

Case Types in eWiSACWIS

Current case types and the proposed
changes (Revised 11/9/2006)

Case Type Issue

- Case types in eWiSACWIS are stored historically, and are the most readily available data element to distinguish what services a family is receiving.
- There is not consistent use statewide of the current case types, so the value of this as a data element in reports is currently limited.
- There has been limited guidance from DCFS in the use of case types.

Why are Case Types Relevant?

- There are three significant reasons why the case type value in eWiSACWIS is relevant:
 - Reporting
 - Program Practice
 - Fiscal

Case Type Relevance - Reporting

- Case Type impacts state and local ability to count cases and evaluate caseload activity within a county
- Used to analyze performance and service trends across counties
- Also can accurately measure state performance on federal outcome measures and performance improvement areas

Case Type Relevance – Program Practice

- Case types impact state and local ability to support implementation of program policy requirements and practice guidelines that are associated with certain types of cases at different points in the case process.
- This impacts state and county ability to understand and manage workload issues and selection of cases for State and Federal reviews.

Case Type Relevance - Fiscal

- Case types impact the ability of the State and counties to evaluate child welfare expenditures and consider changes in funding processes.
- Case type values and the accuracy and reliability of this data would be critical to implement the WCHSA recommendation for the Visions model of case rate funding.
- Case type values could also be important for claiming Title IV-E and Medicaid Targeted Case Management revenue and ensuring compliance with Federal fiscal requirements.

Discussion Points

- Some counties use assignment type to track groups of cases, but this is not feasible for statewide use
- For Case Types to be meaningful, the values should be clear, and the list should be relatively small. Specialized values should be limited to groups of cases that need to be broken out separately for program management, data reporting, or fiscal reporting reasons

Discussion Points - Continued

- The state and counties need the ability to identify when program policy requirements and practice guidelines apply to specific types of cases. The current case type values and inconsistent use makes it difficult to determine the flow of cases through the CPS case process.
- Case work within the CPS case process can be used to determine whether cases are in the assessment or ongoing services phases. This information can be used pre-fill applicable case type values. While automating some of the values is possible, there will be times manual case type selection will be unavoidable.

Discussion Points - Continued

- A case may only have one type at any given time, and situations may arise where a case is overlapping services (e.g. Initial Assessment and Ongoing). In these situations the case type would not reflect the full range of services being provided to the family. Currently the case types are able to indicate when a case is in CPS and Juvenile Justice simultaneously.
- An alternative approach to the current case types would be to have fewer case types, but add a “program components” field that would work in conjunction with the case type field.

What can be done?

- Update the current case type definitions that are available on the Knowledge Web
- Provide training and technical assistance to promote accurate use of the case type values
- Use the existing Case List Summary Report (SM04a02) as a tool to review current case type values and counts
- Modify existing case type values to eliminate unnecessary values and add more detailed values as appropriate
- Convert old values to new values, automate as much of this as possible

eWiSACWIS Enhancements

- Make recommended changes to the case type values, including conversion where possible
- Add functionality at the point of screening Access Reports and linking them to cases where the case type will be automatically selected based on type (Service Report types or CPS Report)
- Add functionality at the end of the Assessment process where the disposition will determine the case type
- Limit the available selections at certain stages throughout the life of the case to only pertinent values (e.g. Kinship would not be available for a case with active ongoing plans)

More Suggested Enhancements

- When a Pre-Adoptive Child case has a legal status of “Return Physical Custody to the County” and/or an out of home placement ended for the reason of “Transfer to [County Name]” automatically set the case type to “DHFS Guardianship/County Custody”

Current Case Types

- Adoption – ICAMA
- Adoptive Home
- CPS Family
- CPS Family/Juv. Justice
- CPS-DCFS Lic/Cert Provider
- CPS-Other
- Child Welfare
- Courtesy Interview
- Family Support
- Guardianship
- ICPC
- Intra-State
- Juvenile Justice
- Kinship Care
- Pre-Adoptive Child
- Stepparent Adoption
- Subsidized Guardianship

Proposed Case Types

- Adoption – ICAMA
- Adoptive Home
- Child Welfare
- Child Welfare & JJ
- CPS Family – Initial Assessment
- CPS Family – Ongoing
- CPS Family & JJ – Initial Assessment
- CPS Family & JJ - Ongoing
- CPS – Licensed/Certified Provider
- ICPC
- Juvenile Justice
- Pre-Adoptive Child
- Subsidized Guardianship
- DHFS Guardianship/County Custody
- Voluntary Kinship Care

What Will Happen to the Old Types?

- Courtesy Interview, Family Support, Guardianship, and Stepparent Adoption all become “Child Welfare”
- CPS Family, CPS – Other, and CPS – Secondary Caregiver will need to be converted to either CPS Family - IA or CPS Family – Ongoing
- CPS Family/Juvenile Justice will need to be converted to either CPS Family/JJ – IA or CPS Family/JJ - Ongoing

Questions?

