

**Alternative/Family Assessment Response  
Interview Schedule for Intake Workers (Screeners)**

**1. Respondent Information**

Date of Interview:

County Name:

Interviewee(s) Name and Title:

Email:

Years worked in current position:

Years worked in child protection:

Educational background:

**2. Processing Intakes in AR (Alternative or Assessment Response Pathway):**

- a. How many different individuals screen reports? Who are they?
- b. (If more than one) Have there been any problems in achieving consistency and agreement in how screening criteria are to be applied?
- c. Does screening take place during evenings or on weekends as well as during weekdays?  
Who does it?
- d. How do you think intake workers are adapting to their new responsibilities?
- e. What training did you receive for your role with AR? Any differences in training or orientation for *new* AR intake workers?
- f. Do you believe you have received enough training? Are there any plans for more?

**3. Status of AR Pilot Project:**

- a. How well do you feel you understand the goals and objectives of AR?
- b. As it is still early in the process of implementing AR, do you feel that the program is fully “up and running” at this point?
- c. Are there any complications or challenges with the process of AR that your county has experienced?
- d. Have there been any particular changes in your workload?
- e. Any aspects of your current AR program that you would like to change?

**4. Changes in and Reaction to Intake Procedures:**

- a. Do you believe cases being screened in consistent ways?
- b. Do you have an idea of what percentage of cases are being screened as appropriate for AR? How do you feel about the ratio of screened in to screened out? Too low, too high? Do you expect it to change over time?
- c. Do you think there are now cases being screened into AR that should *not* be?
- d. Do you think there are now cases not being screened in to AR that *should* be?
- e. Is there pressure from outside the agency (e.g. police, prosecutor, schools) to assign cases of any kind to the Traditional Investigation approach?
- f. Have you ever received any criticism from other agencies or professionals concerning particular cases assigned to AR?
- g. Have you received any criticism from other agencies or professionals concerning particular cases assigned to AR?

- 5. Case examples:** I would like to describe some reports to you very briefly and have you tell me how you would probably screen them—that is, select them as appropriate for an Alternative or Assessment Response (AR) or a traditional investigative response (TR). In each case I would like to know what it is about the report that determines your decision or, if you cannot decide, what else you feel you need to know.
- a. Police have found a seven-year old girl at home by herself taking care of her four-year old brother. The mother cannot be located.
    - i. Would you screen this case for AR or TR?
    - ii. If AR: Would you ever screen this for TR?      Yes      No
    - iii. If Yes, under what conditions?
  
  - b. A day care provider has reported bruising and loop-mark welts on the legs and buttocks of a three year old child in day care.
    - i. Would you screen this case for AR or TR?
    - ii. If AR: Would you ever screen this for TR?      Yes      No
    - iii. If Yes, under what conditions?
  
  - c. An eight-year old child is reported to be locked out of the house. The reporter has said it is unlikely that the mother will take the child back and that the child will probably have to be placed in foster care.
    - i. Would you screen this case for AR or TR?
    - ii. If AR: Would you ever screen this for TR?      Yes      No
    - iii. If Yes, under what conditions?
  
  - d. If it is highly likely that the child will have to be placed, does that affect whether you assign to TR or AR?
  
  - e. A teacher has reported that a nine year old child has bruises on his legs and arms. He says that his daddy did it.
    - i. Would you screen this case for AR or TR?
    - ii. If AR: Would you ever screen this for TR?      Yes      No
    - iii. If Yes, under what conditions?
  
  - f. A report is received that three children under ten years of age have to beg food from their neighbors and that drugs are being used in the home.
    - i. Would you screen this case for AR or TR?
    - ii. If AR: Would you ever screen this for TR?      Yes      No
    - iii. If Yes, under what conditions?