

**The Collaboration between Child Protective Services (CPS)  
and  
Kentucky Works Program (KWP)**

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Quantitative Study

The purpose of this study was to determine to what extent CPS clients are underreporting their participation to KWP case managers. The subjects of this study were KWP participants who have reached their 48 months of their 60 month time limit, who have received their staffing, and who have been or are active with CPS within the past year. Approximately 30 cases were used as a sample. Most of the cases were within the 40210, 40208, and 40203 zip codes because of my placement and my job with the Bridges of Hope Neighborhood Place. This was a non-experimental descriptive study that was collected by KWP case coordinators and CPS supervisors. It was my intent to measure the overlap potential for participation in anger management, parenting classes, and drug and alcohol abuse counseling for both agencies within the past year.

It was found that 16.7% were participating in counseling, 13.8% were participating in GED and 13.3% were in anger management. Only 36.7% reported their case manager that they were involved with CPS and had CPS issues to overcome. 63.3% failed to report their involvement. Some issues may be because they are embarrassed and don't want anyone else to know.

I conducted a Man-Whitney U test to examine the difference between those who reported vs. the tasks that could have been used. A significant difference was found  $p < .002$ , between those who reported and those who participated in counseling. All other tasks were not significant.

## Qualitative Study

The purpose of this study was to explore the need for increased collaboration and communication between the Kentucky Works Program participants and Child Protective Services . Having participants doing an activity for both agencies is hard on that person. In finding out the need for collaboration I interviewed 5 case managers, 3 CPS workers, and one self-sufficiency worker.

The codes that were found in the semi-structured interviews were: communication within the agency, communication between workers, and benefiting the clients needs. The KWP workers had a lot of information to give and are willing to receive information. The CPS workers that were interviewed actually did not know or understand what KWP was or what it did for their clients. The self-sufficiency worker had great insight because of the CPS background and being trained in KWP. It was agreed upon that both agencies needed to be trained or have meetings so that everyone will know what the other agency is doing. The neighborhood place concept does help out with some areas due to the “One Stop Shop”, but still is a problem for worker to communicate.



# **The Collaboration between CPS and KWP**

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# Child Protective Services

- **A specialized casework Service to neglected, abused or exploited children.**
- **The focus of the services is preventive and non-punitive.**
- **Is geared toward rehabilitation of the home and treatment of the motivating factors.**



# Child Protective Services

- **Reunification may require the client to:**
  - **Complete anger management classes**
  - **Parenting classes**
  - **Drug and alcohol abuse courses**
  - **Complete GED**
  - **Attend counseling**



# Kentucky Works Program

- **Helping Kentucky's Families Achieve New Heights Through Employment, Training and Education.**
- **All adult K-TAP recipients are required to participate in the Kentucky Works Program, unless the recipient meets exemption criteria.**
- **All adult K-TAP recipients who are not exempt, must participate in a work activity.**



# Kentucky Works Program

- **Countable activities can include:**
  - Employment
  - Education/GED/Higher education
  - Job training
- **Allowable activities can include:**
  - Anger management classes
  - Professional Counseling
  - Drug and Alcohol abuse classes
  - Parenting classes



# Quantitative Research Question

- **What is the overlap potential for the participants participation?**
- **How does the number of participants in CPS correlate with the number who self report their participation to KWP?**



# Design, Variables, and Sample Methods

- **Non-experimental descriptive study.**
- **Secondary data that was collected by KWP case coordinators.**
- **Measuring the overlap potential for participation in:**
  - **anger management,**
  - **parenting classes**
  - **drug and alcohol abuse treatment**
  - **Counseling****for both agencies within the past year.**

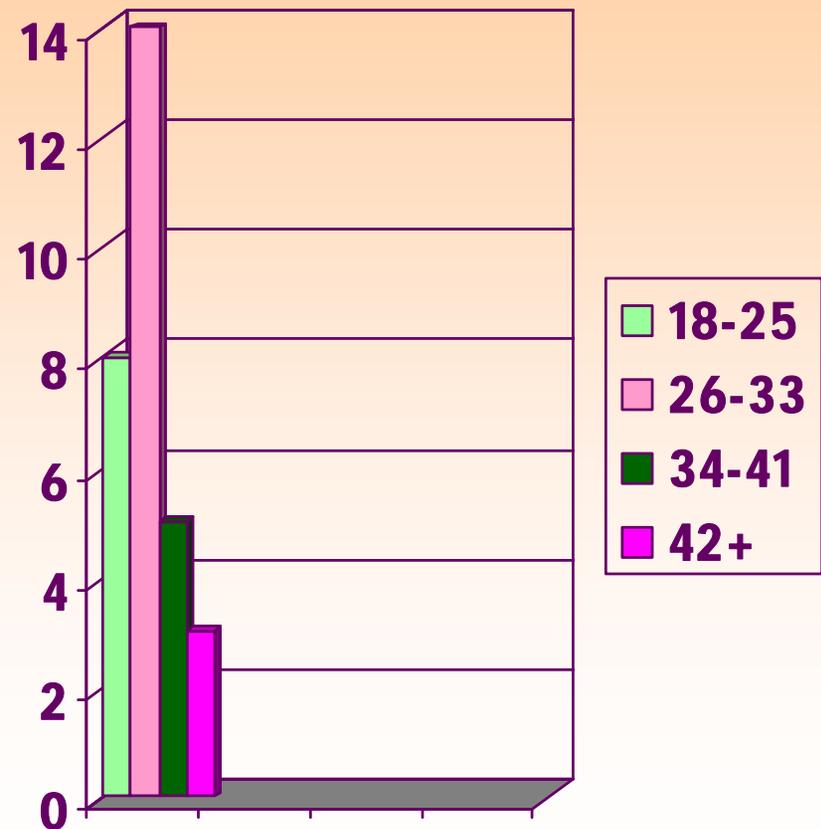


# Design, Sample, and Variables

- **Files of KWP participants who have reached 48 months of their 60-month time limit.**
- **Who have received their staffing.**
- **Who have been or are active with CPS within the past year.**

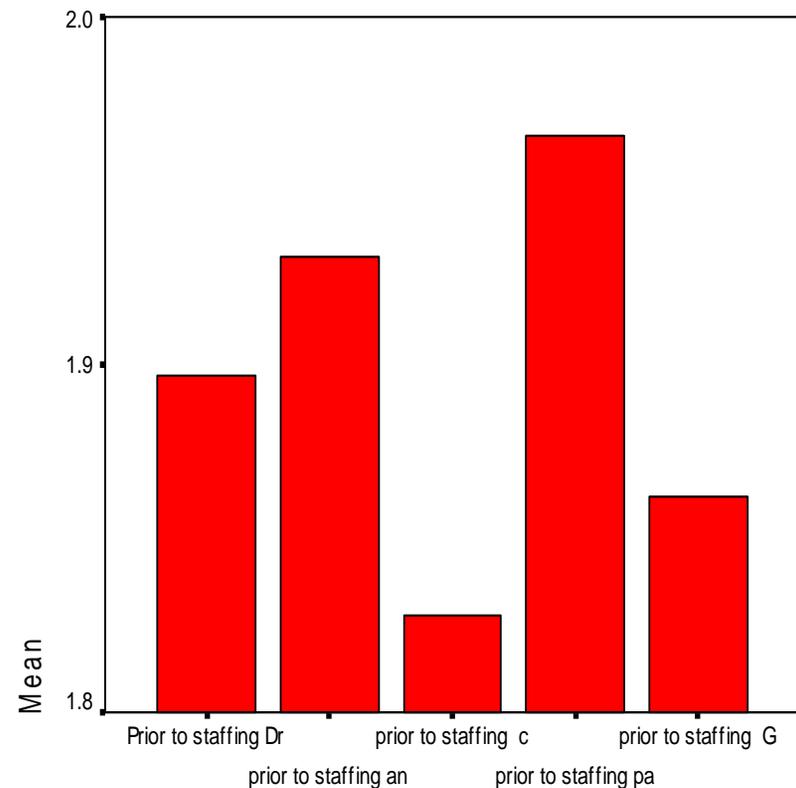
# Demographics

- 17 or 56.7 % of the cases that were selected were black.
- 14 out of the 30 cases were between the ages of 26-33.



# KWP knowledge of CPS issues

- In 36.7% of the cases, the workers knew of the CPS issue.
- Conducted a Man-Whitney U test to examine the correlation between those who reported vs. the tasks that could have been used.
  - Found a significant difference,  $P < .002$ , between those who reported and those who participated in counseling.



# Discussion

- There were not as many active CPS cases as originally believed.
- The notes that were taken in the case folders could have been more detailed.
- The self-sufficiency workers gave a lot of the information to the KWP case managers in regards to CPS involvement.
- The CPS workers were notified but only 1 out of the 30 attended the staffing.
- One male participant was randomly selected.





# Qualitative Research Questions

- **Is there a need for collaboration between CPS and KWP case managers?**
- **Would the families benefit if both CPS and KWP case managers collaborated in helping the family remain safe and become self-sufficient?**
- **How could this be structured if there is a need?**

# Sample and Design

- **KWP case managers and CPS workers who work at the L&N building and the off-campus site Bridges of Hope Neighborhood Place, Algonquin site.**
- **Convenient sample**
- **5 KWP case managers, 3 CPS workers, and 1 self-sufficiency worker.**
- **Mini-ethnography design.**
- **15 min. interview**
- **Used the Tesch data analysis technique.**

# To what degree do you think KWP and CPS work together?

- **Communication within the agency**
- **Contact between workers**
- **Benefiting the client**
- **Working with both agencies**





## Communication between agencies

- "...On a scale from 1-10, I give it a 3."
- "...just not enough communication between the agencies."
- "...there is some collaboration there, but I do think there could be more

## Contact between workers

- "...not a whole lot of contact unless they contact me to tell me that a child is not in the home or about Kinship Care."
- "I think we work very well together due to our environment."



## Benefiting the client

- **“ I feel we work together often, but I feel not as much as we could accomplish for the clients benefit.**

## Working with both agencies

- **“ As self sufficiency workers, we have CPS backgrounds, but we’re also trained in KWP.”**
- **“ We know what is expected of them in KWP and how to go out and Identify barriers.”**



# How do you think the collaboration process could occur?

- Training in both agencies
- Set up meetings
- Listings available

## Aware of the Overlap potential?

- No
- Yes



## Process could occur

- “ There is a big need for CPS to be trained in what case managers do, there is a very big need for case managers to be trained in what CPS does.”
- “ Process is occurring right now with the Neighborhood Place.”
- “...some type of listing of clients that are on CPS like we get with wages.”

## Overlap potential

- “ No I wasn’t aware of it....Never occurred to me....never crossed my mind.”
- “ Yeah, I guess, but I never thought about it that way, unfortunately there is a lot of potential.”

# Implication for Practice

## CPS.

- 2 out of 3 did not know about KWP, but knew about the KTAP benefits..
- The 1 out of the 3, knew it simply as a resource to refer his client.
- More CPS workers need to attend staffings.
- Need to be trained in KWP.

## KWP.

- Need to start asking questions in regards to activities outside of employment.
- Case managers should be better able to identify CPS issues.