

Child Protection Accountability Commission

Joint Committee on Substance-Exposed Infants/Medically Fragile Children

Friday, July 15, 2016

Minutes

ATTENDEES:

The Honorable Felicia Kerr
Fran Anderson, DSAMH
Dr. Jerry Gallucci, DHSS
Grace Courtney, DHSS
Lisl Phelps, DHSS
Rebeca McMillan, Children & Families First
Linda Shannon, DFS
Trene Parker, DFS
Nancy Oyerly, Nanticoke
Lauren Brueckner, CASA
Karen Kelly, Bayhealth
Pamela Layman, Bayhealth
Heather Baker, March of Dimes
Tania Culley, Esq., OCA
Jennifer Donahue, Esq., OIC
Joan Kelley, CDRC
Aleks Casper, March of Dimes (via telephone)

I. Committee Member Introductions

Jennifer Donahue chaired the meeting welcoming everyone and facilitating introductions.

II. Approval of May 13, 2016 Minutes

Upon Motion and no objection, the minutes from the May 13, 2016 meeting were approved.

III. Status of SEI House Bill 319 and Fiscal Note

Tania Culley and Jen Donahue explained that HB 319, with the fiscal note requested by DSCYF, was placed on the House Appropriations Committee in June. The Committee approved an Amendment to HB 319 that would delay implementation of the law until appropriate funding is secured. However, the House Speaker would not agree to place the bill with the amendment on the final House agenda on June 30. As such, the bill did not pass and it will have to be re-introduced in January when the next legislative session resumes. In the interim, a Memorandum of Understanding will be drafted by the

committee, under the guidance of the NCSACW experts, in order to clarify the terminology, identify the roles/responsibilities of all agencies involved in the SEI and his/her family and to develop a plan of safe care template.

IV. Update on SEI Reports and Substance Abuse Liaisons

Linda Shannon reported that from 1/1/16 through 6/8/16, DFS received 219 “drug exposed infant” hotline reports. There were also 48 FASD reports during that time, but it was acknowledged by DFS that those reports were coded incorrectly by the hotline. Trenee Parker confirmed that DFS has completed targeted training sessions on this issue and there has been no coding errors for the past two weeks. Trenee agreed to review the Structured Decision Making Tool as it pertains to substance exposed infants and provide a summary at the next meeting.

The Office of the Investigation Coordinator reported that there were 243 SEI hotline reports from 1/1/16 through 7/8/16, of which 157 were screened in for investigation. Of those screened in reports, 69 SEI’s remained in the home with a safety plan and 58 remained in the home without a safety plan. There were no plans of safe care prepared for any of the SEI cases. Of the 157 screened in cases, 40% involved opiates and 50% involved marijuana.

Heather Baker of the March of Dimes stated that all of the hospitals provide quarterly data of the incidence of NAS. Heather indicated that the year to date number is 92, an increase from the 72 cases from last year. She will provide the 2015 data and the year to date numbers to Jen Donahue for inclusion on the application for technical assistance.

Trenee provided an update on the expedited substance abuse liaison referrals from April through June, 2016. There were 14 referrals in New Castle County, of which 8 came from Christiana and 6 from St. Francis. 10 referrals involved opiates, 2 referrals involved marijuana, 1 involved cocaine, and 1 involved methamphetamines. The liaison went to the hospital with the DFS worker for 5 of the 14 referrals. For 8 cases, the mother was already discharged from the hospital at the time of the referrals. There was 1 TDM held for one of the cases. In Kent County, there were 4 referrals from Kent General and the liaison went to the hospital with the DFS worker for all 4 cases. 2 referrals involved opiates and 2

referrals involved marijuana. In Sussex County, there were 8 referrals, of which 4 came from Beebe and 4 from Nanticoke. 6 referrals involved opiates and 2 involved cocaine. The liaison accompanied the DFS worker to the hospital for 3 of the referrals, but was unsuccessful in connecting with the mothers in 2 cases. For the remaining 3 cases, the liaison met with the mother without the DFS worker. Trenee noted that some mothers have been very receptive to the liaison, including a “success story” in Sussex where a mother entered an in-patient treatment program for heroin use and has been clean for 9 months. She is now in recovery and is safely caring for her child.

Dr. Gallucci mentioned that the Promise program may be a resource for mothers of SEIs. Fran Anderson explained that an individual with a dual diagnosis (mental health and substance use) may apply for the Promise program through DSAMH. It provides community-based, recovery-oriented services to help individuals reach their goals in their Recovery Plan. Fran stated that there are 3 clinics, 1 in each county, that can serve up to approximately 1,000 individuals.

V. In-Depth Technical Assistance Application

The Committee reviewed the entire Application and discussed adding some additional data involving NAS numbers, number of women in treatment with DSAMH funded centers and how many used alcohol, as well as the number of SEI referrals to CDW. Lisl Phelps agreed to look into obtaining this information.

Upon Motion by Joan Kelley, and second by Crystal Sherman, all were in favor of submitting the Application to NCSACW. Jen Donahue will be filing the Application and attachments early next week and will provide each member with a scanned copy of the package submitted. She noted that our filing will be timely as NCSACW is finalizing its technical assistance to the 6 states and will be ready to accept additional states as of September.

VI. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Committee will occur on Friday, November 18, 2016 from 9:30 – 11:30am at Appoquinimink State Service Center, Middletown, DE.

VII. Public Comment

No public comment was received and the meeting was adjourned.