



CFIAC Law Enforcement Subcommittee

October 7, 2020, 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Francine Donnorummo	Erica Puckett
Lorena Bueno	Marceller Hines
Jay Howell	Marcy Hajdukiewicz
Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen	
Stacy Bromfield	
Maureen Honan	
Theresa Simak	
Maria Sanin	
Dr. Carol Lilly	

Welcome and Roll Call

Minutes

- Previous meeting minutes, August 26, 2020, reviewed and approved by subcommittee

CPT survey update: Review of Minimal Facts interviews happening in the field: Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen

- Jackie - 2 additional questions regarding minimal facts training added to the CPT survey
- Collaborating with Certification and Designation Subcommittee to get this survey out for feedback
 - Francine - judicial circuit administrative order seems to guide what CPTs are doing for minimal facts interview training.
 - Jackie - yes there is a correlation between the admin orders and what the CPTs are doing.
 - Not all CPTs are doing the minimal facts training.
 - Those that are seem to get direction from the admin order.
 - Francine – consider asking CPT and interviewers in the field what should be included in the minimal facts training.
 - Jackie – Agreed, will add: “In a perfect world, what would your agency’s minimal facts training look like? Please describe in detail.”

Input on initial interviews conducted by SA offices: Lorena Vollrath-Bueno

- An interview is any type of conversation with the child (victim or witness) in which you are intending to obtain facts.

- Talking to the child, learning about family dynamic and background information, determining competency, able to determine difference between truth/lie, assess their memory, understanding of time rapport building.
- Importance of Interviewers having background information on a child/case
- There should be an expectation of inconsistencies.
- Interviews should be recorded.
- Preference: CPT for the purposes of charging.
- In preparation for a deposition or trial, the SA will have to talk with the child about the facts but it is recommended that this is not the first time the SA meets with the child.
- Being cognizant about who is present, dynamics of the case, location of the interview, should have knowledge about trauma and how to talk to children.

Other suggestions:

- Defining what is not an interview
- Describe child friendly rooms and environments, such as “soft rooms” and how to use these spaces.
- Address challenges of training prosecutors how to appropriately talk to young children
- Include snacks and sensory items (squeeze balls, teddy bears, etc) in child friendly rooms, if permitted

Next steps:

Francine:

- CPT survey is set
- Continue working on outline regarding interviews/training

Jay:

- Michael Baute expressed interest in joining CFIAC. He has experience from FDLE and has a lot of expertise regarding how we can get recommendations and training out to LEO. He has good ideas. I sent his paperwork in to Erica to get him appointed to the CFIAC. I would like him to give a presentation at the next CFIAC on Nov 19th.

Jay:

- Consider providing minimal facts training to providers other than LEO including: school personnel, counselors, teachers, and other community partners.
- Suggest looking at how to encourage and empower the CPT teams to provide the training to more than just LEO.
- Francine – Encourage primary CFIAC to address the other community partners. We frequently educate teachers and school systems regarding what not to do in a criminal situation, so it would flow, if that is what this subcommittee wishes to do.

Stacy Bromfield (member and forensic interviewer)

- Address occasions when a specialized interview reveals criminal facts.
- Specialized Interviews are not recorded but include a detailed written report.
- LEO may request a recorded interview to pursue criminal elements after Specialized Interview.
- Francine – Ideally specialized interviews would also be recorded and a second interview would not be necessary.
- Jackie - Recommend that every interview be approached with the possibility that it may go to court.
- Dr. Lilly - in Polk County all verbal children are interviewed like a forensic interview in the event that it would be needed later.
- Stacy - LEO must be present to conduct a FI, which is limiting.

- Theresa - the 2nd interview must be determined on a case-by-case basis and should not have blanket decision made.
- Dr. Lilly - in Hillsborough CPT doesn't conduct the FI. It is done by the judicial circuit. CPT participates in the staffing and a CPT person attends the interview. Forensic Interviews are not scheduled without LEO. This judicial order should be addressed.
- Jay - Lorena, the chief engineer of the Tallahassee 2nd Circuit orders is serving as a model for the use of animals and the administrative court order on interviews to address these specific issues.
- Dr. Lilly - providing specific examples could be very beneficial.
- Lorena - it is a system of checks and balances. The forensic interviewer's only job is the child.
- Jackie - Hillsborough CPT has consistently sent CPT staff to the training because the skills they learn can be transferred to specialized and other types of interviews.

Unanimous agreement: next meeting will be scheduled after the November 19th CFIAC meeting.

Other business:

CPT Survey will be sent out this week with a request to complete within two weeks.
Results will be available to share at the CFIAC meeting

Adjourn – 2:00PM