

Maryland Department of Human Resources
Advisory Council for Alternative Responses

Meeting, September 10, 2013
Minutes

Please note that the September 10, 2013 meeting was held via teleconference.

Council Member Attendees: Dick Paulman, Claudia Remington, Melissa Rock, Joan Little, Wendy Lane, Vanita Taylor, Pam Brown, Tracy Watkins-Tribbitt, John McGinnis, Al Zachik, Sabrina McAllister

SSA Representatives: Shanda Crowder, Carnitra White, Audrey McLendon

Other attendees: Christa Linton, Maria Tillman, Sandra Barnes, Megan Lucy

Welcome and Introductions

Carnitra White welcomed everyone to the meeting. In Carol Spigner's absence, Carnitra White reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Minutes

The August minutes were approved with no changes.

Workgroup updates

Practice /Community Partners Workgroup

In David Thompson and Steve Berry's absence, Carnitra White reported on the Practice/Community Partners Workgroup's activities.

Phase I:

Phase I was launched in July. Approximately 32% of the cases were referred to Alternative Response. 17% of the 32% were low level abuse cases; the remaining AR cases were neglect.

The caseworkers report positive benefits with the implementation of AR. The second post launch co-chairs meeting will be held in October. Casey Family Programs will assist with developing a "learning lab" for caseworkers.

Phase II:

The Co-chairs meeting was held August 30, 2013. Specialized training is planned for September and October and Screening Supervisors training will be held in October. Phase II begins implementation November 1, 2013. Phase II's co-chairs and staff have attended some of the Phase I meetings, which has helped Phase II build momentum towards implementation.

Phase III:

The Co-Chair meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2013. Phase III is on schedule.

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Phase IV:

The AR Kick-Off is planned for:

- October 23 (Lower shore), morning meeting
- October 24 (Upper shore), afternoon meeting

Additional

Learning Labs will also be developed for Community Partners.

Evaluation Workgroup

Co-lead Melissa Rock reported that the Memorandum of Understanding is under way with IAR. Data was sent to IAR to compile and evaluate. IAR sent letters to local departments of social services to outline the process for the evaluation.

IAR will contact Phase I jurisdictions to schedule site visits and to review caseworker surveys.

Surveys for families involved in AR cases will not be issued until the local departments' surveys are completed. Family surveys cannot be sent until after the investigation is completed, generally 60 days.

Policy Workgroup

Co-lead Dick Paulman reported that minor tweaks were made in MD CHESSIE for AR. Staff in Allegany Co. report that MD CHESSIE is working well and the percentage of cases referred is going up.

Communications

Brochures were distributed to Phase I jurisdictions.

Additional

A Resource Library is being developed for staff. 30 and 60 second interviews with staff implementing AR will be posted on the intranet. The interviews should answer questions that staff may post about AR.

Rene King, of the American Humane Society will join DHR as the AR Director October 16, 2013. Ms. King oversaw the implementation of AR in Ohio, New York and Michigan.

Wrap up / Next Steps

- Carnitra White will send a July data report to the Council members
- The October meeting is canceled; the next meeting will be held November 12, 2013 at 311 W. Saratoga St., Room 1044, Baltimore, MD from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.