LEADERSHIP IN CHILD PROTECTION

By Garry Crow and Dan Schneider

What started out as a discussion of the Executive's tools and skills needed for today's effective leadership in child protection has turned into a book. The book was published in April, 2001 and is now available throughout the United States. Here is a brief summary of the contents:

When children's parents fail to appropriately and adequately care for them, their safety, permanence, and well-being become the community's responsibility. No single individual or agency can meet this extraordinarily complex challenge alone. The levels of creativity, continuous improvement, flexibility, informed judgment, adaptive change, and leadership required to protect your community's children do not reside within any single person or organization.

"Leadership in Child Protection" is, thus, not merely a matter of acquiring a fixed set of leadership skills and then working to perfect those skills. Rather, the knowledge, strategies, and competencies presented in this book are transformational at the individual, agency, and community levels. Not only will you realize a higher level of personal leadership excellence, your agency and your community will, through your commitment and contribution, become centers of excellence for safer children and stronger families.

At the community leadership level, you learn strategies and techniques for strategic planning, strategic communication, public value creation, authorization development, and operational capacity building. This dimension of leadership is presented within the context of the community's Children's Safety Net and a research-based understanding of the public's perceptions of and expectations for child protection. Included is a family based, neighborhood centered practice model that incorporates and applies the key community leadership concepts and skills.

At the agency leadership level, you learn strategies and approaches for moving your agency toward being more mission driven, externally oriented, and opportunity seeking. Included are successful approaches to staff development, internal and external public relations, working with the media and interacting with reporters, agency self-evaluation, and continuous quality improvement.

At the personal leadership level, you learn critical concepts, techniques, and skills required to initiate and sustain the levels of adaptive change required to achieve the transformational shift from business-as-usual to an agency and community committed to doing the right things right, the first time, on time, every time, one child at a time. Within the context of adaptive leadership and personal excellence, successful approaches to team building, empowerment oriented management, proactive personal style development, and interpersonal effectiveness are presented for your consideration and day-to-day use in the real world of child protection.

Just as protecting your community's children is not exclusively the work of one individual or one agency, the information, concepts, strategies, skills, and techniques presented in this book are not the exclusive domain of child protection professionals, either public or private. Rather they are essential tools for every participant in the Children's Safety Net that each community develops and maintains to assure safety, permanence, and long-term success for its most vulnerable children and families. No longer is it acceptable to know better than we do. Instead, we must commit to excellence at the individual, agency, and community levels to achieve the quality outcomes our children deserve and must have, no exceptions, no excuses. This book, through practical examples and real-world illustrations, helps you incorporate the tools you need to pursue your journey toward leadership excellence.

"Leadership In Child Protection" (Publication #0071) can be purchased from American Foster Care Resources, Inc.; P.O. Box 271; King George, Virginia 22485. Orders may be placed by mail or by twenty-four hour fax at 540/775-3271. The cost is $24.95 per copy plus shipping.