The field of child welfare may be considered a *community of practice* as defined by cognitive anthropologists, Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger who suggest that such communities are comprised of groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

In Kansas, where a number of agencies provide child welfare services in each of five regions, there exists a larger network of mutual engagement, joint enterprise and shared repertoire (Wenger 1998, pp. 72-73). It is toward the end of sharing programs, practices, and strategies that Best Practice and Bright Ideas is offered.

**BEST PRACTICE & BRIGHT IDEAS**

**Six Doable Steps for Improving the Child Welfare Workforce**

**Excellence in Action – St. Francis Community Services**

**Mentoring Program - Youthville**

**Staff Council – St. Francis Community Services**

**Traveling Teams – St. Francis Community Services**

- Etienne Wenger's *Introduction to Communities of Practice*.