

SERVICE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF HIGH CONFLICT FAMILIES

Meeting #3, April 24, 2007

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Attendance:

Representative	Organization	Present	Absent
Sharon Aarons	FIU/Victim Advocacy Center		X
Sharon Abrams	Eleventh Judicial Circuit	X	
Vanja Abreu	American Therapeutic Corp	X	
Felicia Adler	The Journey Institute		X
Isabel Afanador	Dept. of Juvenile Justice	X	
Paula Bain	MDC Dept. of Human Services	X	
Robert Beneckson	Children's Home Society	X	
Michelle Benjamin	Victim Service Center		X
Emily Bennett	United Way	X	
Minna Betancourt	GAL/Victim Advocate		X
Janna Bolling -Heller	MDPD- Domestic Crimes Bureau	X	
Queen Brown	Human Service Coalition		X
Lina Castellanos	Little Havana Community Partnership		X
Teresa Descillo	Victim Service Center	X	
Angela Diaz-Villadet	Victim Response, Inc. (The Lodge)	X	
Delores Dunn	Center for Family and Child Enrichment		X
Joan Farr	Miami-Dade County/DHS/Family & Victim Services	X	
Juan Ferreiro	State Attorney's Office/MOVES	X	
Linda Fieldstone	Eleventh Judicial Circuit/Family Court Services	X	
Nadyne Floyd-Grubbs	Alliance for Human Services		X
Susan Gold	UM Medical Mailman Center for Child Development		X
Maria Harris	Eleventh Judicial Circuit/Domestic Violence Division	X	
Michael Herrera	MDPD-Domestic Crimes Bureau		X
Mary Horan	All Children Together		X
Cece Hurtwiz	YWCA of Greater Miami	X	
Regina Johnson	State Attorney's Office		X
Yocasta Juliao	Switchboard of Miami		X
Lynn Katz	UM Linda Ray Center		X
Sandra Lawrence	State Attorney's Office/Victim Witness Services	X	
Lauren Lazarus	Eleventh Judicial Circuit/UFC	X	
Fermin Leguen	Miami Dade Dept. of Health		X
Judith Lieber	Jewish Community Services		X
Sarah Lennet	Miami-Dade County/DHS	X	
Bonnie Levin	UM/Dept. of Neuropsychology		X

Representative	Organization	Present	Absent
Sheldon Levy	The Melissa Institute for Violence and Prevention Treatment	X	
Hebe Lubowitz	Jewish Community Services	X	
Conchita Lundblad	Institute for Children and Family Health, Inc.	X	
Sarah Magnes	The Village	X	
Emily Marquez	Humane Society Miami-Dade		X
David McGriff	Advocate Program, Inc.	X	
Dr. Robert Morgan	Heroes Program	X	
Lea Murray	All Children Together		X
Barbie Ongay	Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.		X
Bettina Toscano	Kids Hope United	X	
Vivian Perez Pollo	AOC Mediator		X
Cheryl Pestaina	Youth on the Move		X
Tom Pietrogallo	National Association of Social Workers		X
Susan Reyna	MUJER	X	
Jim Rudes	Barry University	X	
Jennie Rundell	Eleventh Judicial Circuit	X	
Lisette Sanabria	Eleventh Judicial Circuit/Family Division	X	
Christine Sainvil	CHARLEE Program		X
Wayne Salter	Early Learning Coalition		X
Stephanie Solovei	Miami Bridge Youth Services		X
Carrie Soubal	State Attorney's Office	X	
Wilma Steiner	Miami Dade County Public Schools		X
Michele Sweeting	DCF/SAMH		X
Paula Swope	Miami Dade County Public Schools	X	
Dawn Thompson	Kristi House		X
Vaughn Tooley	Domestic Violence Oversight Board		X
Heather Winters	Family Counseling Services		X
Oren Wunderman	Family Resource		X

MOU signatures received to date

Organization	MOU signed
CCDH- All Children Together	
American Therapeutic Corp.	X
Barry University	X
Center for Family & Child Enrichment	
Clerk of Courts	X
CHARLEE	X
Children's Home Society	X
DCF Substance Abuse Mental Health Office	
Early Learning Coalition	
Eleventh Judicial Circuit	X
Family Resource Center	
FIU/Victim Advocacy Center	
Healthy Families	
Heroes Program(UM)	X
Human Service Coalition	
Humane Society	

Organization	MOU signed
Institute for Children and Family Health, Inc.	X
Jewish Community Services	X
Kids Hope United	X
Kristi House	X
Miami Bridge	X
MDC Dept. of Human Services	
MDC Dept. of Juvenile Justice	X
MDC Dept. of Health	X
MDC Office of County Manager	
MDC Public Schools	
MDC/DHS/Family & Victim Services	
MDPD- Domestic Crimes Bureau	
MUJER	X
National Association of Social Workers(Miami Chapter)	
Our Kids, Inc.	
State Attorney's Office	
Switchboard of Miami	
The Journey Institute	
The Melissa Institute for Violence Prevention and Treatment	X
The Village	X
United Way Miami	X
University of Miami Linda Ray Center	X
University of Miami Medical School Mailman Center for Child Development	
Victim Response, Inc. (The Lodge)	
Victim Services Center	X
Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Miami	X

WELCOME/AGENDA REVIEW/CONSENSUS RULES

Project Director, Isabel Perez-Morina welcomed everyone back for the third meeting of the Service Partnership for Children of High Conflict Families. At the March meeting, she had announced that a contest was being held to design a logo for the Partnership. The children who are from the domestic violence shelters were the participants and created their designs. A winner has been picked. The winner and runners up were:

Winner:



By: 12 year old girl from SafeSpace North

Runners up:



2nd Place: By: 11 year old girl from Advocate for Victims SafeSpace North



3rd Place: By: 15 year old boy, Advocates For Victims, SafeSpace North



3rd Place: By: 17 year old girl , Advocates for Victims, SafeSpace North



Honorable Mention: By: 10 year old girl from Inn Transition South

The winning logo will appear on all Partnership materials along with the logo of the Children's Trust. All logo contest participants will receive a prize, along with the Grand Prize for the winner.

The next announcement concerned the Court goal statement decided upon by the members at the last meeting. Judge Judith Kreeger, while honoring the input and work that was put into gaining consensus at the last meeting on this goal, had asked for a change in the wording and would come to speak to the Partnership members directly later in the day as soon as her standing calendar was completed. In the future, Judge Kreeger will be given notice regarding decisions concerning the Courts so she can provide her input prior to decisions whenever possible.

Janice Fleischer, Partnership facilitator, reviewed the Agenda for the day (Exhibit A). She explained that at the last meeting, she had introduced a method of decision making for the group called "consensus". Members were provided a copy of the proposed consensus rules for the Partnership, (Exhibit B) . Using the proposed rules, the members adopted the rules by complete consensus:

5	4	3	2	1
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22	0	0	0	0
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Consensus achieved.

NOTEBOOK REVIEW

Members were provided with a large notebook in which to keep all their meeting materials. Partnership Associate Program Coordinator, Althea Birch, reviewed the contents of the Notebook. The notebooks contain tabs for information on the Partnership, the Governance Policy, Staff, and each meeting. She explained that the notebooks were for members to keep and bring to every meeting. At each meeting, they will be given a packet for that meeting that will be ready to be placed in the notebook. Ms. Birch encouraged members to bring their notebooks to each meeting since it contains certain documents that may be used over and over.

GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT & GOAL STATEMENTS

Ms. Perez-Morina introduced the final Governance document (**Exhibit C**). She explained that the document had been revised in response to comments received from members since the last meeting. The revised document had been sent to members for their review and comment a second time. The iteration presented at this meeting is the final version.

Member comments:

1. With regard to service delivery, in terms of prevention, do we need to address only kids that have been “exposed” to high conflict(HC); can we bring programs to schools, etc. that can be done?
 - a. The actual vision is to screen everyone for potential HC and domestic violence (DV) at schools for purpose of providing early intervention
 - b. Advocacy and prevention are goals
2. Service delivery is focused on children of HC families
3. Education component will also include pre-identification
4. Definition of children of HC families needs to be more specific or complete; a more detailed or encompassing definition of HC families and that will solve the problem
 - a. In this portion of the contract Phase are just those in Shelters, Court and by First Responders
5. Were we only going to work with kids in DV shelters; we are missing out on other venues where these kids are found
 - a. This Phase of the contract, due to time constraints, we are only dealing this time with shelters, courts and first responders
 - b. Ultimately we will expand and go further

Adoption of Governance Document:

5	4	3	2	1
16	5	1	0	0

Adopted by consensus

SMALL GROUPS: OBJECTIVES (includes Break)

Assistant Project Director, Belinda Paulicin, gave a brief review of system of care principles in order to remind Partners that any objectives developed must be consistent with our stated goals. The Partners were also reminded to create objectives addressing the need for data and evaluation, cultural competency and family engagement.

Ms. Fleischer reviewed the instructions for the small group exercise (**Exhibit D**). She also reminded members of the definitions of an Issue, a Goal and an Objective (**Exhibit E**).

Members broke into 3 (three) small groups to work on writing objectives to address their goals. They were given approximately 1.75 hours to accomplish this work.

SMALL GROUP WORK REVIEW

Members were asked to stop working on their small groups and to read the work of the other groups before the full group reconvened.

SMALL GROUP REPORTS AND PLENARY DISCUSSION

Each small group reported on the work they had done. As each group completed its report, the members who had not served on that small group commented on the work. The work of the small group is shown below, followed by the issues addressed by each Objective. Following the Objectives are member comments.

COURTS: REPORT LISETTE

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop an affordable and accessible legal network of attorneys experienced in family law to provide representation in high conflict family with children, (Discussion: have an active attorney recruitment and engagement effort for this network (incentives for attorneys to participate). (C1)
2. Develop a family survey to document service needs in high conflict family cases. (C1- C7)
3. Select or develop an assessment instrument to provide identification of family service needs. (C1-C7)
4. Develop a network of victim advocates for high conflict families, including court accompaniment (C1-C7)
5. Develop a central body of care coordinators which is community based to provide referrals and link families to needed services (C1-C7)
6. Ensure that the service partners and referral network providers are culturally sensitive and multilinguistic (C1-C7, C15)
7. Develop a centralized intake family access network for the Court to enter family data, provide assessment and triage cases, and provide case information. (C8-C14, G16-28, C15)
8. Develop a continuing standardized judicial education/training on child welfare, family violence, cultural sensitivity, and the impact of the judicial system on children, including reflective component. (C15-C20)
9. Conduct a summit to address role differentiation of system of care providers and consumers. (C17)
10. To promote the issue of high conflict and violence and abuse in families as a public health concern. (C18)
11. Develop outreach materials to provide attorney, consumers, and providers with orientation as to the Court process and options available (Movies, website, pamphlets,) (C20, C22-C23)
12. Develop parent leadership training to provide parent to parent advocacy and build community capacity to engage in systemic change. (C22-C23)
13. Educate the judiciary on system of care and its benefits to the Court and families and involve the administrative judge in ensuring uniform use of the system. (C16)
14. Traveling judges/ video-conferencing **not within scope**. (C21)

No additional comments

FIRST RESPONDERS: REPORT: JOAN

OBJECTIVES

1. First Responders will develop model protocol for identification and response by law enforcement, SAO-MOVES, DCF, Fire rescue (6 months) (FR4, FR6-11, G16)
2. Implement model protocol (18 months). (FR4, FR6-FR11, G16)
3. Identify and implement evidence based multi-disciplinary training for First Responders. (FR15, FR18, FR20, FR20, FR22)
4. Create a database to identify children and families exposed to Domestic Violence through First Responders. (G54, G57)
5. Review existing data from First Responders (G54-G57)
6. Implement best practice model for referral process. (G54-G 58)

No additional comments

SHELTERS: REPORT: MELISSA

OBJECTIVES

1. 100% of families (residential and outreach) will receive legal assessment (universal) within 72 hours of admission to shelter for domestic violence victims and their children. (S4, S5, S14, G1, G7, G12)
2. Families will be assigned an attorney and/or family advocate based on the results of the assessment. (S3, S5, S6, S7, G6)
3. 100% of families (residential and outreach) will receive a medical history and physical within 72 hours of admission to the shelter. (S7, G7)
4. 100% of families (residential and outreach) will be provided information and referral to mental health and substance abuse services. (S14, S6, S9, G14)
5. 100% of families (residential and outreach) will receive an educational and bio-psycho social comprehensive assessment within 2 weeks of contact with the shelter. (S1, G12, G20, G21, G25, G28)
6. Based on the results of the comprehensive assessment, children and families will receive referrals, services and transportation for services. (S9, G23, G24, G26, G28)
7. Two trainings a year will be provided to professionals and other line staff of the community partners of the culture of the shelter. (S16, S15, S13, S12, S18, S19, G34, G35, G36, G38, G39, G40, G41, G42)
8. Two cross trainings a year between domestic violence and child welfare workers. (G34, S17, S18)
9. Develop resources to expand services of best practice models such as Homeless Trust, Sommerville and Inn Transition. (S11, S8, S19, G10, G16, G13)

Member comment after report:

1. One gap is assessing mental health issues in the shelters.

FINAL GOAL STATEMENTS

SHELTER: All children and families in contact with domestic violence shelters will have access to appropriate and comprehensive services.

FIRST RESPONDERS: First responders will use a coordinated response model, including universal screening, for children and their families exposed to domestic violence.

COURTS: The Court will identify children of HC families through early universal screening; refer them and their families to needed services and facilitate the appropriate tracking of the case for speedy resolution.

At this point in the meeting, Judge Judith Kreeger joined the meeting. She presented her reasons for her suggested change, primarily noting the importance of judicial oversight and monitoring in high conflict family cases.

Note: Judge Kreeger’s change is reflected below, however the underlined words were added by the members.

Judge Judith Kreeger: SUGGESTED CHANGE to Court Goal Statement: The Court will identify children of HC families through early universal screening; refer them and their families to services to address their needs and safety, and will monitor and coordinate their referrals to facilitate the progression of their case toward appropriate resolution.

Discussion:

1. Monitoring takes a lot of work; how do you envision it working in a courtroom for many families over a long period of time.
 - a. The Judge monitors if referrals are being complied with, and there will be an assistance in about a year through a new technology
 - b. The product that is being built here is for long range ultimately.
 - c. Psych evaluation should be done within 60 days as an example; this will be able to be put into the system to see if that is done.
 - d. Judges will be educated so they will know this monitoring is to happen
2. Our group discussed the difference in court ordered and non court ordered triage; this is now voluntary if not court ordered.
 - a. Once in court system, it is mandatory
 - b. So the real problem is the non court ordered
 - c. This does not present a problem to the suggested change in language
 - d. If it is voluntary and the family doesn’t follow through this could be tracked and then the court could get involved
3. What happens with a family that is referred and they DO follow through, does the court look at that family again?
 - a. Depends on the situation; yes, court will need to follow up for many reasons (status conference,etc.)
 - b. Status conference involves both parties and their lawyers
 - c. After a status conference, the court may decide on additional services that are needed
4. Concern that some members of families have a problem complying for a variety of reason, add “safety”
 - a. Judge Kreeger had no problem with added language
5. We are all talking about family court in full: injunctions, etc.

Ranking on new language of Court Goal Statement

5	4	3	2	1
19	4	0	0	0

Adopted by consensus

NEXT STEPS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members announcements:

1. Note: Get information about the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), what happened and what is going to follow.
2. First Responder group: get someone from DCF at these meetings and the police (need more than just Miami Dade) and Fire Rescue.
3. Trainings by Jewish Community Services at Jewish Federation call: 305-576-6550
4. Melissa Institute will be offering several conferences, contact Sheldon@melissainstitute.org for more information.
5. 2nd Annual Institute of Evidence Based & Best Practices on Offender Treatment, Restorative Justice & Victim Services, hosted the American Association of Community Justice Professionals and the Advocate Program, Inc. Please contact Brigitte Winkler, brigitte_w_actt@advocateprogram.com or visit the website www.advocateprogram.com.
6. State Attorney's Office for Victim Rights Week is having a conference starting today.
7. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Council meeting this Friday, April 27, 2007 9-11am at Junior League.
8. If any agency is currently providing services to parents and/or children of high conflict families, please provide referral information to Family Court Services (email LFieldstone@jud11.flcourts.org)
9. Concern that we are identifying how families come to us, assess and refer, but *where* we are going to refer is a gap
 - a. In "shelter" group they began to address this gap
 - b. Even so, this is still a gap
 - i. Service Partnership must identify who the service providers will be and build those capacities
 - ii. This happens in these meetings and in other aspects of this process
10. Service Partnership staff is participating in the training of DCF Protective Investigators (effects of violence on children); the training is being sponsored by the County and facilitated by Dr. Lynn Katz. Service Partnership staff is using time and access to PI's to inform them of the planning of the first responders protocol and obtain feedback from PI's that will feed into the objectives of the First Responders Group.

EVALUATIONS

Members were asked to complete their evaluations prior to departing. Everyone was thanked.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

COMMENT CARDS RECEIVED

*"Need to determine how each piece of the system is going to communicate and collaborate".
-Anonymous*
