

Child Protection Accountability Commission/Child Death Review Commission

Joint Committee on Substance-Exposed Infants/Medically Fragile Children

Friday, December 14, 2018

Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Lisl Phelps, DHSS
Grace Courtney, DHSS
Colleen Woodall, DFS
Jen Donahue, OCA/IC
Aleks Casper, FIMR
Teri Carter, CFF
Erin Jakubowitch, KSCS
Ann Regacho, Beebe
Pam Jimenez, Christiana
Heather Baker, Connections
Crystal Sherman, DPH
Marge Agostino, RN
Heather Juiliano, DFS
Marcella McKelllvey, DFS
Diana Fraker, DFS
Mary Baker, DFS
Kathleen Truitt, DFS

Via Telephone:

Rep. Ruth Briggs King
Wendy Felts, St. Francis
Michele Savin, NP
Jazmin Johnson, DFS
Berenice Rushovich, Child Trends
MJ Scales, UD
Carrie Snyder, Beebe
Valorie Thomas, DFS
Cassie Tyndall
Sherry Nykiel, DSAMH
Nancy Forsyth, Beebe
Judge Felice Kerr
Joan Kelley, CDRC

I. Committee Member Introductions

Jen Donahue chaired the meeting welcoming everyone and facilitating introductions.

II. Approval of Minutes

Upon Motion and no objection, the minutes from the June 22, 2018 meeting were approved.

III. SEI Notifications Q1/Q2 (January – June, 2018)

Jen Donahue reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the number of reports of SEI births to DFS by hospitals from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018. The numbers also reflect the type of substances that mothers test positive for at birth, among many other data points. During that period of time, there were 245 notifications received by DFS and 88% were screened in for investigation. 69% of the cases involved 1 substance, 20% involved 2 substances and 11% involved 3 or more substances. Marijuana was the most prevalent substance in cases where the mother used up to 2 substances. Opioids was the most prevalent substance in cases where the mother used 3 or more substances. The data revealed that 45% of the mothers had a mental health condition and 41% had a DFS history of abuse/neglect when they were children.

IV. Aiden's Law

Jen Donahue advised the group that the ceremonial signing of Aiden's Law by Governor Carney took place on October 4, 2018 at Beebe Medical Center. Treenee Parker brought blue bracelets to the event with Aiden's initials and the date when the law was enacted.

V. Plans of Safe Care (POSC) Statewide Implementation

- a. Specialized SEI Unit in DFS – Colleen Woodall reported that there are now statewide units of DFS workers specializing in SEI cases. 6 workers in NCC, 2 in Kent and 2 in Sussex. Communication between DFS and the birthing hospitals has improved since these units were put in place. Pam Jimenez added that the 6 DFS workers in NCC are excellent advocates for the infants and families. Colleen reported that additional safe sleep education information has been added to the POSC. Further discussions revealed that POSC Discharge Meetings are not being held consistently at KGH or MMH. Clarification was made by Jen Donahue that there must be discharge meetings, preferably in person or skype but at least by telephone, for every case where a POSC was prepared, including marijuana cases.

Marcella McKellvey stated that DFS has a good relationship with Connections but not with the various pediatrician offices in Kent County. The committee discussed possible ways to reach out to the pediatricians - Aleks suggested the AAP Conference and agreed to reach out to Dr. Lawlor to find out more information. Lisl brought up the Board of Licensure and perhaps offering CEUs for training. Jen Donahue suggested that she and Treenee Parker can personally go to the larger practices and offer training. Joan also suggested possibly

attending the Grand Rounds at Al Dupont or Christiana to provide information about the POSC.

Judge Kerr brought up some concerns about New Expectations in a dependency/neglect case. Heather Baker suggested that DFS provide some additional POSC training to the staff at New Expectations. Trenee and Jen agreed to meet with the supervisors and staff.

b. Contracted Agency (Marijuana only cases) update – Colleen indicated that there were 27 referrals to Holcomb in Sussex County, 22 in Kent County and 17 in New Castle. Ongoing training and support is provided by DFS, including monthly planning meetings.

c. POSC Implementation Guide – Jen Donahue provided an overview of the guide and requested feedback by January 3, 2019. The guide will be presented to CPAC on 3/26/19 for approval.

VI. Regional Partnership Grant – DE HOPE Update – Teri Carter provided an update on the DE Hope Model of services for prenatal intervention that began on 10/1/18. She indicated that 16 referrals were received, 4 women were placed in the treatment group and 5 women were placed in the control group. 1 woman declined participation after the initial meeting and 1 woman declined participation before the initial meeting. Teri noted that there were 3 joint visits by the Peer Recovery Coach and Home Visiting Nurse, 16 joint visits by Peer and HVN outside of the home, 8 visits by the FSS only, 6 referrals for services and 3 cancelled/rescheduled visits. There are 3 teams operating statewide. Joan Kelley suggested that the women's OB/Gyn's are given notice that their patients are being provided home visiting nursing services.

VII. Open Discussion/Questions/Public Comment

The group discussed safe sleep education, including the availability of car seats and cribs for families.

No public comment was received the meeting was adjourned.