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.
      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 1st 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