



Child Forensic Interviewing Task Force Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2017

Embassy Suites

Orlando, FL

Attendance

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Alan Abramowitz, Esq.	Cassandra G. Pasley, BSN, JD, Director
Brian L. Fernandes, Esq.	Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen
Bruce McIntosh, M.D.	S. Nicole Jordan, LCSW, MS
Carol Lilly, M.D.	Stephenie Havard
Cindy Valley	
Jay Howell, Esq.	
John Harper	
Kris-Tena Albers, A.R.N.P, M.N.	
Lori Butts, J.D., Ph.D.	
Paula Shea, Esq.	
Peggy Scheuermann, M.Ed.	
Roshannon Jackson, M.Ed.	
Sheriff Sadie Darnell	
Theresa Simak, Esq.	
Member Absent:	Guests Present:
Esther Jacobo, Esq.	Kelly A. Swartz, Esq. – Guardian Ad Litem Director of Legal Services
	Laura Knudson – Alachua Co. Sheriff's office



Welcome:

- Jay Howell, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10AM
- Quorum was met
- Introduction of Task Force members

Review and Approve Minutes:

- Committee members approved the minutes from the Forensic Interview Task Force meeting held on October 17, 2017
- Update provided regarding the Chair and Co-Chair meeting that was conducted in Tallahassee, FL on November 9, 2017

Presentation on Forensic Interview Components:

- Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen presented on 'Forensic Interview Components.' The presentation included a review of interview protocols and fundamental components.
- Jay Howell requested additional information regarding other trainings that focus on interviewing children.
- Task Force members discussed interview protocols at length and the opinion of Travis Conradt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology was referenced in an e-mail provided to the Task Force. It was agreed that additional information is needed regarding best practices.

Use of Interviews in Dependency Cases:

- Kelly A. Swartz, Guardian Ad Litem Director of Legal Services, presented on 'Use of Interviews in Dependency Cases.'
- The presentation initiated dialogue regarding DCF and Law Enforcement perspectives, red flags, initial interview, components of forensic interviews, consistent documentation, medical examinations and current staff trainings.

Use of Interviews in Criminal Cases:

- Task Force Members, Brian Fernandez and Teresa Simak presented on 'Forensic Interviews in Criminal Cases.'
- Section 98.303, Florida Statutes, was referenced during the presentation.
- The following factors were discussed:
 - Mental and physical age and maturity of the child
 - Nature and duration of the abuse or offense
 - Relationship of the child to the offender
 - Reliability of the assertion
 - Reliability of the child victim
 - Any other factor deemed appropriate

Task Force Discussion:

- Interview guidelines
- Court proceedings
 - Victim testimony
 - Establishing interviewer credibility
 - Hearsay
 - Importance of following protocol to avoid nullification of interview
- Developmental delays
- Family centered safety planning
- Interviewing special need and Human Trafficking victims
- Blended protocols
- Evidence Based vs. Best Practice

Action Items for Next Meeting:

1. Laura Knudson:
 - Follow-Up with Victor Vieth regarding ‘Silent Tears’ and South Carolina Training Centers
2. Paula Shea:
 - Administrative Codes – How many times can a child be interviewed
 - Number of interviews
 - Method of Interviews
3. Cindy Valley:
 - Will check with the Children Advocacy Centers in Florida (that are not associated with CPT Programs) to find out which protocols they use.
4. Jay Howell:
 - Recommended a retired Law Enforcement Officer with experience working in multiple circuits to present at the next meeting to answer questions.
5. Brian Fernandes:
 - Recommended Emery Gainey (Attorney General/Law Enforcement Officer) to present at the next meeting. Brian will contact Mr. Gainey.
6. Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen: Confirm which protocols are evidence-based
7. Alan Abramowitz:
 - Recommended Chief Judge Sjostrom to present on Administrative Orders at the next Task Force meeting.



Potential Presenters for next meeting:

1. Emery Gainey – Recommended by Brian Fernandes
2. Laura Knudson – Guest of Sheriff Sadie Darnell
3. Retired Law Enforcement – Recommended by Jay Howell
4. Judge Sjostrom – Recommended by Alan Abramowitz

Follow-up information will be provided by:

1. Laura Knudson
2. Cindy Vallely
3. Alan Abramowitz
4. Kris-Tena (Safety Planning)

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 4:00PM