



CFIAC Law Enforcement Subcommittee

August 26, 2020, 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

| Members Present: | Staff Present: |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen | Erica Puckett |
| Jay Howell | Marceller Hines |
| Francine Donnorummo | |
| Lori (Jessica L Armstrong) | |
| Alan Abramowitz | |
| Maria Sanin | |
| Stacy Bromfield | |
| Danielle Hughes | |
| Lorena Vollrath-Bueno | |
| Maureen Honan | |
| Members Absent: | Guest(s) Present: |
| | Sally Becket |

Welcome and Roll Call

Minutes

- Previous meeting minutes, June 30, 2020, reviewed and approved by subcommittee

Exploration of additional membership and contributors to subcommittee

- Alan Abramowitz shared an email/letter from Rep. Bill Gottlieb who is interested in sponsoring a bill or exploring sponsoring a bill regarding standardizing child forensic interviews. Alan stated, if he's interested in this issue, would the committee like to ask him to join the CFIAC?
- Members expressed interest in having Rep. Gottlieb join the committee

Review of Administrative Orders

- A local administrative order was shared specifying that a child may only be interviewed twice. The order defines, what is an interview. Initial contact, medical questions, etc. are not considered an interview. This is something we want DCF and LEO to carry with them so that they can reference it when in the field. It provides administrative order, definition of an interview, and guidance for obtaining minimal facts. Suggestion that this document should include more information for conducting a minimal facts interview.

Discussion regarding properly interviewing children who are experiencing trauma, fear, who are victims of human trafficking

- There is a need for specific consideration regarding the interview process for human trafficking victims.
- Jackie, member: These interviews are directed to occur over multiple instances and to move forward in the interview, not reviewing previously provided information.
- Francine, Chair: In prosecuting human trafficking cases an initial interview is conducted with initial disclosure. Then the victim is moved to counseling, then wait for counselor to indicate that the child is able to give a more comprehensive interview.
- Challenges include children not being stabilized in one place long enough for an extended interview process

Minimal Facts training discussion

- Suggested sectors to focus minimal facts training include: DJJ staff, School staff including nurses, teachers, etc.
- All disciplines should receive the same training
- Members in agreement that the subcommittee should develop a Minimal Facts training curriculum including
 - Inclusive of appropriate developmental expectations
 - Linguistics
 - How children disclose
 - What is too much, when to stop
 - Emphasizing that it is not a forensic interview
 - 2-hour training
 - Be available at the LEO academy
 - Consider a train the trainer model
 - Possible virtual model
 - Including training in the DJJ academy (see Maureen Honan)
 - Continuing education/booster every 2 years
 - Gather information from local CPTs to see what information they are currently providing in this as a community training
 - Add questions about this training to the CPT survey
- Look at initial interviews conducted by State Attorney's offices to help determine best practices. Lorena Bueno agreed to put together recommended procedures.

Guest presenter, Lori (Jessica L. Armstrong)

- Conducting Child Forensic Interviews with CPT for 10 years
- Good communication between CPT & LEO is essential, developing trust between agencies
- Hosting monthly multi-disciplinary team meetings and ensuring that the child's needs are met first is critical
- Internal protocol to provide minimal facts training, see Valerie Stanley for additional information.
- When LEO conducts an interview with a child over 12, it is not a recorded interview

Next Meeting:

- October, will send out Doodle Poll for best date
- Format: continue with Microsoft Teams

Adjourn:

- 11:00 a.m.