



Child Forensic Interview Advisory Committee

November 20, 2019

Tampa, Florida

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Members Present:	Staff Present:
Jay Howell - Chair	S. Nicole Jordan
Alan Abramowitz – Co-Chair	Marceller Hines
Alison Cowell	Stephenie Havard
Angie Griffin	Erica Puckett
Brandy Macaluso	Robert Brooks, Ph.D.
Bruce J. McIntosh, M.D.	Patricia Armstrong
Candice Brower	
Carol Lilly, M.D.	
Judge Daniel P. Dawson	
Erick Quevedo	
Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen	
Jamny Coronado	
Sgt. Lori Colombino	
Maria Sanin	
Maureen Honan	
Sally Beckett	
Stacy Bromfield	
Stephanie Cox	
Terrence Watts	
Members Absent:	Guest(s) Present:
Carol Oseroff, Ph.D.	Christi Bazemore
Theresa E. Simak	Jill Turner
Valerie Stanley	
Lorena M. Vollrath-Bueno	
Kelly A. Swartz	
Francine Donnorummo	

Welcome and Introductions

- Chair, Jay Howell called the Child Forensic Interview Advisory Committee (CFIAC) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Members were welcomed to join in the continuation of the work completed by the Child Forensic Interview Protocol Task Force.
- Co-Chair, Alan Abramowitz identified that each member has been invited to participate because of the specific expertise they offer.
- CFIAC Members, DOH staff, and visitors introduced themselves.
- Jay Howell explained the role of the Florida Department of Health (DOH) and Child Protection Teams.
- Jay Howell identified the committee is bound by Florida's Sunshine Law and explained how this impacts the members.
- Bureau Chief of Child Protection and Special Technologies, Patricia Armstrong further explained the role of Child Protection Teams and the purpose of CFIAC.

Review of Child Forensic Interview Protocol Task Force

- Jay Howell introduced the purpose and scope of the Child Forensic Interview Protocol Task Force and reviewed the overall recommendations made in the final Task Force report. The following were areas identified to be further explored by the CFIAC members:
 - Multidisciplinary approach, referencing the Palm Beach County protocol
 - Understanding hear-say and evidence in role of Forensic Interview (FI)
 - Environment in which a child is interviewed
 - Use of technology
 - Therapy and facility animals
 - Administrative Orders in Appendix of Task Force Report
 - Availability and accessibility of FI training opportunities
 - Pros and Cons of FI certification
 - CEU requirements of forensic interviewers
 - Establishment of DOH resource library
 - Law Enforcement's role in FI, particularly referencing Sgt Lori Colombino and FI trained detectives
 - Impact of Marcy's Law Amendment
- Jay Howell explained the responsibilities of the CFIAC is to report periodically to DOH on the findings and recommendations.
- Member, Judge Daniel Dawson identified the following areas of interest:
 - Determining the difference between a therapy and facility dog or animal
 - Specifics of the 40-hour FI training
 - Consideration of an 8-hour intro course for first responders and others who need to understand the FI process and aspects, but who do not need to be trained interviewers, and a reduction in the number of people interviewing children
 - Determining the requirements for juvenile court judges
- Discussion of community trainings such as the 8-hour Minimal Facts training were discussed.
- Member, Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen explained that CPTs across Florida are required to conduct community trainings.
- Member, Sally Becket explained that her agency, the Child Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida, provides a lot of community and first responder training which includes:
 - 8-hour sexual abuse
 - 4-hour crimes against kids
 - 6-hour developmentally appropriate manner of working with children
 - 2-day child maltreatment training

Presentation - Current Landscape of Child Forensic Interview Training:

- Member, Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen provided a presentation titled, “Current Landscape of Child Forensic Interview Training in Florida.”
- Topics included:
 - FI models currently being utilized and cited that research indicates that the forensic interviewers trained in multiple protocols are most successful.
 - DOH training is a blend of multiple protocols.
 - DOH model has been approved by the National Children’s Alliance (NCA)
 - Two FI training spots reserved for law enforcement at each training
 - Train the trainer to expand FI training opportunities
 - Importance of peer review process
 - Spanish language advanced FI training opportunities
 - Refresher FI training opportunities
 - Investing in currently trained forensic interviewers, providing advanced training opportunities

Presentation - Child Forensic Interview and Children with Disabilities:

- Member, Brandy Macaluso provided a presentation titled, “Guide to Responding to Victims of Crime with Disabilities.”
- Topics included:
 - Accommodations for a person with a disability
 - Proper ways to reference a person with a disability
 - Wes Kleinart Act
 - Variety of disabilities
 - Communication barrier
 - Additional resources

Presentation - Child Forensic Interview Current Practices:

- Member, Erick Quevedo provided a presentation regarding his experience as a Forensic Interviewer.
- Topics included:
 - Providing oversight
 - Accountability
 - Training, support and peer review to new forensic interviewers
- Member, Sally Beckett provided a presentation regarding her experience as a Forensic Interviewer.
- Topics included:
 - Providing community training
 - Use of therapy dogs
 - Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings
 - Requirements for re-accreditation

Presentation - Child Forensic Interview Data:

- DOH Staff Member, Dr. Robert Brooks provided a presentation titled, “Child Forensic Interview Data.”
- Topics covered included:
 - Possibilities of data collection regarding forensic interviewing
 - Training
 - Access
 - Population
 - Feedback requested regarding additional data the committee would find helpful

- Member, Judge Daniel Dawson requested data from Dr. Brooks regarding who (what entity) is providing FI in each area of the state and who is going to court.
- Open discussion was conducted regarding the following:
 - How data is tracked in the Child Protection Team Information System (CPTIS)
 - What is tracked
 - Where referrals are coming from
 - What changes should be made to ensure that valuable information is collected so that data analysis can be best utilized to provide support to any future recommendations

Next Steps of CFIAC:

- Jay Howell requested feedback regarding future presentations.
- Suggestions included:
 - Law Enforcement presentation regarding their process and training relative to forensic interviewing and crimes against children
 - Use of therapy dogs and facility dogs and implications in court
 - Standardization of FI designations
 - Minimal Facts Training review, assessment of availability
 - Continuing education for trained forensic interviewers
- A recommendation was made by Jay Howell and Alan Abramowitz for the establishment of a subcommittee to review and assess issues involving Administrative Orders and make recommendations. Judge Daniel Dawson agreed to be a member of the subcommittee. It was recommended the subcommittee consist of the following members:
 - Judge Daniel Dawson
 - Candice Brower
 - Alan Abramowitz
 - Kelly Swartz

Action Items for Next Meeting:

- Discussion occurred and consensus was reached for the next CFIAC meeting to be held in Orlando in March 2020.
- S. Nicole Jordan will provide a doodle poll to allow members to select a date that works best for the committee.

Meeting Adjourned:

- Jay Howell adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.