

**Nevada Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)
Differential Response Steering Committee Meeting
4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV, 3rd Floor Video Conference Room
November 2, 2016**

FINAL Minutes

Videoconference Locations

4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV
6171 W Charleston Bldg. 8, Conference Room B, Las Vegas
1010 Ruby Vista Drive #101, Elko

Attendees

Carson

Sarah Bear, Children's Cabinet
John Bradtke, DCFS
Joyce Buckingham, Ron Wood Center
John Bryant, Washoe County Social Services
Wylie Evanson, Washoe County School District
Marko Markovic, DCFS
Kristin Monibi, Washoe County
Marla Morris, DCFS
Mike Moulain, Washoe County School District
Bruce Cole, DCFS, recorder

Las Vegas

Kristine Aviles, Hope Link
Debbie Croshaw, Clark County
Karen Geiger, Hope Link
Hayley Jarolimek, DCFS
Jessica McGee, East Valley Family Services
Alma Spears, Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada
Laura Steeps, Olive Crest

Elko

Brandy Holbrook, DCFS
Jenny Russell, Elko FRC
Holly Zumwalt, Elko FRC

Phone

Judy Andreson, Elko FRC
Anna Coons, Lyon County
Edrie LaVoie, Lyon County

I. Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions

Marla Morris called the meeting to order at 9:04 and the roll was called.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. For Possible Action: Approval of August 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Kristin moved approval of the minutes. Alma seconded. Minutes approved.

IV. For Possible Action: Safety Training for Differential Response Staff and Supervisors

There are two-day trainings scheduled on November 8-9 (Carson, hosted by Joyce at Ron Wood) and November 29-30 (Reno, hosted by Patrick White at Children's Cabinet). One training has already been conducted in Las Vegas on October 25-26, hosted by Alma. Alma's and Jessica's teams took part. The next dates for training in Las Vegas are December 14-15, also hosted by Alma (Boys and Girls Club of Southern NV).

Alma said the training was very good, similar to previous SIPS training but far more focused on DR, and not safety planning (which they don't do). Jessica liked the inter-active format, especially the conversations about actual cases. Both stressed how useful it was to learn the terminology used by CPS.

Hayley said supervisors are welcome to attend the trainings again. She added that they are trying to keep the training at about 8-10 people, as that is more effective than larger classroom trainings. In the future, there might also be trainings specifically geared to supervisors; this has been successful when done at CPS.

John Bradtke talked about the genesis of this training. Cases are sent to DR where families have documented histories of failing to protect their children. The DR program's restrictions on whom they could serve have been lifted over time, so it made sense for DR personnel to have the kind of intensive training that CPS receives, and this includes re-training as well.

V. For Possible Action: Agency MOU status

John Bradtke said that he and Hayley spent the spring and summer months redrafting MOUs, based on the most recent MOU, from 2012, with Clark County. These were sent to the agencies for feedback. They were reviewed by the Deputy Attorney-General, endorsed by DCFS executive management, and then sent out to the rural DR agencies, which have endorsed them. Both Washoe and Clark are reviewing theirs. The hope is to have the process wrapped up by the end of the year.

Debbie said that the civil division of the Clark County DA's office has e-mailed her and Hayley promising to have this completed by the end of the week. Mike said that the MOU has gone through Legal at WCSD, and been moved on further review

VI. For Possible Action: Monthly Reports/Data Collection Requirements

Marko thanked everyone for providing data. Reviewing the quarterly data, things seemed fairly consistent, with the exceptions that in Clark there were lower numbers in referrals going to DR agencies and higher numbers of returns to CPS.

Edrie asked about Churchill County's numbers: are those included with Lyon County's human services numbers? Marko said that if those are provided to him, they are included. Edrie said she would pursue the matter further with Marko after the meeting.

John Bradtke asked Marko about IMS queries about previous fiscal years as part of project for automated stats. Marko said that the past two fiscal years are being examined – each case, referrals to DR agencies, do they return to DR or go to CPS, etc. John said they are particularly focused on whether or not families had prior CPS involvement, and short and long term outcomes. He expressed doubt that automated stats would be up and running by end of the year, given the massive amount of data that has to be dealt with.

Kristin said that the numbers did seem low, but thought that reflected summer conditions. Marko agreed.

VII. For Possible Action: CAPTA Requirements for Notification of Allegations

When an individual receives an allegation, he or she is to be informed of the allegation during initial contact. Because DR reports are screened-in reports, the Federal Government says DR agencies should be doing this. Hayley said this is not consistently noted in case notes. She wondered if a small work group should be established. John has offered to contact former colleagues in Wisconsin to see what kind of policy they have for this.

Hayley stressed that the reporting party should not be identified, along with maintaining other confidentiality issues. Kristin Monibi noted that involvement of Law Enforcement does not constitute notification. John Bryant asked if there is a delay in notification as part of investigation, is it sufficient to note that in report? Hayley said it is, that delay in notification would be the exception, not the rule.

There was discussion related to irregularities in home situations: parent in and out home, boyfriend who may not live there, educational neglect cases where kids bounce between residences, and so forth.

Hayley asked again if a work group should be set up; eventually this will have to go into Policy. John said he expects to hear back from Wisconsin in the next week or two – he expects the situation to be much the same as it is in Nevada.

Joyce asked about situation where, say, a boyfriend is no longer in the lives of the family, is consent needed to contact the boyfriend-alleged perpetrator? Hayley did not think so. Joyce said this contradicts with the understanding of DR agencies about need for consent to speak with people outside the family. Marla said that if names crop up in the investigation, according to CAPTA policy, alleged perpetrator still must be contacted; if there is a question, DR should ask CPS how to proceed. John said at the least this shows need for adding to DR policy on this subject.

VIII. For Possible Action: Training Needs Identification

John said things are on hold as we are receiving technical assistance from Capacity Building Center for States; we need to understand the program better including identification of training needs. Also, there will soon be statewide data gathered from the rural region for a case review, which should take to the end of the year.

Hayley agreed, and urged in the meantime that the Nevada Partnership for Training be used. Right now, Clark is doing on the job 'shadow' training, and this is something that might be used later on a state-wide basis.

IX. For Possible Action: Tentative 2017 Meeting Dates

Marla said that, in keeping with previous practice of meeting on first Wednesday of month, on a quarterly basis, Bruce had determined that these would fall on February 1, May 3, August 2, and November 1. Joyce moved that these dates be approved, Laura seconded, and the motion carried.

X. Discussion Item: Technical Assistance from Capacity Building Center for States

John said their primary contact from the Capacity Building Center is Ida Drury of the University of Colorado, a Differential Response expert. They have been meeting the last 3 months. He mentioned again the need, as advised by Ida Drury, to identify their needs, and also the statewide data that is being gathered for review. The next steps are that Ida will be in Carson to attend safety training, and interview DR agencies' leaders and staff. John and Hayley will contact the agencies about scheduling for that. The question was raised, would she "shadow" as well? John said they will find out about that. Also, CPS agencies may be included as well during her visit. Hayley noted that Ida has a specific work plan laid out, with specific activities assigned during her visit. John remarked that they are very lucky to have Ida. Marla summed up by saying that reason to have Ida is to foster the best practices in Differential Response, taking into account the different situations in different agencies.

XI. Discussion Item: Rural Case Review Update

John said that part of what Ida wanted was a focused case review. A sample of rural region cases in the north has been gathered. This will be a paper review, applying the Federal Tool, of up to 40 cases and is scheduled for the week of November 14. He expects the analysis to take until early next year, with individual briefings with each DR agency as a result. It is hoped the findings will be available before the next Quarterly Steering Committee.

XII. Discussion Item: Program Updates

Alma said she still has one worker, who will be back December 1. Things have been pretty slow; they anticipate an increase of cases. There is currently a load of 10 cases. Laura said Olive Crest currently has two workers, has been slow, too, but seen a small increase of cases lately. Jessica reported that East Central and Pahrump has taken advantage of slow times for training. They have hired a new worker at

Central, and they are advertising for the part-time post in Pahrump. Jessica will soon be going on maternity leave, and returning February 13. In her absence, their former director, Alicia Davidson, will be filling in. Kristin Aveles said they are down to 9 cases now, and have a new worker who has just started.

Debbie Croshaw said the reason for the low referrals to DR is that Clark DFS has seen lower numbers, because of incorrect referrals sent to Differential Response and the need for DR workers to be trained in safety identification. Debbie stated that she talked with the Clark County School District about what type of cases will be screened in for educational neglect resulting in a decline in the number of reports made. Additionally, Clark underwent a fidelity review and they have been sending medical neglect and lock-out cases to DR. This will no longer be happening as their consultant provided direction that these are impending danger and, therefore, should be assigned to CPS, not DR.

In Elko, Holly said that there are about 10 cases, there have been many travels to Wendover, White Rock, Spring Creek, so they have been very busy as a result. Edrie said they have four workers, with one currently on maternity leave, two in training, while the other has a load of 20 cases. She has five cases of her own. They have had to put a halt on referrals. Mike said that Washoe County School District has a caseload that fluctuates from 10-15, with two workers. They will be going to safety training on November 7th and 8th, and currently have a masters' level student who is interning with them, shadowing on DR cases. Joyce said their caseload ranges from 10 to 14. The workers have had CORE training. She appreciated that the workers go out as pairs, for both personal safety and training reasons. Sarah said they have three workers, each with a load of 14-17 cases. They will all be attending the training at the end of November. They have two employees currently shadowing who will work at a shelter which will be opening soon (though this is not for DR cases) and also have a masters' student shadowing on Mondays.

Hayley asked if confidentiality agreements are signed by those who are shadowing. Everyone said they are. Joyce added that she has six interns, who go through Central Registry an background checks and read the personnel manual of Ron Wood Center. Hayley thanked them, and then spoke about UNITY access. The log-ins are confidential, and interns doing case notes should type them and have the agency cut and paste them into UNITY. She thanked Patrick, Alma, and Joyce for hosting trainings.

Kristin Monibi said that at the next meeting there would be discussion of what happens in cases which "morph" from DR into the area of Impending Danger when there has not been a new abuse report or allegation. How should DR workers deal with this? Hayley said that she has directed that cases are to go back to CPS and they will handle it.

XIII. Public Comment

None.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25.