One Example of a Policy Analysis Framework

A. The Issue or Problem Constituting the Focus of the Policy

1. Nature and scope of the issue or problem
   - Who is affected?
   - In what historical context (social, cultural, legal) has the problem evolved? (Consider various dimensions of the problem as applicable e.g., political, economic, race, class, gender)
   - What are the major contributing factors and, if relevant, causal theories or hypotheses?

B. Policy Outcome Objectives and Rationale

1. Policy objectives: what specific outcomes is the policy attempting to accomplish? (e.g., ensuring greater access, providing better job training, protecting children from abuse or neglect)
2. What is to be provided? (e.g., opportunities, services, goods)
3. Empirical rationale for the policy and program(s) (i.e., what research data support this policy?)
4. Other driving forces? (e.g., values, politics, economics, mass media, legal, religion, technology)

C. Policy Implementation

1. Bases of social allocation
   - How many people each year are intended to benefit from this policy? (e.g., receive a service, goods, or income)
   - What eligibility criteria are used to select who is eligible to benefit from the policy? (e.g., attributed need, compensation, diagnosis, means test)
2. Under what auspices will the program be administered (local, state, federal, private, public, etc.)? How do the different auspices relate to one another?
3. Financing methods: how is the policy and its related programs funded?

D. Policy Evaluation

1. What criteria/indicators do the policy or program staff use to evaluate whether the policy (and its related programs) are accomplishing the goals and objectives?
   - To date, what proportion of the target population has the policy/program actually reached?
   - What are the general outcomes or effects? (e.g., consumer outcomes, distribution of rights, power allocated, rewards, assignment of status's, aspects of quality of life)
   - What do the data regarding overall costs in relation to outcomes/benefits demonstrate?
2. What factors are affecting implementation effectiveness?
   - What are the major barriers to implementing the policy? (e.g., value conflicts, regulatory constraints, politics)
   - What is the extent of the discrepancy between services actually offered and services that were stated to be the goals of the program? If the discrepancy is significant, why did it occur?

E. Policy Revisions

1. What specific changes or alternative policies could be used to meet the policy objectives? Provide a rationale (e.g., research data, values).

F. Proposed Implementation Plan for the Revised Policy

1. How should the revised policy be implemented differently?
2. How will the financing methods be altered?
3. What effects or outcomes do you anticipate would be *different from* the current policy? (e.g., resources, values, distribution of rights, power, new roles, relationships between people or organizations, rewards, client outcomes, assignment of statuses, aspects of quality of life)
4. What problems might be encountered in implementing the proposed policy refinements and how would you address them?

Source: Pecora, P.J., & Nolfan, K. (2000). *One example of a policy analysis framework.* Seattle, WA: University of Washington, School of Social Work (mimeograph). References: Gil, D.G. (1974). A systematic approach to social policy analysis. *Social Service Review, 44* (4), 421–425. Haskins, R., & Gallagher, J.J. (Eds.) (1981). *Models for analysis of social policy—An introduction.* Norwood, NJ: ABLEX. Haas, P. J., & Springer, J. F. (1998). *Applied policy research—Concepts and cases.* New York: Garland.

Syracuse University
College of Human Ecology

Promoting Child Welfare: Training Professionals to Support Healthy Marriages, Relationships and Families

Dr. Carrie Jefferson Smith

Conceptual Model for Policy Analysis – Work Sheet

Social Issue

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Goals

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Policy or Legislation

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Implementation

_____

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_____

Affected Populations	**Negative, Unintended Impact**	**Intended Impact**
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Note. Format borrowed from
Segal, E.A., & Brzuzy, S. (1998). Social welfare policy, programs, and practice. Itasca, IL: F. E. Peacock Publishers.

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Social Issue

Out of Wedlock Births
Decreasing Marriage Rates, Increasing Divorce Rates
Child Well-being Impacted by Unhealthy Relationships

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Goals

TANF – 1) Provide Assistance to Needy Families. 2) End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage. 3)-Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies. 4)-Encourage the formation and maintenance of healthy, two-parent families.

DOMA- 1) Designed to protect marriage and 2) Legally defines marriage as the union between a man and a woman, or husband and wife.

ASFA - To improve the safety of children, to promote adoption and other permanent outcomes for children who need them, and to support families.

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Policy or Legislation

TANF, DOMA and ASFA

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Implementation (Local level examples)

Our project – Promoting Child Welfare: Training professionals to support
Third Option
Healthy Marriage Coalition

↙ **Affected Populations**	↓ **Negative, Unintended Impact**	↘ **Intended Impact**
Child Welfare Pop. Pregnant Teens Single Parents Existing prisoners – no ability to get TANF $ for their needs and contribute to family	Diverting funds from Poor Increased DV in financial strapped Social Bias against nonmarried groups and others. Pregnant teens mandated to stay in unhealthy relationships.	Better adjusted children Increased marriage Decrease divorce