

Safety Organized Practice (SOP) is a collaborative practice approach that emphasizes the importance of teamwork in child welfare. SOP aims to build and strengthen partnerships with the child welfare agency and within a family by involving their informal support networks of friends and family members. A central belief of SOP is that all families have strengths. SOP uses strategies and techniques that align with the belief that a child and his or her family are the central focus, and that the partnership exists in an effort to find solutions that ensure safety, permanency, and well-being for children. Safety Organized Practice is informed by an integration of practices and approaches, including:

- Solution-focused practice<sup>1</sup>
- Signs of Safety<sup>2</sup>
- Structured Decision Making<sup>3</sup>
- Child and family engagement<sup>4</sup>
- Risk and safety assessment research
- Group Supervision and Interactional Supervision<sup>5</sup>
- Appreciative Inquiry<sup>6</sup>
- Motivational Interviewing<sup>7</sup>
- Consultation and Information Sharing Framework<sup>8</sup>
- Cultural Humility
- Trauma-Informed Practice

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<sup>1</sup> Berg, I.K. and De Jong, P (1996). Solution-building conversations: co-constructing a sense of competence with clients. *Families in Society*, pp. 376-391; de Shazer, S. (1985). *Keys to solution in brief therapy*. New York, NY: Norton; Saleebey, D. (Ed.). (1992). *The strengths perspective in social work practice*. New York: Longman.

<sup>2</sup> Turnell, A. (2004). Relationship-grounded, safety-organised child protection practice: dreamtime or real-time option for child welfare? *Protecting Children*, 19(2): 14–25; Turnell, A. & Edwards, S. (1999). *Signs of Safety: A safety and solution oriented approach to child protection casework*. New York: WW Norton.

<sup>3</sup> Children’s Research Center (2008). *Structured Decision Making: An evidence-based practice approach to human services*. Madison: Author.

<sup>4</sup> Parker, S. (2010). *Family safety circles: Identifying people for their safety network*. Perth, Australia: Aspirations Consultancy; Weld, N. (2008). The three houses tool: building safety and positive change. In M. Calder (Ed.) *Contemporary risk assessment in safeguarding children*. Lyme Regis: Russell House Publishing.

<sup>5</sup> Lohrbach, S. (2008). Group supervision in child protection practice, *Social Work Now*, 40, pp. 19-24.

<sup>6</sup> Cooperrider and David, L. 1990. Positive image, positive action: The affirmative basis of organizing. In S. Srivastva, D. L. Cooperrider and Associates (Eds.) *Appreciative management and leadership: The power of positive thought and action in organizations*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

<sup>7</sup> Miller, W.R., & Rollnick, S. (2012). *Motivational Interviewing*, (3rd ed.) New York: Guilford Press, 2012.

<sup>8</sup> Lohrbach, S. (1999). *Child Protection Practice Framework – Consultation and Information Sharing*. Unpublished manuscript; Lohrbach, S., & Sawyer, R. (2003). Family Group Decision Making: a process reflecting partnership based practice, *Protecting Children*, 19(2): 12-15.