



Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council
Office of Adoption & Child Protection
Executive Office of the Governor

LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATIVE PLANNING TEAM MEETING

Monday, 14 January 2008, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
DCF Refugee Services Conference Room Building 1, Room 304
1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida

IN ATTENDANCE

- Jim Kallinger, Convener, Executive Office of the Governor
- Barbara Foster, Executive Office of the Governor
- Christie Ferris, Ounce of Prevention Fund
- Coleman Zuber, Department of Children and Families [for George Sheldon]
- Elizabeth Schlein, Department of Children and Families
- Jillian Reding, Executive Office of the Governor
- Johana Hatcher, Florida Department of Children and Families
- Mike McCaffree, Department of Juvenile Justice [for Cassandra Jenkins]
- Peggy Scheuermann, Florida Department of Health [for Mike Haney]
- Terry Thomas, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

MINUTES – DRAFT #1

Jim Kallinger called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Introductions were made.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Information

- The *Florida Juvenile Handbook* is updated every two years. The latest was revised June 2007 and is also available in pdf format on DVD. It has been distributed to every law enforcement officer in the state for immediate reference. It is also available for Protective Investigators (PIs) and Child Protection Teams (CPTs).
- The Crimes Against Children Program, established after the Adam Walsh case, was created with trust funding and is charged with:
 1. Provides investigation and technical assistance to local law enforcement
 2. Maintains missing children, sex offender, and sexual predator databases
 3. Training law enforcement, CPTs, Guardian Ad Litem, PIs, ect. The training is free to all participants and occurs in four schools per year. The next training session will be held in March in Tampa. It has been advertised online and counts toward Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- The Department of Juvenile Justice provides an academy for direct care staff and detention staff to learn about child abuse. Mandatory training for employees was created in rule by the agency.

Issues

- Florida Statute requires all law enforcement to get sex offense training. Child abuse prevention is covered in a general overview in four hours.
- The Crimes Against Children Program used to provide a school for PIs. Now that the training is optional the majority of registered participants do not show. The course is advertised through the Department of Children and Families Regional Administrators. The shortest course offered is four hours.
- In such cases as mandated training, employees were often informed it was to be done on their own time. *Note: This is perfectly legal according to § 943.135 FS for all people holding active certification through CJSTC.*
- Narcotic agents are not required to go through child abuse and neglect training. The Drug Endangered Child Task Force has a charge to get this training mandated for narcotic agents.
- The Abuse hotline receives numerous calls from Law Enforcement. However, they often don't receive the necessary information from the reporting officer for a proper report. This may be due to the fact that the reporting officer hasn't been educated on the information the hotline needs.
- Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) requires domestic violence training occur annually while child abuse training is mandated once every four years during in-service training. *Note: Though, according to § 943.1701 FS training concerning the special needs of children at scenes of domestic violence should be covered during domestic violence training.*
- Hotline reporting is increasing as well as repeat maltreatment.
- The PI turnover rate is a year to a year and a half. They've only been trained with a narrow focus of what to look for.
- Department of Children and Families has a Mandatory Reporting Packet which was updated this year. They sent out 4,000 letters to every school and hospital by email to inform mandatory reporters of this available resource. It appears it is not being accessed.
- The Department of Children and Families privatized PI training and as a result content is formatted at the discretion of each region. Furthermore, Child Abuse and Neglect is not a mandatory requirement for PI on-going training. While there is a basic information given in the pre-service PI training, it is unknown if this is sufficient to properly prepare PIs.

Next Steps and Tasks

- Johana – Identify Department of Children and Families core requirement for PI training and the additional information each region chooses to include in the training program.
- Johana and Elizabeth – Create a new tab for the Florida Juvenile Handbook on Hotline reporting requirements.
- Jillian – Research Post-academy training requirement (CJSTC)
- Mike – Catalog what Juvenile Justice is doing with training and certification.
- Terry – Build a matrix of all sworn officials across agencies. For these identify whether they receive pre-service, certification, and/or in-service training; the type of training they receive; and they types of training they should be receiving.
- Terry – Look into offering Child Abuse and Neglect training at the next Dependency Court Summit in August by Florida Department of Law Enforcement in either two sessions or in a day before/after session.

For Future Consideration

- Mandated Professional Reporters – required training on identification, reporting, follow up, and prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.
 - Should agencies put in a rule?
 - Office of Adoption and Child Protection put in rule for all?
 - Consider statute revision?
- Post-Academy Child Abuse and Neglect curriculum:
 - One course for all with basic, general knowledge required for specialties
 - Variations in curriculum based on specialty and regional training.