

State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission

Abuse Intervention Committee

Thursday, May 14, 2015

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Department of Justice

102 West Water Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Minutes

In attendance:

Jessica Begley	Office of the Child Advocate
Krista Griffith, Esq.	Department of Justice
Kathy Hudson	Nanticoke Health Services
Mariann Kenville-Moore	Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Diane Klecan	Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware
Jen Macaulay	Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children
Rosalie Morales	Office of the Child Advocate
Anne Pedrick	Child Death, Near Death, and Stillbirth Commission
Linda Shannon	Division of Family Services
Ashlee Starratt	DSCYF Office of the Cabinet Secretary
Janice Tigani, Esq.	Department of Justice
Eleanor Torres, Esq.	Domestic Violence Coordinating Council

I. Welcome and Introductions

Krista Griffith opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

II. Review/Approval of May Minutes

The February 5, 2015 meeting minutes were approved.

III. CJA Grant Oversight

a. Training Coordinator Report

Jessica Begley reported that between January and March 2015, 3,500 medical professionals completed the online Mandatory Reporting training. Also, 120 people participated in the onsite general mandatory reporting training during the last quarter.

Ms. Begley is currently working on creating a 3-in-1 Mandatory Reporting training, as 80% of the training content is the same for all reporters. The 3-in-1 training will branch off to offer specific information pertaining to educators, medical professionals, and the general public. This change in format will allow for one training to be updated yearly, instead of three. Ms. Begley is also formatting other CPAC trainings for online viewing using the updated Captivate 8 software.

b. Review of Second Quarter Funding Activities

Rosalie Morales reported that during the second quarter (Jan 2015- March 2015) \$38,271.68 in funds were expended on contractual salary (\$9,000); travel to the International Symposium on Child Abuse (9,000); funding for the Protecting Delaware's Children Conference speakers (\$19,000); and other in house training expenses, such as the updated e-learning software (\$1,000). The remaining \$88K in funding needs to be spent during the next two quarters.

c. Three-Year Assessment Update

i. CJA 2012-2014 Three-Year Assessment Report

First, Rosie Morales distributed copies of the previous Three-Year Assessment to the group. After reviewing the document, the group identified accomplishments and areas of further exploration as follows:

Goal One: Continue to support training and education initiatives related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases using a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) approach.

Strategies:

1. Continue to fund the CJA Training Coordinator position.
2. Continue to provide the Child First Delaware training or a modified three day version on a yearly basis as needed.
3. Continue to offer the annual Protecting Delaware's Children Conference which has a focus on the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.
4. Continue to offer Mandatory Reporting Training onsite and online for various audiences.
5. Design two day MDT training to improve the handling of investigations and offer it by county to support existing MDTs.
6. Explore a Minimal Facts Training for First Responders of sexual abuse allegations and a Discoverer's Training to assist professionals in making a report to the Child Abuse Report Line.
7. Increase public awareness through a mandatory reporting outreach campaign.
8. Explore the assessment and investigation of child abuse or neglect involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems.

- Strategies 1-4 have all been accomplished and will remain strategies moving forward.
- Strategy 5 still needs to be explored, and it will be addressed as part of the MOU.
- Strategy 6 still needs to be explored. The Minimal Facts training for law enforcement, DOJ and DFS is part of the ChildFirst® three-day program. Kathy Hudson suggested that the information/training also be offered to the other first responders. There are elements of the Discoverers' training in the Mandatory Reporting Training Curriculum.

- Strategy 7 has been accomplished through the Stop Child Abuse License Plate. The license plate is on DMVs website under special plates. Revenues (\$3,000) have already been received from the income tax check off. The license plate has only received \$70 in the last month.
- Strategy 8 was addressed through the two workshops related to disability that were held at the 2015 Protecting Delaware's Children Conference.

Goal Two: Improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases as well as offender accountability within the criminal justice system through the Joint Investigation and Prosecution Subcommittee.

Strategy:

Research and develop statutes, policies, procedures and/or trainings that reflect best practices for better protecting children from abuse by optimizing the opportunities to appropriately punish perpetrators of abuse crimes against children.

During the 2012-2014 three-year grand period, a few changes to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases were noted, such as:

- Department of Justice created the Child Victims Unit.
- Statutes were updated. The Child Protection Registry was updated to include several offenses. There were several updates to the DE statutes Child Abuse 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and child trafficking.
- The Investigation Coordinator position was established.

Goal Three: Implementation of a plan to eliminate infant unsafe sleeping fatalities due to abuse or neglect in the state.

Strategies:

1. Continue to partner with the Child Death Commission in support of public awareness through the Infant Safe Sleeping Practice Community Action Team.
2. Explore best practices for investigation and prosecution of such cases in other states.
3. Support training and education for professionals involved in the investigation of such cases.

- Unsafe sleeping deaths were addressed in the last report, and implementation of the strategies is complete.

ii. Prioritized CAN Panel Recommendations – CPAC/CDNDSC Retreat

Next, Ms. Morales asked the group to review the recommendations from the CPAC/CDNDSC Joint Meeting/Retreat, and decide which recommendations to include in the CJA Three Year Assessment. The group selected the following recommendations to be added to the report:

- Page 1- Recommendation 1 will be added to the report as an accomplishment.

- Page 2- All.
- Page 3- All
- Page 4- Recommendation 2 and 3
- Page 5- All
- Page 6- All
- Page 7- All. (Linda Shannon recommended that Dental professionals be included in the language).

Finally, Ms. Morales proposed changing the meeting schedule from quarterly to bi-annually (September and April), which is in alignment with CJA reporting requirements. The group will make a decision at the next meeting.

IV. Agency Announcements & Updates

a) Children's Advocacy Center

Diane Klecan gave an update on the Caregiver Support program. The program is currently being held in Wilmington, and the session is going well.

b) Nanticoke Health Services

Kathy Hudson shared that the hospital changed forensic evaluations for adolescents to match the same standards as the Medical Examiner's Office. The evaluation timeframe has increased to 120 hours (5-days for sexual assaults) which is evidence-based practice. Pediatrics is still 3 days /72 hours.

V. Future Meeting Dates:

Thursday, August, 6, 2015

Thursday, November 12, 2015

VI. Public Comment

No public comment.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.