

**Child Protection Accountability Commission**  
**Joint Committee on Substance-Exposed Infants/Medically Fragile Children**

**Friday, December 1, 2017**

**Minutes**

**ATTENDEES:**

Dr. Allan DeJong, AI Dupont  
Elizabeth Romero, DSAMH  
Lynn Fahey, BCCS  
Lisl Phelps, DHSS  
Emily Knearl, DHSS  
Crystal Sherman, DHSS  
Grace Courtney, DHSS  
Leslie Brower, DSAMH  
Joan Kelley, CDRC  
Trene Parker, DFS  
Colleen Woodall, DFS  
Jennifer Donahue, Esq., IC/OCA  
Aleks Casper, March of Dimes  
Rebeca Heistand, CFF  
Melanie Subers, Health Options  
Michele Savin, CCHS  
Wendy Felts, St. Francis  
Ann Regacho, Beebe  
Nancy Forsyth, Beebe  
Karen Kelley, Bayhealth  
Pamela Laymon, Bayhealth  
Rebeka Romanos

I. Committee Member Introductions

Jennifer Donahue chaired the meeting welcoming everyone and facilitating introductions.

II. Approval of Minutes

Upon Motion and no objection, the minutes from the September 22, 2017 meeting were approved.

III. Update on SEI reports to DFS

Jen Donahue and Trenee Parker discussed the SEI notifications to DFS as of November 30, 2017 and provided the Committee members with a detailed Power Point presentation. As

of said date, there were 375 notifications to DFS, of which 258 were screened in for investigation. The most prevalent substance in single substance exposure cases is marijuana. The most prevalent substance in poly-substance exposure cases is opioids and cocaine. Please refer to the provided Power Point for additional information.

With regard to Aiden's Law, it was discussed that although the bill did not pass in 2017, the fiscal note amount of \$285,000 was included in the state budget and will be provided to DSCYF for purposes of hiring a contracted agency to assist with the SEI notifications and Plans of Safe Care. The bill will be re-introduced in March, 2018.

#### IV. Plan of Safe Care Pilot Program

Trenee Parker indicated that the POSC pilot program is underway at Beebe Hospital and Bayhealth - Kent General with an identified DFS worker assigned to each hospital. The POSC Pilot team at each hospital is working through the POSC and will be conducting monthly meetings to discuss strengths and challenges. The goal is to expand the pilot program to Nanticoke and Milford Memorial within the next few months.

#### V. Regional Partnership Grant Award

Trenee Parker and Jen Donahue discussed how Delaware was awarded the federal Regional Partnership Grant for our proposed "Delaware H.O.P.E. (Healthy Outcomes with Parent Engagement)" model of services for SEIs, their mothers/caregivers. Children and Families First is the lead agency on the grant. The model will be a randomized study of 40 mothers/SEIs for the treatment group and 40 for the control group. These mothers must not yet be enrolled/engaged in a drug treatment program. The treatment group will receive the DE HOPE model of services (MDT/team approach) whereby she will have a team consisting of a peer recovery coach, home visiting nurse through Healthy Families America, and the Nurturing Families Parenting Class, in addition to the DFS worker and substance use treatment provider. The control group will receive a list of the same services that she can access, but it will not be the MDT/team wraparound approach. All of this will be wrapped into a Plan of Safe Care. There will be a Kick Off Meeting in DC with the other grantees in January, 2018.

## VI. IDTA Site Visit Summary and 2018 State Goals

Jen Donahue reported that the IDTA Change Leaders Jill Gresham and Ken DeCurcio visited Delaware on 10/25-10/27/17 to conduct a “Hospital Walkthrough” with DFS and hospital staff from Beebe and Kent General involved in Pilot Program. On day 2 of the visit, the group attended, “A Vision For Substance Use Treatment” Conference with the following Speakers: Secretary Kara Odom Walker, DHSS, Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall Long, Attorney General Matt Denn, Karyl Rattay, Director of Division of Public Health and Colleen L. Barry, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Finally, on day 3 of the visit, members of the IDTA Core Team came together to identify the 2018 State Goals, as follows:

- Implement Regional Partnership Grant
- Develop and implement RFP for non-CPS POSC oversight and Coordination
- Explore expanding Project Engage
- Finalize POSC Pilot and expand across DE
  - Multiparty consent forms – 42 CFR changes
- Explore substance use treatment services statewide (IDTA Site Visit in Spring 2018)
- SEI Study with AI Dupont

## VII. Open Discussion/Public Comment

Elizabeth Romero, Director of DSAMH, discussed how the “Centers of Excellence” may be bridges to treatment and access to peer recovery coaches. Ms. Romero stressed the importance of collaboration and communication between the agencies working with women struggling with substance use disorders. The group discussed issues surrounding peer recovery coach training and availability. Joan Kelley shared that the FIMR/CDRC has reviewed infant deaths where the mother is struggling with addiction. Ms. Romero and Aleks Casper noted that we could be utilizing the Centers of Excellence as opportunities to provide women with a non-punitive approach to treatment. Melanie Subers indicated that if the mother is enrolled with Health Options, they are notified of the fetal demise and can provide support and education to the mother. Aleks further suggested that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) should be addressed with mother who give birth to substance exposed infants.

The group then discussed the Regional Partnership Grant and how the Healthy Families America “Benchmarks” should be tracked through the grant as an outcome measure. It was agreed that this issue will be discussed with the Federal Project Officers and the state grant team.

No public comment was received and the meeting was adjourned.