

The Business Plan for Safety Planning Inc.



While managing a child welfare program for a Minnesota County, Dan watched agency social workers grow their skill, confidence, and commitment as they learned the Signs of Safety. They now base their safety and risk assessments on everything they can find out about a family's history, not just the last report. They develop safety networks and plan around all possibilities, including the prospect of being wrong.



Safety planning filled the gap between services not needed and removal so that over time fewer children needed out-of-home care.

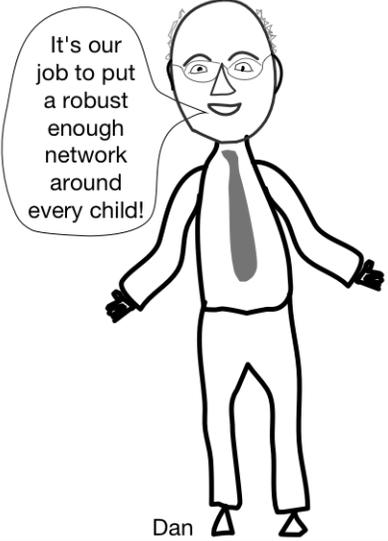


Families tapped into their own resources and solutions while caseworkers operated as direct change agents. This enabled a 40% reduction in purchased services. Social workers learned not to leave the home until the children were safe enough. As a result, more than four years have passed without a single instance of repeat maltreatment within a year.

Social workers in other places grew curious when they saw social worker's so excited about their work. Dan helped Terry and the State Human Services Department share the vision and tools. Soon many Minnesota counties were doing Signs of Safety. But some heard rumors that make them afraid of it. Some don't have money for training. Lots of places think the Signs of Safety approach takes more time than their social worker's have.



Dan went to Kevin Campbell's Family Finding boot camp and heard him describe the hurt he has seen in so many children who lost their family and the critical importance of children's broader family connections. Kevin's questions, especially "What is this child's greatest need?" and "If nothing changes, what will this child's life be like in 5 years?" made Dan realize that we still need to get much better at using our authority to bring robust networks around children so that, as Kevin says, "Every child truly has their own family members around them in a meaningful way."



Terry and Dan read news stories about child welfare. If the stories reflect what's really happening, then the pendulum is swinging rapidly toward putting a lot more children in foster care. There's also a lot more worry about children being trafficked and exploited. Researchers are telling us that half or more of the children being trafficked were once foster children.



Dan and Terry started Safety Planning Inc. to offer direct safety planning services in the most challenging and expensive family situations across the United States. We'll help agencies save money on services in order to pay for Signs of Safety training. We'll quickly bring healthy extended family, safety, and support around the hardest cases so social workers will have more time to learn and practice new skills. We'll learn about each agencies



Contact Safety Planning, Inc. to learn more about the ways we can help you implement the Signs of Safety in your Agency.

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unique challenges. Training examples will be created from each agency's actual cases for use by any licensed Signs of Safety trainer the agency chooses.

