

State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from May 11, 2016 were approved with minor changes.

The minutes from May 25, 2016 were approved with minor changes.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tania Culley, Esq. shared that the part-time Sussex position is again vacant as a result of the person receiving full time employment. The fourth resignation in that position during the past three years due to it being part-time. The Investigation Coordinator's Office has become fully integrated into OCA. Two new contractors have began work under the Casey Family Programs (CFP) grant. Senate Bill 188 is awaiting signature and transfers the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program to OCA. The bill has a six-month delay. Annual reports are expected to be available in November.

Ms. Culley provided a legislative report to the Commission. House Bill 211 and Senate Bills 55, 188, 198, 207, 213, 216, and 247 are awaiting signature. House Bill 388 and Senate Bill 241 were signed into law. House Bills 240, 265, 310, 311, 319 and 405 and Senate Bills 239 and 251 did not pass. Ms. Mink requested that Commissioners work together to ensure the legislation on substance exposed infants is a priority next legislative session.

IV. INVESTIGATION COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Jennifer Donahue, Esq. reported that Delaware's application for In-Depth Technical Assistance for Substance Exposed Infants (SEI IDTA) was verbally accepted. The technical assistance will be provided over a two- year period, addressing policies and procedures in Delaware for substance exposed infants.

The Commission received a presentation on the Investigation Coordinator's (IC) Quarterly Data Report from Ms. Donahue. At the end of the quarter 250 cases were open with IC. Of those 250 cases, 14 are child deaths, 24 are serious physical injury cases, and 212 are sexual abuse cases. In addition to the quarterly overview, Ms. Donahue discussed specific data points for death, serious physical injury and sexual abuse cases, including child and perpetrator profiles, civil findings and criminal findings. At the Commission's direction, Ms. Donahue addressed cases open for more than one year with specific law enforcement agencies. The outcome of the multi-disciplinary collaboration was the closure of several outstanding cases. For additional information, please refer to the PowerPoint Presentation titled Investigation Coordinator Quarterly Report.

It was requested that the IC provide more detail as to why the DFS investigations were unsubstantiated at the next Commission meeting.

V. CPAC DASHBOARD

Rosalie Morales gave a presentation on the quarterly child welfare trends identified by the CPAC Data Utilization Committee. Ms. Morales reported the statewide caseload average for investigations continues to be well over the statutory cap of 11, currently at 16.6. Investigation caseloads have been over standard for more than a year. In addition, 74% of statewide fully functioning workers were over standard. The

State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

committee noted that the average investigation caseload at University Plaza increased again to 19.3 which puts 76% of workers over standard. During fiscal year 2016, the statewide average for treatment has been at or below the standard, which is 18. In addition, the Committee noted an increase in number of DFS hotline reports and screened in cases from the previous quarter. Regarding forensic interviews at the CAC, the number of extra-familial sexual cases has increased over the fiscal year. Also, notable is the high percentage of referrals received by the CAC in Kent County. Thirty-four percent of the total referrals for the state came from Kent County nearly equal with the number of referrals by New Castle County agencies despite the higher population in New Castle County. Children ages 0 – 4 continue to be the largest population entering DSCYF custody, while the population of adolescent entries has decreased significantly this quarter. During the fourth quarter there was a significant increase in adoptions, however reunification with a parent was the highest occurring permanency outcome for youth exiting foster care. OCA continued to report that more than 50% of the population of children represented by OCA have juvenile justice involvement. OCA was asked to review and provide detail at the committee level regarding the juvenile justice involvement of dual status youth.

VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

A. DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

Shirley Roberts reported on the Division of Family Services (DFS) initiative to decrease out of state placements as well as improve permanency outcomes for youth who are at risk of being placed or currently placed in an out of state placement. Caseloads have continued to increase. The continuous increase of caseloads has placed a strain on the workforce and is in part responsible for the increased employee turn-over rate of 11%. In part due to CPAC's advocacy, 27 state FTE positions were reallocated to DFS from other state agencies. Representative Melanie George Smith, worked tirelessly to get these statutorily required positions appropriated to DFS. Ms. Mink suggested that now that a resolution has been provided to improve the investigation caseloads, the Commissioners should review DFS treatment caseload standards at the Joint Retreat in September.

B. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LaKresha Roberts, Esq. reported that the Department of Justice has created a Special Victims Unit. Led by Josette Manning, Esq., an important task of this new unit will be to create statewide policies and procedures for prosecuting crimes against children and sex crimes against children and adults. A unit is expected be placed in each county.

C. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sgt. Reginald Laster reported the New Castle County Police Department has seen an increase in criminal cases.

D. OFFICE OF DEFENSE SERVICES

State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

No report was provided.

VII. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT DEATH/NEAR DEATH REVIEWS

A. CAN CASELOADS REPORT/ ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Culley reported that there are 46 CAN cases open. Of those cases, 18 are in the initial stage and 28 are in the final stage. Sixteen of the cases in the final stage are pending prosecution. None of the open cases are more than a year old. The CAN panel has been invited to participate in the Joint Retreat. The Child Abuse and Neglect Panel/Steering Committee Policy and Procedures have been completed. A motion was made by Dr. Colmorgen and seconded by Judge Hitch to approve the document for use as a CPAC document. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

B. CAN FINDINGS/DETAILS/JOINT ACTION PLAN

Ms. Mink reported on the 31 findings from the most recent CAN Panel reviews. The Commission reviewed the proposed letter to the Governor on the work of the CAN Panel. A motion was made by Dr. Colmorgen and seconded by Dr. De Jong to approve the findings summary and findings detail. All voted in favor. The motion carried. Please refer to the findings summary and findings detail for additional information.

C. LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

Ms. Mink reviewed the letter to the Governor. A motion was made by Dr. Colmorgen and seconded by Judge Hitch to approve the letter to the Governor. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF JOINT RETREAT FORMAT

Ms. Culley led discussion regarding the format of the upcoming joint retreat. Commission recommended that the retreat provide time for large and small group work. In addition, legislative and child abuse and neglect prevention opportunities should be considered. Ms. Culley stated that time will be provided for small and large group work.

IX. CPAC COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. CHILD ABUSE MEDICAL RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Randy Williams reported that the Delaware Multidisciplinary Team Guidelines for Child Abuse Medical Response have been approved by the Committee. Mr. Williams submitted a Memo to the Commission summarizing the work of the Committee and advising the Commissioners that there is a lack of medical resources in Kent and Sussex Counties. The Committee recommended that CPAC partner with Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children to develop a strategy to secure resources. A motion was made by Dr. Colmorgen and seconded by Nicole Byers to endorse the guidelines and establish resources in Kent and Sussex. The Committee requested approval to disband and to task the CPAC Training Committee with creating training on the guidelines. A motion was made by Ms.

State of Delaware Child Protection Accountability Commission Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Donahue and seconded by Ms. Roberts. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

B. MEDICALLY FRAGILE/ SUBSTANCE EXPOSED INFANTS

No additional report necessary.

C. LEGISLATIVE

No additional report necessary.

X. 2016 MEETING DATES

- August 10, 2016
- September 15, 2016 - Annual Retreat with CDRC*
- November 9, 2016

All meetings will take place from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the New Castle County Courthouse in the 12th Floor Conference Room

*Annual Retreat with CDRC will be held at Troop 2, 100 LaGrange Avenue Newark, DE 19701

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

No public comment.