

***Child Protection Accountability Commission
Training Committee
Mandatory Reporting Workgroup***

Friday, May 5, 2017

10:30am -12:00pm

New Castle County Court House

In Attendance:

Jean Gardner	Division of Family Services
Linda Shannon	Division of Family Services
Jessica Begley	Office of the Child Advocate
Pat Kwetkauskie	Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Rosie Morales	Office of the Child Advocate
Megan Caudell	Office of the Child Advocate

I. Introductions

Rosalie Morales opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

II. Minutes

Minutes from the June 17, 2016 meeting were approved.

III. Mandatory Reporting Training Curricula Update

Ms. Morales suggested that the workgroup membership should include representatives from the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Ms. Morales will reach out to Islanda Finamore from DOJ about participation on the workgroup. Jessica Begley will follow up with Debra O'Neal to determine who will succeed Lynn Arnold as chair of the workgroup.

Ms. Morales also shared information regarding pending legislation that would give schools the ability to complete the mandated child safety training courses over a three year period. Some of the training options include mandatory reporting, suicide prevention, bullying prevention and personal safety.

Jean Gardner and Linda Shannon shared reoccurring reporting issues that need to be addressed in the 2017- 2018 school training update, such as:

- Delayed reporting (i.e. end of day or next day). Add a highlighted note that reports need to be made immediately.
- Reporters have limited information when calling about an adult who has disclosed sexual abuse that happened in the past. The minimal facts must be collected in these cases.
- Reporters fudging the online reporting form.
- Professional reporters need to know that the police line is only for emergencies.

- School Nurses assisting DFS with examination of injuries.
- Child Abuse Report Line vs. 911 and Mobile Crisis
- School Resource Officers (SRO) should not be involved in cases where the abuse or neglect occurs in the home unless authorized by their law enforcement agency, as this is out of the SRO's jurisdiction.
- Schools calling the hotline for additional information about the investigation.
- When collecting Minimal Facts reporters should get the full name of the alleged perpetrator whenever possible.

Finally, the group discussed adjusting the training format to feature more case scenarios that cover the most common reporting issues.

IV. Next Steps.

- Ms. Begley will schedule a date in August for the train-the-trainer session.
- Ms. Gardner will review hotline calls that can potentially be used for case scenarios.

V. Public Comment

No public comment.

VI. Next Meeting

Thursday, June 15th, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.