Models for Change Information Sharing Tool Kit

Accelerating Progress Toward a More Rational, Fair, Effective and Developmentally Appropriate Juvenile Justice System

by Child Welfare League of America and Juvenile Law Center

ModelsforChange

Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice

ModelsforChange

Information Sharing Tool Kit

Overview

The Tool Kit sets out the principles that govern information and data sharing including legal, constitutional and ethical concerns; and the use of aggregate data to best inform practice. The Tool Kit framework is constituted by three categories which are used to organize the materials and set out the step-by-step processes:

Category One: Information Sharing for Purposes of Individual Case Planning and Decision-making

Category Two: Data Collection and Sharing for Law, Policy and Program Development

Category Three: Data Collection and Sharing for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement

The Tool Kit provides users with a step-by-step process to understand the laws that govern information sharing, the purposes and value to youth of information sharing, what are the appropriate limits on sharing, and how to minimize the potential negative collateral consequences of information sharing such as self incrimination and net widening. Additional guidance includes identifying all key decision points that may require sharing of information and developing protocols for the operation of information sharing agreements, practitioner's guides, authorization to release forms, and other tools for sharing of case information.

With respect to data collection, aggregation, and sharing for law, policy, and program development, users will be provided with a step-by-step process to identify key questions they want answered by the aggregate data, identify and review existing databases, establish each agency's responsibility and accountability for data collection, and establish safeguards against undesirable publication of individual case information in the data collection process.

Similarly, with respect to program evaluation and performance measurement, users will be provided with a step-by-step process to identify the outcomes they wish to achieve and the indicators they will use to measure progress toward those outcomes, establish strong performance measurement systems, allocate costs and establish quality control among participating agencies, and develop a plan for the publication and use of aggregated data to promote evidence-based practices.

How to download the full tool kit

If you are interested in downloading a copy of the Tool Kit, please complete the registration form at http://modelsforchange.wufoo.com/forms/tool-kit-request/