

Balance the Scales for Kids



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CENTER FOR PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE

Making the Multidisciplinary Team Approach Work

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It can happen anywhere



MDT APPROACH



- An opportunity for professionals to collaborate and conduct joint interviews, which minimize the number of times the details of a case needs to be retold by a child.

Multidisciplinary Teams

- An effective Multi-disciplinary Team is dependent on a shared understanding of its goals and mission but also on shared knowledge of the general practices and procedures the team will follow in its efforts to investigate and prosecute child abuse cases as well as provide vital intervention services to child abuse victims and their families.

Multidisciplinary Teams

Benefits

- The use of a skilled forensic interviewer.
- Elimination of duplicative efforts.
- Comprehensive information sharing.
- Promote proper and expedient collection of evidence.
- To reduces secondary trauma to the victim and family, associated with the investigative process

Services for Professionals Through MDT/CAC

- Coordination of team members for joint interviews and multidisciplinary team review meetings.
- Specially designed interview rooms with one way mirrors.
- Trained Forensic Interviewers.
- Expertise in the area of forensic interviewing, child sexual abuse and child victimization on the Internet.

Multidisciplinary Teams

- Historically, child abuse cases have been investigated by law enforcement and child protective service workers and often with each professional conducting separate investigations. Today, many jurisdictions have the availability of utilizing a multidisciplinary team to investigate these cases in a comprehensive manner. There are many benefits to a team approach.

Multidisciplinary Teams

- The use of a skilled forensic interviewer.
- Eliminate duplication of efforts.
- Comprehensive information sharing.
- Promote proper and expedient collection of evidence.
- To reduce secondary trauma to the victim, associated with the investigative process.

Members of the Team

The multidisciplinary team should be composed of professionals that are a part of the investigation and responsible for the child's safety.

Members of the Team

- Law enforcement
- Child Protective Service Worker
- Forensic Interviewer
- Prosecutor
- Guardian ad Litem/Child Court Advocate
- Foster Care
- State Licensing Professionals
- Friend of the Court Counselor
- School
- Mental Health Professionals
- Medical Professionals

THE KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

- Confidentiality
- Self-analysis
- Conflict resolution



THE MDT “PEER REVIEW”

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- How



EVALUATE TEAM PERFORMANCE

- “If it isn’t broken, don’t fix it”.
- Greater volume of cases.
- Need for more communication.
- Has quality of the cases changed.
- New members.
- Need for review is constant.



KEEPING THE TEAM GOING

- 1. Dealing with conflict
- 2. Promoting team work
- 3. Preventing burnout
- 4. Peer review
- 5. Funding

MDTs Under Attack

- Economic woes impacting states, counties, police departments, prosecutors, non-government agencies
- Staff reductions
- Staff redeployments



Cases are not going away

- In 2007, it was estimated that child abuse and neglect cost the United States approximately \$103,800,000,000.00.
 - Prosecution
 - Investigation
 - Incarceration
 - Child welfare

Wang CT, Holton J, Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States, Prevent Child Abuse America, Economic Impact Study, at 2 (September 2007)

Cases are not going away

- May cities have seen a dramatic increase in the number of child abuse case since this recession began
 - Phoenix
 - Boston
 - Seattle
 - Las Vegas
 - Chicago
 - Beaufort, South Carolina

How to Protect and Strengthen Your MDT

- Fund raising
- Grants
- Forfeiture



Cost Benefit of Using a MDT/CAC

- Average cost of a non-CAC/MDT investigation: \$3,949
- Average cost of a CAC/MDT investigation is \$2,902
- 36% lower cost for investigation
- CAC/MDT communities have a higher return of investment in community services

CACs in Delaware

- A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children
1600 Rockland Road
Wilmington, DE 1980
Phone: 302-651-4566
- Sue Poley: Forensic Interviewer/
Center Coordinator



CACs in Delaware

- 611 S. DuPont Highway
Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901
Phone: 302-741-2123
- Diane Klecan: Forensic
Interviewer/Center
Coordinator



CACs in Delaware

- Children and Families First Building
410 S. Bedford Street
Georgetown, DE 19947
Phone: 302-854-0323
- Ralph "Buster" Richardson:
Forensic Interviewer/Center
Coordinator



CACs in Delaware



Forfeiture

- Delaware has the existing legislative framework and case law to use forfeiture to support the specialized investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases

Forfeiture

- If the paper, articles or things were allegedly used in the commission of a crime, they shall be returned to the person from whom seized if such person is no thereafter duly convicted of the alleged crime; but if such person is duly convicted of the alleged crime, the papers, articles and things shall be disposed of as the court directs

11 Del. C. § 2311a(3)

Forfeiture

- Cases
 - *In Re 1976 Rolls Royce*, Vin #DRE25612, 2001 Del. Super. LEXIS 307 (2001)
 - *Delaware v. Rossitto*, 331 A.2d 385 (1974)
 - *Crawford v Delaware*, 859 A.2d. 624 (2004)
 - *Delaware v. Caulfield, Jr.*, 2001 Del. Super. LEXIS 63

Forfeiture

- Preponderance of the Evidence
- One year statute of limitations; from the date of sentencing
- Criminal conviction required pursuant to common law
- Defendant entitled to jury trial; same jury that heard criminal conviction

Forfeiture

- Cars
- Computers
- Houses
- Cash
- Weapons
- Digital
Camera Television/
electronics
- Cell phones
- Blackberrys/smart
devices
- IPODS/IPHONES
- Items used to groom
- Businesses
- Digital Video Recorder

Thank You

- “[C]hildren present us with a uniquely compelling motivation for mobilization. Our collective failure to protect children must be transformed into an opportunity to confront the problems that cause their suffering.”
Graça Machel



Acknowledgements

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