

Rhode Island Child Death Review Team Meeting  
**Thursday, May 23, 2013**  
**2:30-4:30pm**  
**Lab Library Room**  
AGENDA

**Open Meeting 2:30 – 3:30 PM**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Administrative
  - a. Approved Minutes from last month.
  - b. New England CDRT Coordinators meeting—next weekend, May 30-31, in Burlington, VT.
    - i. Let Annie know if you would like to attend, she will send you the link.
  - c. Child Death MVA Work group
    - i. Sue Duffy, Annie Silvia, Beatriz Perez, Dina Morrissey, and Dr. Stanley
    - ii. June 11, 10:30 @ Dr. Stanley's office.
  - d. Presentation – Child Abuse and Neglect, DCYF  
Vin McAteer, DCYF
3. **Overview of RI Reporting Laws and Child Protective Services**
  - a. **DCYF Vision**—all children, youth and families reach their fullest potential in safe and nurturing environment.
  - b. **DCYF Mission**—to assist families with their primary responsibility to raise their children to become productive members of society.
  - c. Investigative Authority— DCYF has 24 hours to make 1<sup>st</sup> response.
    - i. A lot of disclosure come from schools.
    - ii. CPI may with or without parent's consent, remove a child from location and secure examination by physician.
    - iii. CPI must interview child in the absence of the alleged perpetrator.
    - iv. If access to the child is denied, the CPI is to seek the assistance of law enforcement or order to the court.
  - d. Standard of Evidence of Indicating Abuse/ Neglect
    - i. Preponderance of evidence: Evidence which is of greater weight, or more convincing than the evidence which as a whole shows the act sought to be proven is more probable than not.
    - ii. Credibility of witness.
    - iii. Understanding the difference between a truth and lie.
    - iv. Note: If someone is indicated for molestation, it stays in the system forever.
  - e. Ways to Obtain Protective Custody

- i. DCYF's Child protective investigators and social caseworkers may authorize a 48 hour hold in order to keep child safe while investigating and doing a safety assessment.
    - ii. A RI licensed physicians or certified nurse practitioner may authorize a 72 hour hold through the completion of a physician's report of examination (PRE)
    - iii. RI law enforcement officers may issue a 48 hour hold.
  - f. Outcomes of Indicated Cases
    - i. Attempts are made to maintain children in their own home if this can be done safely and if support services for the family can be accessed in the community.
    - ii. If the child is not safe in the home and a protective plan cannot be identified, then DCYF must attempt to place the child in the home of appropriate relative caretaker before placing the child in foster care.
    - iii. DCYF is mandated by law to attempt to place children in the least restrictive environment.
  - g. Mandatory Reporting Laws
    - i. In Rhode Island, any person who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that any child has been abused or neglected shall within 24 hours transfer such info to DCYF
      - Not the same in all states.
    - ii. Any person acting in good faith can report.
  - h. Reportable Abuse and Neglect
    - i. Physical abuse
    - ii. Medical neglect
    - iii. Sexual abuse
    - iv. Deprivation of basic needs
    - v. Emotional abuse
    - vi. Educational neglect
    - vii. Physical endangerment
    - viii. Emotional neglect
    - ix. Improper ethical guidance
    - x. Psychological neglect
    - xi. Lack of supervision.
  - i. Calling the CPS Hot Line—
    - i. Helpful hints to remember when reporting abuse and neglect (538-3465)
    - ii. Criteria for CPS—a report must always involve a child under 18 years of age.
      - Must be reasonable cause to believe that abuse/ neglect exists.
      - Non-relative caretaker.
      - Sexual abuse of a child by another child.
      - Duty to warn.
      - Pregnancy alert to area hospitals
      - They have to have a REALLY good reason to do the investigation.

4. Closed Meeting 3:30 – 4:30 PM
  - i. CASE REVIEW
  - ii. Decided to complete remaining case reviews at next month's meeting.

**2013 Meeting Schedule:**

June 20, 2013

*July/August No Meeting*

September 19., 2013

October 17, 2013

November 21, 2013

*December – No meeting*