should be invested
 - Address barrier that some cases are not tagged as child abuse-related right away
 - How to shorten time from offense to service start
 - Address barrier that some clients don't take responsibility for the crime, or take a long time to agree to participate
 - DA staff turnover and how to minimize impact of cases getting redistributed among remaining staff

Evaluation Priorities for May & June 2015

- **UWPHI will collaborate with the DPCAI team to:**
 - Update the DPCAI white paper/program description
 - Assure participant data quality through data review
 - Finalize database structure and content
 - Work with DAIT staff to develop automated reports
 - Analyze/summarize the DPCAI participant data
 - Transition selected evaluation activities to DA team
- **UWPHI will collaborate with the RJIP Coordinator to:**
 - Prepare & submit required June 2015 evaluation report to American Bar Association