

Parent Support Outreach Program [PSOP]

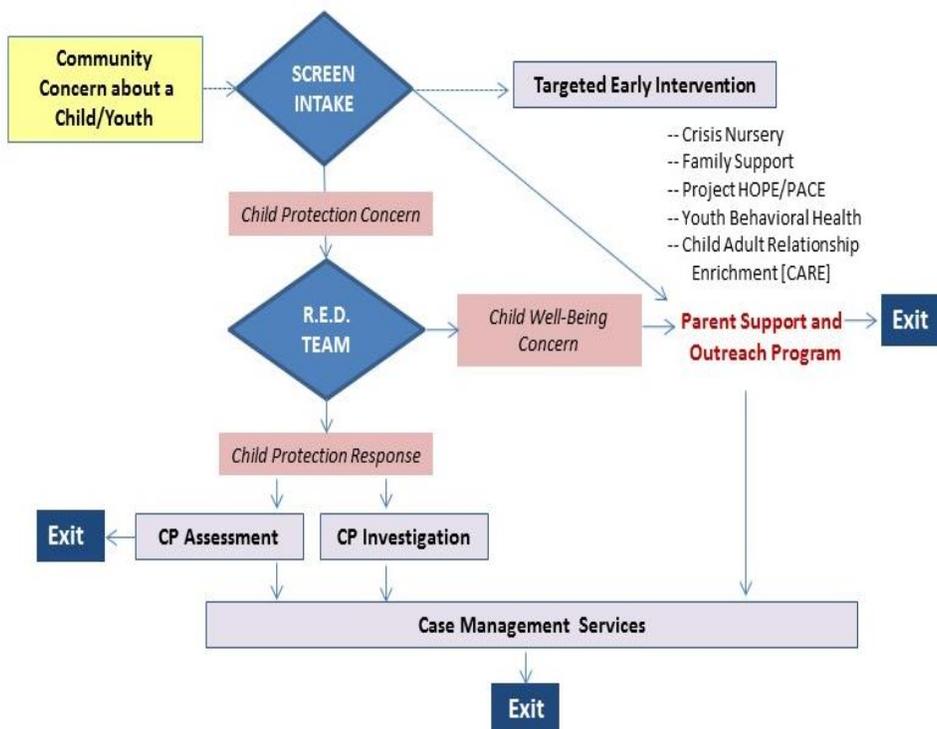
Parent Support Outreach provides early intervention, outreach and supportive services to families at risk for child maltreatment. In Olmsted County, PSOP staff are part of the front end team that assesses incoming maltreatment reports and determines case pathway. Families “screened out” from mandated action but with circumstances that put children at potential risk are offered the opportunity to work voluntarily with PSOP. A significant number of families also come to the program through self-referral or community agencies.

Challenges often relate to the use of alcohol and other drugs, mental health issues, poverty or isolation, parenting skills or past history with abuse or neglect. Services are tailored to the needs of the families and delivered in the context of supportive relationships between the worker and family members.



PSOP demonstrates positive outcomes with low rates of repeat reports and out-of-home placements.

PSOP is Embedded in the Child Protection System



PSOP workers are part of the Child Protection team.

Offering voluntary services *prior to an incident of maltreatment* is-- “cost effective when compared to estimated expenditure if serious problems develop later on” and “can have enduring impact on the child or young person’s subsequent development and/or opportunities in life.” (Dr. Eileen Munro, 2011)

Building Connections and Providing Support

Help for families varies to meet specific needs:

Family Involvement Strategies. To help families develop or deepen supportive relationships with relatives, friends or other informal supports. Plans are often made through Family Group Decision Making conferences.

Flexible Funding. To use in creative ways, for rent or utility bills, clothing or grocery vouchers, car repairs, or child care costs. Also to enhance well-being through after-school programs, gym memberships or other family recreation.

Education, Screening and Referrals. Parenting skills, child development screens, counseling, and treatment.

For more information contact: Kari Hohn, Child and Family Services Supervisor, hohn.kari@co.olmsted.mn.us

Jessie Stratton, Child and Family Services Supervisor, stratton.jessie@co.olmsted.mn.us