

The Exploratory Study of the State of Inter-agency Collaboration for Executing High-risk Youth Counselling Services: An Example of Penghu County

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Abstract

A variety of child welfare programs emerge out with the old, in with the new, in response to diverse social issues. In the past, through social assistance along with its corresponding packages could be sufficient solutions to issues of family poverty at large. However, due to a majority of families' caring functions have been weakened, intensive social services are developed to meet the needs of families at risk. Lately, the disagreements among different social values and the gap between parent and child have been intensified. Such phenomenon has impact on the effectiveness of society's education system. Therefore, public education, correction and social welfare sectors work hand-in-hand to indicate alternative developmental pathways for children and youths who are at high-risk of dropouts or delinquency.

For a reality check, multiple programs coexisted targeting subjects of high-risk youths cross sectors. For clarifying the position of the given high-risk youth program in Penghu County, the present article reviewed the context of high-risk youth program and the official definition of relevant regulations. Then through interviewing practitioners of the judicial and social welfare sectors, the concepts of

who are the subjects of high-risk youths, what are the unique service contents for the high-risk youth program, and how multiple agencies collaborate become clear. Results showed the consensus reached by the several adjacent programs as to the labor of division and cooperation. At last, the difficulties of the present level of inter-agency collaboration and the future direction of formal collaboration among various agencies serving high-risk youths are indicated.

Keywords: Penghu County, Child welfare, High-risk youth, Families at-risk, Inter-agency collaboration