

Children's Justice Act Committee
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
100 Community Place, 1st Floor, Conference Room, Side A
Crownsville, MD 21032
Thursday, May 17, 2018
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Arnold Eby, Chair (phone)
Pamela Alban, Esq.
Honorable Cynthia Callahan
Kerry Hannan (phone)
Ed Kilcullen
Sr. Deputy Robert Kovacs
Det. Thomas Pyles
Krista Trahan

Guests:

Laura Clary, Greater Baltimore Medical Center Pediatric SAFE Program
Valerie Weir, Greater Baltimore Medical Center Pediatric SAFE Program
Susan Hansell, Maryland Children's Alliance

Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Angela Cromwell, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Bill Harper, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Kimberly Herndon, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
William Jernigan, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Sabraya Knight, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Chair's Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes (March 2018)

Ms. Alban made a motion to approve the minutes. Sr. Deputy Kovacs seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes were approved.

III. GBMC Pediatric SAFE Program

Laura Clary provided members with an overview of the Pediatric SAFE Program at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) in Baltimore County. The program provides 24/7 access to medical treatment, physical examinations, and sexual assault examinations to children, teenagers, and adult patients. The program utilizes the collaborative efforts of forensic nurses, law enforcement, and child advocacy centers to provide a supportive, safe environment for patients

and victims. Through their CJAC grant, GBMC has purchased the Cortexflo Medical Camera which was specifically developed for evidentiary examinations. As with any forensic examination, obtaining quality photos and/or video is difficult, but this is particularly true when caring for children. This innovation simplifies the control of the camera by reliably taking high quality photographs and video using a touchscreen interface that guides the examiner through the process. The camera is mounted on a counter-balanced, height adjustable arm that requires minimal effort. Once the examination has been completed, the photographs and video can be shared for peer review. Cortexflo automatically encrypts the files and the examiner can specify a password, expiration date or specific computer from which to access the photographs. This package can then be securely emailed to the third party where the data can be accessed using the Cortexflo Viewer application and specific password. This has been useful for information sharing and case reviews with the Medical Director at the Baltimore County Child Advocacy Center.

IV. Three-Year Assessment Updates

Ms. Wheeler thanked members for their work on the assessment which is now finalized and will be submitted to the Children’s Bureau at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services by May 31, 2018. As a follow-up to the assessment, members agreed to discuss next steps in terms of addressing the barriers and needs that were highlighted.

One area of focus was around communication and collaboration amongst the various stakeholders that interact in child welfare cases. Judge Callahan provided members with an overview of the “One Judge, One Family” court model currently being implemented in Montgomery County. Under the model, those involved with multiple legal cases have the benefit of being assigned a single judge for all of these matters. Judge Callahan explained that the purpose of the model is to connect law enforcement, judges, magistrates, attorneys, and families together in a collaborative setting to assist those involved with multiple court issues, such as family disputes and domestic violence.

Judge Callahan also provided members with a presentation on the Georgetown crossover model which is currently being implemented in Prince George’s County and Montgomery County. Under this model, youth who are dually involved in both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system are provided with joint case management to ensure continuity of care. Both models are considered best practices and members will continue to work to raise awareness about them to support their implementation statewide.

Another main focus of the assessment was training. Specifically, more training is needed for law enforcement on trauma. Also, law enforcement noted that they need additional training on conducting child pornography investigations. Additional training for medical professionals, such as emergency room doctors, is needed on the medical signs of abuse or neglect, and when to report. Ms. Hansell suggested an inventory be completed on the available trainings to identify gaps. Members developed a workgroup that is tasked with developing the training inventory by March 2019. Detective Pyles volunteered to be the Chair of the workgroup and members were asked to volunteer to participate.

V. State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN)

The Maryland Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Connection webpage is now active and members were encouraged to access the page.

Ms. Wheeler informed members of the passage of legislation supported by SCCAN. House Bill 1072 - Child Sexual Abuse Training & Education was passed which requires all employees in public and non-public schools to be educated in the primary prevention of child sexual abuse and sexual misconduct including the requirement of policies and codes of conduct. Also, House Bill 1582 was passed which creates a Physician Health Director at the Department of Human Services and includes the creation of electronic health passports for children in foster care. Both bills were signed into law by Governor Hogan.

VI. Old/New Business

Ms. Wheeler informed members that the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Internet Crimes Against Children grant program is now available on GOCCP's website and Ms. Wheeler encouraged members to check the website frequently for additional NOFAs.

On April 30, the Office hosted two Handle with Care training sessions. Under Handle with Care, law enforcement, social service providers, and schools work together to minimize the effects of childhood trauma. Governor Hogan has tasked the Office with implementation of the Handle with Care model across the state.

VII. Adjournment

Detective Pyles made a motion to adjourn; Judge Callahan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Next Meeting:

July 26, 2018

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

100 Community Place, 1st Floor, Conference Room Side B
Crownsville, MD 21032

*Annual grant review session