

**Child Protective Services Subcommittee Meeting
VA State Board of Social Services
Central Regional Office
1604 Santa Rosa Road
Richmond, VA 23229**

June 16, 2011

Attending: Tom Casteel, Paul McWhinney, B J Zarris, Joann Wilson-Harfst, Jack Ledden, Trudy Brisendine, Betty Wade Coyle, Jim Pope, Margaret Luca, Willie Greene, Janine Sewell, Margaret Schultze, and Bob Spadaccini.

Call to Order

Chairman Bob Spadaccini called the meeting to order.

Welcome and Announcements

Attendees were thanked for attending. Terri Kiser Williams is sick and unable to attend.

Purpose of Meeting

To gain insight into CPS fatalities that were previously known to the system, and see if the Board can assist the department through regulation, training, etc.

Presentation

Betty Wade-Coyle spoke to the subcommittee about her work with the Eastern Region Child Fatality Review Team. A handout was provided and is attached to the official minutes housed in the home office.

The Chair inquired why Ms. Coyle-Wade felt her team has outlasted others in regional areas. Ms. Wade-Coyle thinks it's because her team has doctor and hospital participation and includes representatives from the Prevent Child Abuse Network, police, fire, child advocacy center, children's hospital, and medical examiner. This broad participation is also key to success.

Members of the committee felt there appears to be genuine value in reengaging these teams across Virginia.

Committee felt it would be beneficial to direct the SBSS to write a letter to large area hospitals and ask if they have a doctor or nurse practitioner on-board that has a genuine interest in this area and could participate in a review team.

Ms. Wade-Coyle advised she is sponsoring training in investigation of child fatalities on November 29, 2011 if anyone is interested in attending. She will forward this information to the Board clerk. Ms. Wade-Coyle is also willing to work with other teams as they are developed.

Ms. Zarris will develop a proposal on how regional teams can be enacted; invite Jennie Powell ME to attend the next committee meeting; and have some discussion around how to assess whether or not mandated reporters have the resources they need.

Ms. Zarris and Mr. McWhinney provided a handout to members that covered two options for fatality review. Option 2 requests assistance from the National Resource Center at no cost to the state. They feel this is the best option, as QSR staff are busy working on the Review Plan which is part of the PIP for the next year.

Ms. Harfst voiced VLSSE concern over bringing outside people in to do the review—their consensus is to use the QSR teams. The subcommittee wants to ensure all fatality cases are reviewed, whether known to the system or not.

Mr. Casteel advised that Virginia mirrors national data; females are more neglected; and males are more frequently abused. The group should review a number of cases rather than a specific case. He feels the policy around domestic violence could be beefed-up.

It was reported that domestic violence and substance abuse are key factors in these fatalities.

Deputy Commissioner Schultze sits on the Domestic Violence Team. Anyone wishing to attend a meeting should contact her at 804.726.7011.

CPS Training

Discussed the need for annual refresher training for CPS workers and on-call workers, and face-to-face versus computer-based training. The committee will recommend annual refresher training for all CPS staff to address safety and risk assessment at a minimum. Committee felt that on-call workers should have the full training course and the annual refreshers, and this also will be a recommendation to the SBSS since it requires a chance in CPS guidance.

Ms. Zarris reported that SDM is currently rolling out statewide and annual refreshers will be done with modifications to this curriculum. Supervisors will be trained first and then the workers—this is classroom training done in each of the regional offices.

Next Steps

Review draft charter in handout—review and discuss at next meeting.

Review child fatality reports for trends and discuss

Look at the mandated reporting process

Appeals-ongoing training is being addressed. Complaints should be addressed to Ms. Schultze.

Recommendations include implementing regional fatality review teams and increase on-call training to mirror CPS worker training and develop one-day refresher to be delivered annually..

Future Meeting Date

August 18 1 PM

Adjourn

3:20 p.m.

