
State of Delaware



Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC)

CPAC'S MISSION:

To monitor Delaware's child protection system to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of Delaware's abused, neglected, and dependent children.

**FISCAL YEAR 2017
CPAC ANNUAL REPORT**
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017



The Honorable John Carney, Governor

State of Delaware



Ginger L. Ward, Chair

Child Protection Accountability Commission

State of Delaware

Child Protection Accountability Commission

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Our Membership - FY17

<p>Secretary of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families 16 Del. C. §931(a)(1) The Honorable Carla Benson-Green, Cabinet Secretary The Honorable Josette Manning, Cabinet Secretary</p>	<p>Director of the Division of Family Services 16 Del. C. §931(a)(2) Shirley Roberts, Director Carla Benson-Green, Director</p>
<p>Two Representatives from the Attorney General's Office 16 Del. C. §931(a)(3) LaKresha Roberts, Esquire, Deputy Attorney General, Director, Family Division Abigail Layton, Deputy Attorney General, Director, Family Division James Kriner, Esquire, Deputy Attorney General, Director, Special Victims Unit</p>	<p>Two Members of the Family Court 16 Del. C. §931(a)(4) The Honorable Michael K. Newell, Chief Judge The Honorable Joelle Hitch, Judge</p>
<p>One Member of the House of Representatives 16 Del. C. §931(a)(5) The Honorable Melanie George Smith, State Representative</p>	<p>One Member of the Senate 16 Del. C. §931(a)(6) Senator Margaret Rose Henry</p>
<p>Chair of the Child Placement Review Board 16 Del. C. §931(a)(7) Neal Tash, Chair</p>	<p>Secretary of the Department of Education 16 Del. C. §931(a)(8) Susan Haberstroh, Director, Policy and External Affairs</p>
<p>Director of the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services 16 Del. C. §931(a)(9) Susan Cycyk, M.Ed., Director</p>	<p>Chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council 16 Del. C. §931(a)(10) Maureen Monagle, Executive Director</p>
<p>Superintendent of the Delaware State Police 16 Del. C. §931(a)(11) Colonel Nathaniel McQueen, Superintendent</p>	<p>Chair of the Child Death Review Commission 16 Del. C. §931(a)(12) Garrett Colmorgen, M.D., Chair</p>
<p>Investigation Coordinator 16 Del. C. §931(a)(13) Jennifer Donahue, Esquire</p>	<p>One youth or young adult who has experienced foster care in Delaware 16 Del. C. §931(a)(14) Nicole Magnusson</p>
<p>One Representative from the Public Defender's Office 16 Del. C. §931(a)(15) Kathryn Lunger, Esquire, Statewide Director, Family Court Practice Group</p>	<p>At-large Public Member - Medical Community 16 Del. C. §931(a)(16) Allan De Jong, M.D., Medical Director, Children at Risk, CARE Program, Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children</p>
<p>At-large Public Member - Interagency Committee on Adoption 16 Del. C. §931(a)(16) Mary Lou Edgar, Member of the Interagency Committee on Adoption</p>	<p>At-large Public Member - Law Enforcement 16 Del. C. §931(a)(16) Major Robert McLucas, New Castle County Police Department</p>
<p>At-large Public Member - Child Protection Community 16 Del. C. §931(a)(16) Ginger L. Ward, CPAC Chair</p>	<p>At-large Public Member - Child Protection Community 16 Del. C. §931(a)(16) Randall Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware</p>
<p>At-large Public Member - Child Protection Community 16 Del. C. §931(a)(16) Janice Mink, Citizen</p>	<p>At-large Public Member - Child Protection Community 16 Del. C. §931(a)(16) Ellen Levin, Citizen</p>

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Executive Summary

In Fiscal Year 2017, the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC or the Commission) met quarterly to identify system challenges and advocate for system reform, to evaluate and recommend changes in policy, and to make legislative recommendations. Between quarterly Commission meetings, CPAC's various committees and workgroups, supported by CPAC staff, were engaged in substantive work, at the direction of the Commission, in a variety of areas, including: the ongoing review of practices followed by various system partners in their response to reports of abuse and neglect; the development of training in best practices for front line professionals who respond to reports of abuse and neglect; the improvement of educational outcomes for children in foster care; various legislative initiatives, including work on school stability, best practices for a multidisciplinary response in child abuse cases and other statutes; permanency for adolescents; substance exposed infants; mandatory reporting of child abuse; data utilization, and others. CPAC also continued in its service as Delaware's Citizen Review Panel (CRP), Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force and as a grant recipient from Casey Family Programs. CPAC and the Child Death Review Commission (CDRC) continued their collaborative statutory affiliation through Fiscal Year 2017, meeting jointly on one occasion during the fiscal year.

CPAC accomplished the following in FY17:

- ◇ Trained over 14,500 educators, healthcare providers and members of the public on their statutory, child abuse mandatory reporting obligations through onsite and online training;
- ◇ Advocated to the Joint Finance Committee to request assistance for CPAC's 5 Funding Priorities: infants with prenatal substance exposure, Division of Family Services caseload standards, the Children's Advocacy Center, the Department of Justice Special Victims Unit, and Prevent Child Abuse Delaware's personal safety programs for children;
- ◇ Championed 5 CPAC bills during the last Legislative Session impacting educational outcomes, substance exposed infants and the multidisciplinary response to child abuse investigations;
- ◇ Developed the Delaware Multidisciplinary Team Guidelines for Child Abuse Medical Response, a statewide protocol for determining the need for medical evaluations in child abuse cases;
- ◇ Was selected for In-Depth Technical Assistance for Substance Exposed Infants (SEI-IDTA) from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare;
- ◇ Conducted retrospective reviews in 52 death and near death cases of abused and neglected children, which resulted in 157 strengths and 204 findings across six system areas;
- ◇ Utilizing the Compassionate Schools Model, trained over 2,000 educators on trauma and the impact on learning and behavior in various schools across the state to help schools become more trauma-responsive;
- ◇ Through support of Casey Family Programs, developed a Compassionate Schools Start-Up Guide for schools;
- ◇ Finalized revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse and Neglect and created a mobile application to help professionals easily access the MOU; and,
- ◇ Submitted the CJA Annual Report & Grant Application - Approved by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families on July 10, 2017.

CPAC's Fiscal Year 2017 achievements were realized due to the leadership of its Commissioners, Chair, Executive Director and staff, and to the commitment of the many agency representatives and members of the public who participate with the Commission.

Background & Purpose

Delaware's Child Protection Accountability Commission was established by an Act of the Delaware General Assembly in 1997 following the death of a 4-year-old boy named Bryan Martin. Bryan's death demonstrated the need for multidisciplinary collaboration and accountability in Delaware's child protection system. As a result, Delaware enacted the Child Abuse Prevention Act of 1997 (16 Del. C., Ch. 9), which made significant changes in the way in which Delaware investigates child abuse and neglect. The Child Abuse Prevention Act also established an interdisciplinary forum for dialogue and reform. That forum is CPAC, which endeavors to foster a community of cooperation, accountability and multidisciplinary collaboration. CPAC brings together key child welfare system leaders, who meet regularly with members of the public and others, to identify system shortcomings and the ongoing need for system reform.

The statutory duties of CPAC (16 Del. C. § 931(b)):

- 1) Examine and evaluate the policies, procedures, and effectiveness of the child protection system and make recommendations for changes therein, focusing specifically on the respective roles in the child protection system of the Division of Family Services, the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services, the Office of the Attorney General, the Family Court, the medical community, and law-enforcement agencies.
- (2) Recommend changes in the policies and procedures for investigating and overseeing the welfare of abused, neglected, and dependent children.
- (3) Advocate for legislation and make legislative recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.
- (4) Access, develop, and provide quality training to the Division of Family Services, Deputy Attorneys General, Family Court, law-enforcement officers, the medical community, educators, day-care providers, and others on child protection issues.
- (5) Review and make recommendations concerning the well-being of Delaware's abused, neglected, and dependent children including issues relating to foster care, adoption, mental health services, victim services, education, rehabilitation, substance abuse, and independent living.
- (6) Provide the following reports to the Governor:
 - a. An annual summary of the Commission's work and recommendations, including work of the Office of the Child Advocate, with copies thereof sent to the General Assembly.
 - b. A quarterly written report of the Commission's activities and findings, in the form of minutes, made available also to the General Assembly and the public.
- (7) Investigate and review deaths or near deaths of abused or neglected children.
- (8) Coordinate with the Child Death Review Commission to provide statistics and other necessary information to the Child Death Review Commission related to the Commission's investigation and review of deaths of abused or neglected children.
- (9) Meet annually with the Child Death Review Commission to jointly discuss the public recommendations generated from reviews conducted under § 932 of this title. This meeting shall be open to the public.
- (10) Adopt rules or regulations for the administration of its duties or this subchapter, as it deems necessary.

Federal Mandates & Grants

Delaware's Citizen Review Panel and Children's Justice Act Grant

CPAC is designated as Delaware's "citizen review panel" as required under the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5106a(c) and Delaware's "state task force" as required under the federal Children's Justice Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5106c(c).

In Fiscal Year 2005, CPAC was first designated by the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, in its Child and Family Services Plan – Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), to serve as Delaware's citizen review panel (CRP). Every year since, CPAC has been designated as the CRP. Federal law requires CPAC to evaluate the extent to which the State is effectively discharging its child protection responsibilities. CPAC does that in a variety of ways, including evaluating policies and procedures and reviewing child fatalities and near fatalities due to abuse or neglect. For more detail, please see **Page 21**.



Figure 1. Tania Culley, Esq. and Rosalie Morales at the May 2017 National Citizen Review Panel Conference

In Fiscal Year 2008, CPAC became the CJA State Task Force, and in Fiscal Year 2013, CPAC became the recipient of the CJA Grant with fiscal management and oversight by the Criminal Justice Council. The CJA provides grants to States to improve the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim. This also includes the handling of child fatality cases in which child abuse or neglect is suspected, along with some cases of children with disabilities and serious health problems who also are victims of abuse and neglect. To be eligible for CJA funds, states are required to establish and maintain a multidisciplinary task force (the State Task Force). The State Task Force is responsible for making policy and training recommendations to carry out the objectives of the grant, for conducting a comprehensive evaluation every three years of the state's child welfare system, and for making recommendations for improvement of those systems. For more detail, please see **Pages 5 and 20**.

Casey Family Program's Grant

In January 2016, the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA), on behalf of CPAC, received a Casey Family Programs grant to improve education outcomes for youth in foster care. This grant was transferred from the Family Court to continue efforts that were previously underway in the state. Soon after receiving the grant, CPAC developed a strategic plan that focused on two main goals. First, CPAC targeted strategies and trainings to address the social and emotional needs of "system involved youth." Second, CPAC focused efforts to improve interagency cooperation and coordination of educational services for all system involved youth. To that end, CPAC has moved at a rapid pace to make significant progress on initiatives and collaborate with systems partners to improve school stability and academic supports for system involved youth, and particularly for children experiencing foster care. For more detail, please see **Page 12**.

Delaware's Child Protection System

With CPAC's assistance, Delaware has continued to refine and improve its interdisciplinary approach to the protection of children. The approach, often referred to as the multidisciplinary team (MDT), relies on the collaborative intervention of various system partners. An essential participant in the MDT approach has been the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF or the Children's Department), which is comprised of three service divisions - the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (DPBHS), the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS), and the Division of Family Services (DFS). Collectively these divisions are responsible for the provision of services to children who have suffered abuse, neglect, abandonment, delinquency, mental illness, or substance abuse.

As the child welfare agency, DFS is responsible for receiving and investigating reports alleging child abuse, neglect, or dependency. In FY17, DFS received 21,305 reports of child abuse, neglect or dependency, which was a 3% increase over the prior fiscal year and the largest number of reports ever received in a fiscal year by DFS. DFS screened in 6,770 (32%) of those reports, and substantiated 1,049 (15%) of the screened in cases, where a perpetrator was identified. These cases are often initiated when a child victim of abuse or neglect is first identified by a professional who interacts routinely with children, including members of the education, medical or law enforcement communities.

Multidisciplinary collaboration is frequently necessary. For reports that may involve a crime against a child, DFS and law enforcement will investigate jointly. As appropriate, cases will be referred to the Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware (CAC), where the MDT often formally convenes to conduct a forensic interview, medical examination or mental health screening of the child victim. Death and near death cases are also referred to CPAC for a retrospective review. In an effort to ensure system wide coordination, all cases involving serious physical injury and death or allegations of sexual abuse are also monitored by Delaware's Investigation Coordinator - a function that CPAC advocated for in the wake of the tragic events brought to light in the *Bradley* case. As a vital member of the MDT, the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ) determines whether there is sufficient evidence to prosecute those responsible for inflicting harm on children. In July of 2013, at the recommendation of a joint committee of CPAC and CDRC, the DOJ established the Child Victims Unit. In 2016, that Unit was expanded to handle all felony level, criminal child abuse cases involving the death or serious physical injury of a child, as well as all sexual abuse cases. It was renamed the Special Victims Unit. The Unit combines expertise from both the Criminal and Family Divisions of the DOJ. The Family Division also provides legal representation to DSCYF in Family Court, and DOJ has designated several attorneys across its Divisions to pursue civil remedies against perpetrators of child abuse, including civil substantiations and licensure proceedings, thereby increasing the chances of protecting children where criminal remedies are either insufficient or unavailable.

Through frequent hearings, Family Court Judges were responsible for monitoring the children in the legal custody of DSCYF during Fiscal Year 2017. As of June 30, 2017, 774 children were in DSCYF custody, a 8% increase from the prior fiscal year. Approximately, 32% of these children were 4 years of age or younger; 17% were 5 to 8 years of age; 16% were ages 9 to 12; and 36% were 13 to 17 years of age. By county, 57% reside in New Castle County, 25% reside in Kent County, and 18% reside in Sussex County. Throughout the year, Family Court provided judicial oversight and OCA provided legal representation to 1,252 children. Nearly half of these children receiving legal representation were also appointed a Court Appointed Special Advocate to advocate for his or her best interest. A large number of these advocates are volunteers. Children in DSCYF custody also receive extensive care and support from the education, foster care, adoption and medical communities. Thus, Delaware relies on the collective resources of the Family Court, DOJ and OCA, as well as the Children's Department, the service providers, and the community, to provide safety, well-being and permanency for its most vulnerable children.

Committees

CPAC accomplished many of its FY17 goals through the work of its nine Committees, including a Joint Committee with the Child Death Review Commission.

The Abuse Intervention Committee

Charge: To provide measurable oversight of CPAC's Children's Justice Act (CJA) grant activities by planning and administering the Three-Year Assessment, monitoring the progress of recommendations identified in the Three-Year Assessment Report and recommending to CPAC future system priorities related to the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.

Membership: The Committee was led by Abigail Layton, Esquire, Director of the Family Division at the DOJ. The membership includes representatives from the following agencies: Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, CAC, CDRC, DOJ, DFS, Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, OCA and Office of the Investigation Coordinator.

During the fiscal year, the Abuse Intervention Committee provided oversight of the activities funded by CPAC through federal CJA grant funds. These activities included: the Training Coordinator position; Protecting Delaware's Children: A Multidisciplinary Conference and Advanced Training Course for Child Welfare Professionals; MDT scholarships; the online training system, surveys, training software and videography services; and the CJA Grantee Meeting/National Citizen Review Panel Conference.

The Commission received quarterly progress updates on the additional activities identified under the CJA grant's purview but carried out by CPAC through one of its other Committees. The activities for the 12-month grant period were as follows: facilitation of the mandatory reporting training program to various community and professional audiences; development of best practice guidelines for the investigation of child abuse cases involving sexual abuse, physical injury, serious physical injury, death, neglect and juvenile trafficking; creation of the *Delaware Multidisciplinary Team Guidelines for the Child Abuse Medical Response*; review of child abuse and neglect death and near death cases; response to substance-exposed infants and medically fragile children; and use of the CPAC Data Dashboards to inform system improvements in child welfare. The planning and execution of these activities is further delineated in this report under the associated CPAC Committee.

The progress on all of the aforementioned activities was included in the 2017 CJA Annual Progress Report and Grant Application, which was submitted to the Administration on Children, Youth and Families on May 31, 2017 and approved on July 10, 2017. The report is available at the following link: http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/cpac/cja_taskforce.aspx.

In addition to the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) provides oversight of CJA grant funds. Since October 1, 2012, the CJC, with assistance from the Administrative Office of the Courts, has supported OCA in the management of the grant. This requires that OCA, on behalf of CPAC, submit quarterly fiscal and progress reports to the CJC, as well as an annual grant application for the specific grant period. As a result of the collaboration that has developed between the federal and state agencies, and with the assistance of its Executive Director and staff, CPAC has improved the manner in which the CJA grant is administered in the State of Delaware.

Committees

The Child Abuse and Neglect Steering Committee

Charge: To supervise the confidential investigation and retrospective review of deaths and near deaths of abused or neglected children pursuant to 16 Del. C. §§ 932-935.

Membership: The Committee is led by Garrett Colmorgen, M.D., Chair of the Child Death Review Commission. The membership includes representatives from the following agencies: Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, CPAC, CDRC, CAC, Delaware State Police (DSP), DOJ, DSCYF, Family Court and OCA.

CPAC is vested with state statutory authority to investigate and review deaths or near deaths of abused or neglected children. This responsibility was transferred from CDRC to CPAC on September 10, 2015. Then, at its meeting of October 14, 2015, CPAC ratified the Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Steering Committee and CAN Panel. In addition, CPAC authorized the CAN Panel to conduct the confidential investigations and retrospective reviews on behalf of CPAC and charged the CAN Steering Committee with providing oversight of these duties. As such, all activities of the CAN Steering Committee and CAN Panel are statutorily confidential. However, the statute allows for the Commission to release system-wide findings or recommendations arising from an investigation and review to the Governor, General Assembly and public.

In FY17, the CAN Steering Committee met quarterly to review and approve the work of the CAN Panel. In particular, the Committee approved the retrospective reviews conducted by the CAN Panel between May 2016 and March 2017. During this period, the Panel reviewed 52 cases - 14 deaths and 38 near deaths. The result was 157 strengths and 204 findings across six system areas. At each quarterly Commission Meeting, CPAC Commissioners reviewed and approved the strengths and findings arising from the investigation and review of these 52 deaths and near deaths due to abuse or neglect. These reports were then submitted to the Governor, General Assembly and the public, and are available at the following link: http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/cpac/cpac_reports.aspx.

In addition to the review and release of findings related to these cases, CPAC is charged with making system-wide recommendations and meeting with CDRC annually to discuss the work of the CAN Panel. CPAC accomplishes this through a joint retreat. In September 2016, CPAC and CDRC convened its joint retreat to discuss the findings made since the last joint retreat in January 2015. These findings stem from the review of 41 child abuse and neglect death and near death cases for incidents that occurred between January 2015 and May 2016. The result was 303 findings across six system areas. In its new action plan for 2016-2017, CPAC and CDRC established 31 recommendations for system improvement. At its February 8, 2017 quarterly meeting, CPAC and its partner agencies shared an update on the status of its recommendations. The recommendations and the progress made by the Commission are also summarized below. For a copy of the action plan with progress updates, go to the following link: https://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/cpac/cpac_reports.aspx.

Legal

The Commission approved 7 recommendations that relate to the civil legal response in these cases, and the first three recommendations involve DFS contact with DOJ. In particular, quarterly meetings were scheduled for 2017 between DFS leadership and Deputies in the DOJ Family Division and Special Victims Unit. Progress is also being made towards conducting refresher training for DFS about available DOJ services, circumstances under which DFS should seek legal

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advice and resources available to compel cooperation of families, as well as the availability of DOJ Family Division Deputies for after hours and weekend calls. In addition, the DOJ Family Division and the Family Court were added to the Investigation Coordinator's contact list for notification of child abuse and neglect serious injury and death referrals. The CPAC Training Committee has created a workgroup to develop a protocol for removal of life support cases. The Family Court has approved a disclosure form under Rule 16(b)(3) for custody, visitation and guardianship matters to obtain additional information from litigants including DFS history, which is out for comment with the Bar. The final recommendation regarding the Family Court remaining cognizant of hearing timeframes in complex child abuse cases has been completed.

Medical Response to Child Abuse and Neglect

Three recommendations were made pertaining to the medical response in child abuse and neglect cases. The first recommendation involved revisions to the mandatory reporting training for medical providers, and the training was updated in January 2017 to address transportation of abused children from the primary care physician's office to the hospital, medical exams for other children in the home under the age of six when a sibling presents with signs of abuse, and forensic exams in cases of suspected physical abuse. Next, the Delaware Home Visiting Community Advisory Board and the Delaware Healthy Mother & Infant Consortium were asked to consider the recommendation about requiring birthing hospitals to make an evidenced based home visiting program referral for every at-risk newborn at discharge. Lastly, the Joint Committee on Substance Exposed Infants/Medically Fragile Children is charged with developing a template for the required Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) plan of safe care and identifying the responsible agencies for initiating and monitoring the plan of safe care. Progress is still being made on the last two recommendations.

Multidisciplinary Team Response

The Commission identified 6 recommendations related to the multidisciplinary team response in these cases. CPAC approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse and Neglect, which includes best practice protocols for investigating and prosecuting child abuse cases. A 45-minute overview of the finalized MOU was provided by Adrienne Owen, Delaware State Police Corporal and Chair of the Child Abuse and Neglect Best Practices Workgroup, to approximately 130 participants at Protecting Delaware's Children: A Multidisciplinary Conference and Advanced Training Course for Child Welfare Professionals on April 25, 2017. A county-based training program is also being planned and developed by the Workgroup. In addition, the DOJ case management system was piloted in several units and will soon be available agency-wide. While it was recommended that factual details of the CAN Panel Reviews be shared with law enforcement agencies, confidentiality prevents the CAN Panel from sharing details with non-Commissioner agencies. It will be recommended to the Delaware Police Chiefs' Council that all law enforcement agencies supply their departments with cameras to document child abuse. As for a prioritized list of CPAC funding requests, the Chair and Executive Director sent a letter to the Joint Finance Committee requesting funding for the DOJ Special Victims Unit, DFS Caseloads, and substance exposed infants. The CPAC Guidelines for Child Abuse Medical Response will be included in next year's CPAC funding request. Lastly, CPAC anticipates the DOJ child abuse package will be reviewed by the Legislative Committee next fiscal year. Other legislation related to

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the transportation of children to medical exams and modification of the list of crimes in 16 Del. C. 906(e)(3) was accomplished in the last legislative session via House Bill 181.

Risk Assessment / Caseloads

Five recommendations were put forth pertaining to DFS risk assessment and caseloads for professionals involved in the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse cases. DFS will reconsider adjusting caseloads based on complexity of the cases after the CPAC Caseloads/Workloads Committee concludes its work. In addition, DFS is exploring alternative options for training on the SDM Risk Assessment tool to reinforce the policy and ensure consistent application of the tool. At this time, DFS cannot implement differential response for other populations as recommended by CPAC without additional funds. Since DFS already has tiered risk assessments, no additional action is needed for this recommendation. HB181 was passed requiring DFS to accept for investigation any case of a child age 3 years or less whose death is sudden, unexpected and unexplained.



Safety / Use of History / Supervisory Oversight

The Commission identified 4 recommendations related to safety assessment, use of history and supervisory oversight by DFS, and the first two recommendations have already been accomplished. DFS added a chronological history event to the last case management system update, and the CAN Panel findings are shared with various DFS leadership teams and workgroups. In addition, the DFS non-relative/relative home safety assessment form has been modified and will be incorporated into the new case management system. The recommendation regarding training for DFS supervisors was also in the Child and Family Services Review Performance Improvement Plan. Training will be targeted for 2018.

Unresolved Risk

Seven recommendations were made regarding unresolved risk in child abuse and neglect cases. First, CPAC supported the Legislative Committee's recommendation to not pursue birth match in Delaware as prior termination of parental rights is not a strong predictor of subsequent child death in Delaware. Next, as recommended, the CPAC Caseload/Workloads Committee has reconvened and its first meeting occurred in February 2017. To better assist high risk families, DFS will continue to pursue its partnership with Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) and Casey Family Programs, and the Investigation Coordinator will be included at the state level meetings. In addition, DFS is pursuing grant monies with the Children's Research Center to provide ongoing booster training on safety assessments and safety planning to DFS staff. Since DFS will need additional resources and equipment to develop a mechanism that reminds DFS case workers to automatically follow up after referrals or services are requested, no action will be taken on this recommendation. The recommendation regarding the provision of home-based and family centered treatment services has been completed. Finally, DFS and Family Court have scheduled a meeting to establish a process between DFS and Family Court in cases where guardianship petitions are filed to ensure legal protections are in place for the child and the needs of the child are being addressed.

CPAC will continue to monitor these recommendations and will seek another progress update at its quarterly Commission Meeting on August 16, 2017.

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The Child Abuse Medical Response Committee

Charge: The Committee is charged with recommending statewide protocols and policies to CPAC pertaining to the medical response to suspected victims of sexual and physical child abuse, and at a minimum the recommendations shall include: 1.) A methodology for identifying, training, supporting and sustaining a statewide network of medical professionals who have received specialized training in the evaluation and treatment of child abuse, who meet national standards and who are engaged in on-going quality improvement activities to remain current in the field. 2.) Statewide, cross-discipline, child abuse medical evaluation screening and referral protocols and policies which: a.) provide for the timely assessment of all suspected child abuse victims to determine the need for a medical evaluation, b.) provide education, tools and guidelines to help multi-disciplinary team members understand why, where and how to refer children and their caregivers to specially trained medical professionals for timely and appropriate medical care.

Membership: The Committee is led by co-chairs Allan De Jong, M.D., Medical Director of the Children at Risk CARE Program at Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, and Randall E. Williams, Chief Executive Officer at the CAC. The membership includes representatives from the following agencies: CPAC, Delaware Police Chief's Council, DSP, DOJ, DSCYF, Family Court, New Castle County Police Department, OCA, Office of the Investigation Coordinator and Wilmington Police Department.

The Child Abuse Medical Response Committee was created by CPAC in July 2014 in response to concerns that the number of medical evaluations in non-acute child abuse cases had significantly dropped. At the same time, the Commission concluded that there was an exigent need to increase the number of child abuse medical experts in the state. For years, Dr. De Jong has served as the state's only child abuse medical expert. The Committee convened its first meeting in September 2015 and was charged with recommending both a methodology to increase the state's resources and a statewide protocol for determining the need for medical evaluations in child abuse cases.

The Committee continued meeting during FY17 and finalized the *Delaware Multidisciplinary Team Guidelines for Child Abuse Medical Response*. The Guidelines delineate the statewide network of medical providers, identify the Designated MDT Medical Services Providers (or child abuse medical experts), and set forth 4 medical response matrices for assisting MDT members with identifying and initiating the appropriate medical response in cases of child sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, physical abuse and neglect. The Committee submitted the Guidelines to CPAC for final approval in August 2016, and the approved guidelines were forwarded to the CAN Best Practices Workgroup for inclusion in the MOU for the Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse and Neglect. As a result, the Committee also disbanded. At the same time, the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children hired a second child abuse medical expert, Dr. Stephanie Deutsch. However, with only two child abuse medical experts in Delaware to effectuate the Guidelines, CPAC determined that not all components of the Guidelines could be implemented until a plan is in place to increase the state's resources. At the conclusion of FY17, CPAC had not been able to identify any state or federal funds to secure forensic medical examinations for non-acute child abuse cases; however, Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children has applied for a federal grant to secure the funding. Lastly, Dr. Allan De Jong provided a 30-minute workshop on the Guidelines to approximately 100 participants at the Protecting Delaware's Children Conference on April 26, 2017, and additional training will be provided as part of the comprehensive training on the MOU.

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The Data Utilization Committee

Charge: 1. To assess the voluminous data presented to CPAC on a quarterly basis, and determine: (a) if it is the right data and if it is relevant; (b) if there is other data needed to monitor the child protection system; and (c) if the data or analysis is outcome driven; 2. To develop dashboards for measuring Delaware’s child protection system which will be reported out to CPAC on a quarterly basis; and, 3. To use the dashboards to inform system improvement and CPAC initiatives.

Membership: The Committee is chaired by Rosalie Morales, Chief Policy Advisor. The membership includes representatives from the following agencies: CPAC, DFS, Family Court, OCA and Office of the Investigation Coordinator.

During FY17, the Data Utilization Committee met on a quarterly basis to prepare the data dashboards. The data is organized into eight dashboards: 1. Caseloads; 2. Processing of Child Abuse Cases; 3. Children in DSCYF Custody; 4. Permanency Outcomes; 5. Extended Jurisdiction; 6. Dual Status Youth; 7. Education Outcomes for Children in Foster Care; and 8. Re-Entry/Recurrence of Maltreatment. At each CPAC meeting, the Committee provided quarterly reports of the data and presented system-wide child welfare trends.

Dashboard 1 summarizes the average caseloads of DFS investigation and treatment workers, reflecting the fundamental way in which caseloads impact the quality of service. Historically, caseload standards have been a critical data point that CPAC has monitored since its inception in 1997. As reflected in Figures 2 and 3, the statutory caseload standard is 11 for investigation workers, and 18 for treatment workers:

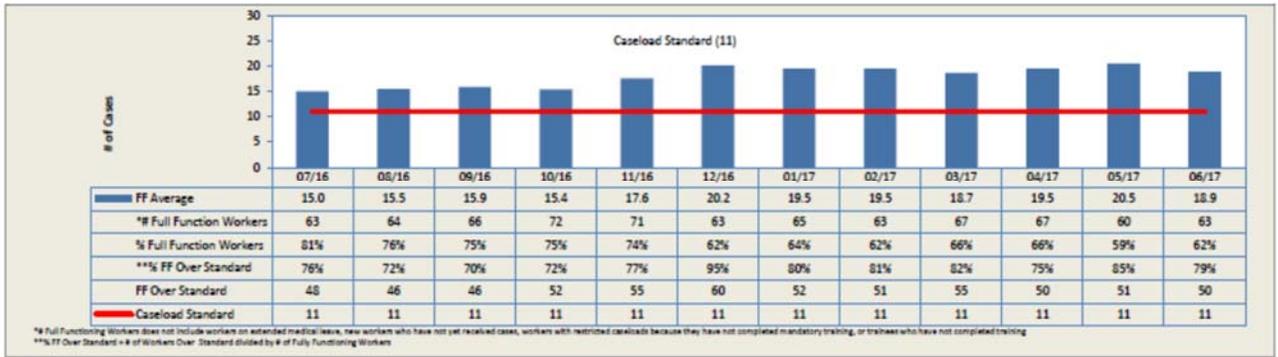


Figure 2. Statewide DFS Investigation Caseloads

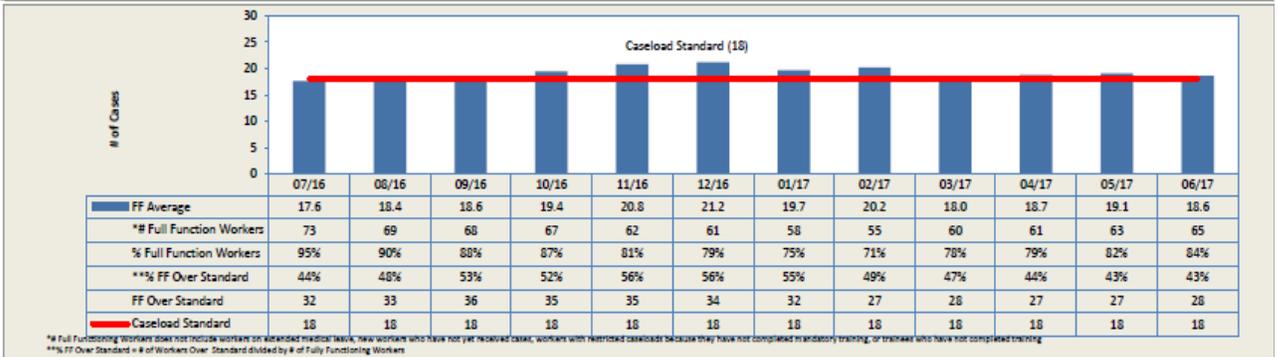


Figure 3 Statewide DFS Treatment Caseloads

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Dashboard 2 contains reports on data collected from various child welfare agencies, including the agency's involvement in intra-familial versus extra-familial reports of child abuse and neglect, and the outcome(s) in these cases. Dashboard 2 also presents the number of hotline reports received by the DFS Child Abuse and Neglect Report Line, together with (in addition to the number of reports received) the primary allegation type and case outcome. In addition, the dashboard features the number of cases opened and the civil and criminal case outcomes of cases closed by the Office of the Investigation Coordinator, which monitors and helps to coordinate all child death, near death, and sexual abuse cases

to ensure a comprehensive, multidisciplinary civil and criminal system response. Thus, as shown in Figure 4, over the period April-June 2017, the Investigation Coordinator initiated tracking on 277 extra-familial cases and 233 intra-familial cases. To ensure that other child welfare agencies have knowledge of these complex cases, the Investigation Coordinator's statistics are compared with data provided by the following agencies: the CAC (when a forensic interview or medical exam is needed); the Child Abuse and Neglect Panel, which is responsible for reviewing deaths and near deaths of children who are victims of abuse or neglect; and the DOJ Special Victims' Unit, which is responsible for prosecuting child death and near death cases and all sexual abuse cases.

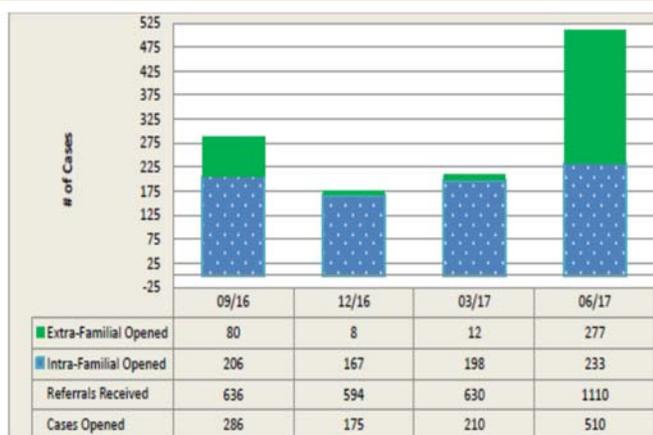


Figure 4. Investigation Coordinator Cases Opened During Quarter

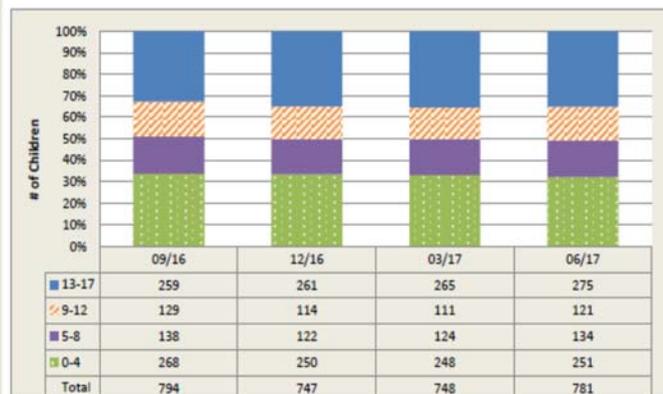


Figure 5. Ages of Children in DSCYF Custody at End of Quarter

Tracking court outcomes for all children in DSCYF custody is equally significant. Thus, Dashboard 3 includes profiles of children in DSCYF custody, the number of children represented by OCA, and the time it takes for a child to be represented. As shown in Figure 5, the number of children in foster care in Delaware has been increasing gradually. Further, as of the end of the fourth quarter of FY17, youth ages 13-17, represent most of the children in custody at 35%. The next highest percentage of children in custody is the 0-4 age range at 32%.

In August 2015, the Family Court authorized the use of federal Court Improvement Program (CIP) funding to hire a contractual employee to support the collection and assessment of data by CPAC. The Data Analyst is housed at the OCA, and supports the work of CPAC and CIP. Specifically, the Data Analyst is responsible for performing the following activities: staffing the Data Utilization Committee; planning and conducting varied statistical studies on relevant issues that impact child well-being outcomes; working with stakeholders to collect already existing data related to child welfare measures; analyzing, interpreting and identifying child welfare data trends; and ensuring that the data received and presented by CPAC is in a format that is useful in the development of informed, and evidence based, policy. To further this goal, the Data Analyst has been transitioning the dashboards to an online platform to create interactive dashboards, which will feature data over a longer period. This online format will be unveiled on the OCA website in the next fiscal year.

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The Education Committee

Charge: 1. To implement the MOU between the DSCYF and the Department of Education (DOE), its school districts, and its charter schools, which focuses on the movement of children in foster care in and out of schools and the sharing of information. In addition, a training curriculum around the MOU should be developed and available to all new persons as they come into the system; 2. To improve collaboration overall between the child welfare system and education, and ensure that it is available on an ongoing basis, including in a web-based format; and 3. To look at educational outcomes for children in foster care and explore ways to improve those outcomes.

Membership: The Committee is chaired by Susan Haberstroh, Director of School Support Services at DOE. Its membership includes representatives from the following agencies: Appoquinimink School District, Brandywine School District, CPAC, Children and Families First, DOE, DSCYF, DFS, DPBHS, Family Court, the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Children, OCA, the Parent Information Center of Delaware, the University of Delaware Positive Behavior Support Program and Woodbridge School District.

In FY17, the Education Committee met quarterly to accomplish the goals of its four workgroups: MOU, Collaboration, Data, and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The first workgroup under the Committee is responsible for revising and implementing the MOU between the DSCYF and the Department of Education. The MOU Workgroup began meeting again in January 2017 to make revisions to the existing MOU. The workgroup is in the final stages of drafting updated language and procedures to ensure mandatory reporting for suspected child abuse and neglect and school stability for youth in foster care, including recommendations related to ESSA. It is anticipated that the MOU will be approved during the next fiscal year.

Following the enactment of ESSA in December 2015, the Education Committee established a new workgroup to comply with the changes stemming from the federal legislation. The ESSA Workgroup began meeting in September 2016. The workgroup proposed legislation eliminating references to McKinney Vento, separating children in foster care from other homeless children and codifying the new federal law. This legislation passed in FY17 as SB87. The workgroup was also nominated as an advisory committee to the Department of Education to give input on Delaware's ESSA state plan. In this capacity, the workgroup recommended school stability for youth in foster care be extended beyond the current school building and even after youth exit foster care. Delaware's ESSA plan was the first plan in the country to be accepted by the US Department of Education.

At the same time, the Collaboration Workgroup continued to meet to propose revisions to state law, which currently only requires that full time teachers receive training in the detection and reporting of child abuse. The proposed legislation will require that school personnel receive the training. Subcontractors, part time teachers, substitutes and other individuals who work with children would fall under this requirement. The group also proposed legislation to appoint education decision makers for youth in foster care who do not have an involved parent to help make education decisions. This legislation passed in FY17 as SB86.

The final workgroup, which is charged with advocating for successful educational strategies for children in foster care and with making recommendations for system improvement, is the Data Workgroup. During the fiscal year, the workgroup reviewed the aggregate data for the 2015-2016 school year, making comparisons among children in DSCYF custody and their peers. Project parameters include: number of students enrolled, average daily attendance rates,

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number of special education students, a variety of disciplinary parameters, the numbers of students required to repeat the current grade, and several academic performance measures. These data points are captured in the CPAC dashboards under Education Outcomes for Children in Foster Care and presented to CPAC at its quarterly meetings. The dashboard features ten charts, which depict the aggregate data provided by DOE for the following school years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Among the more significant findings:

◇ Students in DSCYF custody received special education services at a higher rate than non-DSCYF students. However, for the 2016 school year, there was a decline in special education services for DSCYF students. As shown in Figure 6, 40% of students in DSCYF custody for all grades in 2016 received special education services as compared to 15% of non-DSCYF students.

◇ In the 2016 school year, the graduation rate decreased for both populations, with a greater rate of change in the graduation rate for students in DSCYF custody. This rate decreased by 8%, while the rate for non-DSCYF students only decreased by 2%. The graduation rate is still lower for students in DSCYF custody at 74% in comparison with the rate for non-DSCYF students (92%).

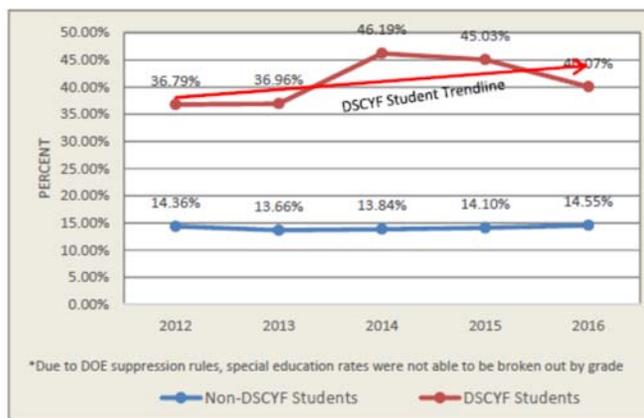


Figure 6. 5 Year Comparison of Special Education Rates, All Grades

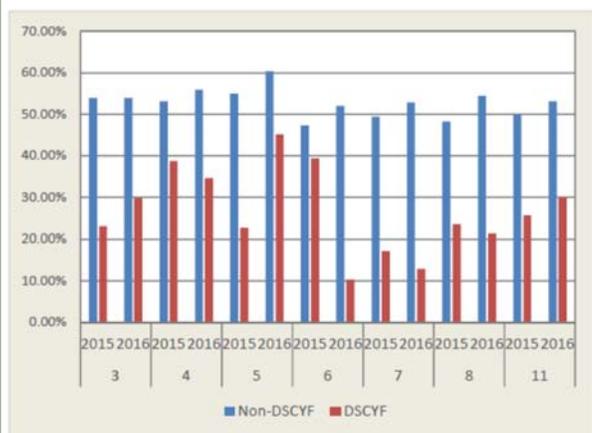


Figure 7. Two Year Comparison Smarter Balance English/Language Arts Proficiency By Grade

◇ Disparities were found across all grade levels in the proficiency testing for Math and English/Language Arts for the 2016 school year. However, for Math, third graders in DSCYF custody had the closest proficiency rates to their peers. 42% of DSCYF students were proficient in Math as compared to 54% of non-DSCYF students. Additionally, as shown in Figure 7, 45% of fifth grade students in DSCYF custody were proficient in English/Language Arts as compared to the proficiency rate for their peers (60%).

To further track educational outcomes, the Education Committee finalized the Comprehensive Student Report, which will be provided to the court during dependency/neglect proceedings. The report tracks grades, attendance, special education, discipline, drop out early warning system, and other relevant information. The comprehensive education report is now available to school foster care liaisons and DFS caseworkers. As a member of the Education Committee, Eliza Hirst, Esq. trained the Family Court Judges, OCA Child Attorneys, CASA Coordinators, and DFS caseworkers on the importance of monitoring educational issues for youth in foster care.

In January 2016, CPAC was fortunate to become the recipient of a Casey Family Programs grant to improve educational outcomes for youth in foster care, which transitioned from the Family Court and is now administered by OCA. CPAC

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approved a strategic plan in March 2016, which identifies two goals: to implement school programs and strategies that address the emotional and social needs of foster youth and create an optimal learning environment for at-risk youth, and to improve interagency cooperation and coordination of services to maximize student services and school stability for children in foster care. The Education Demonstration Project conducted its first statewide training in 2014 and expanded into a six school district collaborative in 2015. Between January and June 2016 when the grant transitioned to CPAC/OCA, the Education Demonstration Project trained over 200 educators on trauma and the impact on learning, and how the Compassionate Schools Model can improve connections between educators and students who have experienced trauma, foster care, or toxic stress. Through these trainings, educators learn how trauma impacts brain development, the importance of relationships with students, and strategies to foster safe learning environments. The Casey Education Demonstration Project also developed a Compassionate Schools Learning Collaborative, which is comprised of more than 10 schools and school districts with a focus on improving education outcomes and connections for at-risk students, including students experiencing foster care. The Learning Collaborative has also developed partnerships with the University of Delaware/Department of Education DE-Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) Project and Children and Families First to administer trainings and evidence-based strategies to help educators understand how to work with at-risk students. During the fiscal year, the Learning Collaborative met quarterly to share effective trauma-responsive practices to representatives from multiple schools across the state.



Figure 9. Education Consultant, Teri Lawler, at the National Youth At-Risk Conference presenting on behalf of the Casey Family Programs Grant

By June 2017, the Project trained over 2,000 educators on trauma and the impact on learning and behavior in various schools across the state to help schools become more trauma-responsive. This training has fostered a better understanding on how trauma changes brain development, how trauma manifests in behaviors, and ways that individuals can connect with and support youth who have experienced foster care, trauma, or system involvement. This training was provided to multiple schools and agencies, including Red Clay School District, Appoquinimink School District, Woodbridge School District, Brandywine School District, Colonial School District, Capital School District, early education programs, and multiple charter schools. Members of the Project have also presented at the Delaware State Education Association Annual Conference, the University of Delaware Graduate School of Education Students, the American Bar Association Children and the Law Bi-Annual Conference, and the First Annual Trauma Informed Schools Conference in St. Louis, MO.

As a result of its training on trauma to educators and Delaware school superintendents, the Project has seen a steep decline in out-of-school suspensions for youth in foster care between 2015 and 2016. This data demonstrates that educators understand the devastating impact that out-of-school suspensions can have on students in DSCYF custody and other systems involved youth. As shown in Figure 10, this new data is more in line with the number of suspensions for non-DSCYF students.

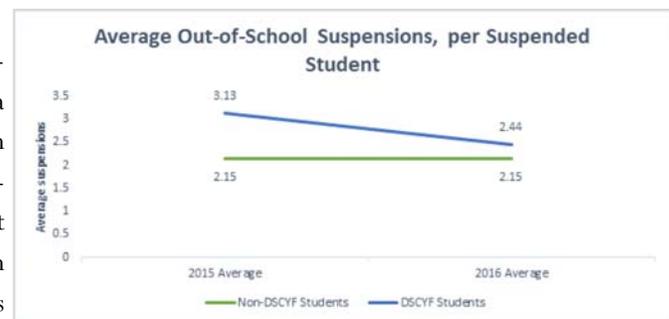


Figure 10. 2016 Average Out-of-School Suspensions Per Suspended Student, For All Grades

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The Legislative Committee

Charge: To review proposed legislation related to child protection and make recommendations to the full Commission for action.

Membership: The Committee is led by Tania Culley, Esquire, Child Advocate. The membership includes representatives from the following agencies: DOJ, DFS, DSCYF, Family Court, the Delaware House of Representatives and OCA.

In FY17, Senator Margaret Rose Henry and Representative Melanie George Smith, with assistance from their colleagues, introduced five CPAC bills – SB86, SB87, HB140, HB181 and HB182. Senate Bills 86 and 87 originated in the CPAC Education Committee. Senate Bill 86 established Family Court authority to appoint an Education Decision Maker for dependent and delinquent children and Senate Bill 87 updated the school stability law for children in DSCYF Custody to comply with new federal law. Both bills were awaiting the Governor's signature at the end of the fiscal year. House Bill 140, also known as Aiden's Law, originated in the CPAC/CDRC Committee on Substance Exposed Infants/Medically Fragile Children and codifies the State's duty to provide for infants with prenatal substance exposure. Due to fiscal constraints, the bill did not pass; however, CPAC is hopeful for its passage in 2018. House Bill 181 was proposed by the CAN Best Practices Workgroup of the CPAC Training Committee as a result of the new MOU for the Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse and Neglect approved by Delaware's Multidisciplinary Team. House Bill 181 codified best practices for a multidisciplinary response to investigations of child abuse and neglect. House Bill 182 tightened protections in the confidential reviews of child deaths and near deaths. Both bills were awaiting the Governor's signature at the end of the fiscal year.

The CPAC Legislative Committee met on several occasions to vet these bills as well as other legislation introduced that fell within its statutory purview. It also presented its recommendations to the Commission for consideration at a special meeting of the Commission in March of 2017 as well as at its regular meetings in February and May of 2017.

The Permanency for Adolescents Committee

Charge: To improve outcomes for adolescents in foster care by developing best practices, policies, procedures and statutes which create lasting connections for adolescents, that exit them in a timely fashion from foster care with appropriate caregivers, that reduce the number of children with a goal of Alternative Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA), that pursue legal strategies for keeping connections, and that have appropriate placements for youth that create stability and success while in foster care. This Committee is not to duplicate the work of others, but should instead complement or fill gaps which still exist in Delaware's child protection system.

Membership: The Committee is led by co-chairs, Shirley Roberts, Director of DFS, and Judge Peter B. Jones from Family Court. The membership includes representatives from the following agencies: CFF, CPRB, DOJ, DFS, DPBHS, Family Court, OCA, the Public Defenders Office and the Youth Advisory Council.

During the fiscal year, the Permanency for Adolescents Committee concluded its work and CPAC voted to dissolve the Committee in February 2017. A few activities that remained were reassigned to DFS and Family Court. For instance, Family Court committed to ongoing education and support of PL113-183, the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and

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Strengthening Families Act. Additionally, youth involvement in court and statistics regarding extended jurisdiction, APPLA, dual status youth and expungements will continue to be a priority for the Family Court. Similarly, DFS agreed to finalize the Youth Transition Guide and Sex Education and Pregnancy Prevention, as well as the Self Sufficiency Benchmarks.

The Joint Committee on Substance-Exposed Infants/Medically Fragile Children

Charge: To a) establish a definition of medically fragile child, inclusive of drug-exposed/addicted infants; b) draft a statute to mirror the definition as needed and consider adding language to the neglect statute; c) recommend universal drug screenings for infants in all birthing facilities in the state; d) review and revise the DFS Hospital High Risk Medical Discharge Protocol to include all drug-exposed and medically fragile children. It shall include: responding to drug-exposed infants and implementing the Plan of Safe Care per CAPTA; and, involving the MDT in ongoing communication and collaboration for medically fragile children; referring medically fragile children to evidence-based home visiting programs prior to discharge; and, reviewing and including the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Guidelines for Management developed by Delaware Healthy Mother & Infant Consortium's (DHMIC) Standards of Care Committee.

Membership: The Committee is led by co-chairs Allan De Jong, M.D., Medical Director of the Children at Risk CARE Program at Alfred I duPont Hospital for Children, and Jennifer Donahue, Esquire, Investigation Coordinator. The membership includes representatives from the following agencies: Bayhealth Medical Center, Beebe Healthcare, Brandywine Counseling & Community Services, CDRC, Child Development Watch, Children & Families First, Christiana Care Health Services, Connections, DHSS, DOJ, DFS, Division of Public Health, March of Dimes, Nanticoke Health Services and OCA.

The Joint Committee on Substance-Exposed Infants/Medically Fragile Children was created in FY15 in response to a number of recommendations that arose from the Joint CPAC/CDRC Retreat in January 2015. As a result, the charge of the Committee was to implement the recommendations from the CPAC/CDRC 2015 Action Plan, which included implementing universal drug screenings for infants in all birthing facilities in the state and revising the Hospital High Risk Medical Discharge Protocol. After CPAC/CDRC approved its 2016-2017 Action Plan, the Committee was further tasked with developing a template for the required Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) plan of safe care and identifying the responsible agencies for initiating and monitoring the plan of safe care.

In FY16, the Committee submitted an application for In-Depth Technical Assistance for Substance Exposed Infants (SEI-IDTA) through the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW). Six other states have taken advantage of this program through the NCSACW and have seen significant policy and practice changes across system. In November 2016, Delaware was awarded the SEI-IDTA and will receive assistance over the course of the next 18-24 months. Delaware was also one of 10 states that participated in the Policy Academy in February 2017. During the two-day Academy, representatives from Delaware worked with other states and national experts to develop Delaware's "State Action Plan" for SEIs and their families, and their



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families, and four goals were identified. Presently, the Committee is working on completing the Action Plan goals and recently supported an application for a Regional Partnership Grant to assist in the development of Plans of Safe Care for SEIs and their families.

The Training Committee

Charge: To ensure the training needs of the child protection system are being met through ongoing, comprehensive, multidisciplinary training opportunities on child abuse or neglect.

Membership: The Committee is chaired by Rosalie Morales, Chief Policy Advisor. The membership includes representatives from the following agencies: CAC, CDRC, DOJ, DVCC, Family Court, OCA, Office of the Investigation Coordinator and Prevent Child Abuse Delaware (PCAD).

CPAC's statewide training initiatives are monitored and evaluated by six workgroups under the Training Committee: Mandatory Reporting; ChildFirst/MDT; Joint Conference; Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Best Practices; Cross-Education; and De-Escalation of Life Support.

The first workgroup under the Training Committee is responsible for providing oversight of the existing mandatory reporting training programs for educators, medical professionals, general community and professional audiences, law enforcement and the DOJ. With the assistance of the Training Coordinator, the Workgroup maintains the number of professionals trained, evaluates and revises the programs, and develops curricula for other disciplines as needed. In terms of coordination, the DSCYF Center for Professional Development has been responsible for coordinating the mandatory reporting trainings for general/professional audiences and school personnel. Generally, mandatory reporting training programs do not require the use of CJA grant funds unless onsite training is requested by medical professionals. In such cases, a medical expert is paid a nominal fee to co-present the training with DSCYF or OCA staff. Since the statutory obligations to complete the training are unique for law enforcement and the DOJ, the training programs are directly provided by law enforcement agencies or DOJ. Police officers are obligated to complete the training as a requirement of initial employment per 11 Del. C. § 8404(a), and every Deputy Attorney General in the Criminal and Family Divisions is required to complete the training every three years per 29 Del. C. § 2511(a)(3).

Since July 2016, DSYCF and OCA staff have provided onsite training to 369 professionals using the mandatory reporting training for general audiences, titled *How to Identify and Report Child Abuse and Neglect in Delaware*. Additionally, 636 participants completed the online training and survey through OCA's online training system located at: <http://ocade.server.tracorp.com>.



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Per the requirement of 14 Del. C. § 4123, fulltime teachers must receive one hour of training every year in the detection and reporting of child abuse. Legislation was passed in FY18 to give school districts and charter schools flexibility in meeting non-academic training needs such as this one.

For this purpose, CPAC has partnered with DSCYF to develop the school training. During the fiscal year, DSCYF and OCA staff have provided the onsite school training, *How to Identify and Report Child Abuse and Neglect in Delaware: 2016-2017 School Training*, to 862 professionals. Additionally, approximately 7,960 teachers and other school staff completed the online training and survey. Each year, OCA staff partners with DOE to make the training available on DOE's Blackboard course management system. DOE is responsible for providing the workgroup with the number of professionals trained, while CPAC maintains and collects the evaluation results through Survey Monkey. Another 117 professionals, mostly from private schools, completed the training on OCA's online training system.

For initial employment and as part of the license renewal process, professionals covered under the Medical Practice Act and other healthcare providers are required to complete training on the recognition of child sexual abuse, physical abuse, exploitation, and domestic violence, as well as the reporting obligations under the Medical Practice Act and section 903 of Title 16. In January 2017, for the next round of license renewals for physicians, CPAC partnered with the Department of Professional Education at the Medical Society of Delaware (MSD) to revise the medical training, *Child Abuse Identification and Reporting Guidelines for Delaware Medical Providers*, and to obtain approval for CME credit. 4,644 medical professionals completed the online training and survey through OCA's online training system.

In addition to training professionals about identification and reporting of child abuse, CPAC has continued to focus on providing ongoing comprehensive training to those who investigate, prosecute or otherwise respond to reports of child sexual abuse, death and near death cases. The second workgroup under the Training Committee is responsible for planning and organizing the biennial conference. On April 25-26, 2017, CPAC partnered with multiple agencies to host *Protecting Delaware's Children: A Multidisciplinary Conference and Advanced Training Course for Child Welfare Professionals* at the Chase Center in Wilmington, DE. Approximately, 453 participants attended the two-day event, which was geared towards law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, attorneys, case workers, therapists, educators, community providers and medical professionals who regularly respond to allegations of child abuse and neglect in Delaware. It featured twenty workshops from national and local experts who addressed multidisciplinary collaboration and various aspects of child abuse, including trends in substance abuse, early childhood courts, engagement and seduction of children and adults by child molesters, and infant death investigations. A one-day Advanced Training Course was also offered to MDT members in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Sudden Death in the Young Grant. It was attended by 112 professionals with direct responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. Participants were given a brief introduction to the MOU for the Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse and Neglect. In addition, national experts taught participants how to conduct sudden unexpected infant death investigations, which included visually recreating an infant death scene using a doll; explaining the reenactment to the caregiver; demonstrating the infant's positions; photographing the reenactment; and debriefing the family. Several doll reenactment kits were distributed to law enforcement agencies and the Division of Forensic Science.

The ChildFirst/MDT Workgroup, which last facilitated training in October 2015, is planning its next course for FY18. Delaware hopes to partner with the Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center or CornerHouse to offer

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forensic interview training.

CAN Best Practices, the fourth workgroup under the Training Committee, is responsible for revising the MOU for the Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse and Neglect. Historically, this MOU has outlined the roles and responsibilities of DSCYF, CAC, DOJ, and Delaware Police Departments in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases. However, the MOU lacked best practice protocols for a multidisciplinary response to child abuse and neglect cases. In FY 17, the workgroup finalized its revisions to the MOU and established 6 best practice protocols for the following types of cases: Physical Injury to a Child; Serious Physical Injury to a Child; Child Death; Child Sexual Abuse; Child Neglect; and Juvenile Trafficking. The themes addressed in the MOU included cross reporting to the MDT, joint responses, forensic interviews, crime scene investigations, medical exams and transportation of victims. To support communication and collaboration between all involved parties, the group added the following signatory agencies: Division of Forensic Science, Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, and the Office of the Investigation Coordinator. In February 2017, the MOU was approved by CPAC, and disseminated to the signatory agencies for signature. At the end of the fiscal year, the workgroup was developing its county-based training program. The MOU and all the resources are available at the following link: http://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/cpac/cpac_reports.aspx. In addition, a mobile application was created to allow the MDT to access the best practice protocols in the field. The mobile application can be downloaded by iPhone and Android users on the App Store and Play Store by searching “DE MOU.”

The Cross-Education Workgroup continues to develop online trainings for the purpose of providing cross education on the roles and responsibilities of individual agencies and programs. Various programs have been identified for FY18, and once completed, will be made available on OCA’s online training system.

The Training Committee’s last workgroup, De-Escalation of Life Support, was recommended by CPAC and CDRC in its new action plan for 2016-2017. In September 2016, the workgroup was established and charged with developing a MDT protocol for removal of life support cases. Since March 2017, the workgroup has met three times to explore components of the MDT response in cases where a child presents at a hospital with serious, potentially life-threatening injuries. In addition, the group reviewed current best practices and ways to improve the response. This included discussion about: key information to communicate to DFS in the hotline report; whether parents who are suspected of causing the injuries should be allowed to make decisions; points of contact for hospital and DFS staff; and the recommendation to de-escalate care, hospital staff making the determination and communicating it to parents. The workgroup also explored the Court action in these cases, which included the following: stage of proceedings, scenarios regarding the parents’ position, filing the motion, independent medical evaluation, court hearing and decision and appeals.

In April 2017, CPAC partnered with multiple agencies to develop the annual campaign for Child Abuse Prevention Month, and \$10,000 from the Protecting Delaware’s Children fund was contributed. Eight billboards were featured through Clear Channel – 2 in Sussex and 6 in New Castle and Kent Counties. As shown in Figure 11, the billboards all displayed our Hero logo. Additionally, WJBR hosted a digital marketing campaign through social media,



Figure 11. Hero Logo

mobile ads and public service announcements. The campaign helped to raise awareness about Delaware’s statutory, child abuse mandatory reporting obligations and the availability of the “Stop Child Abuse” License Plate.

Children's Justice Act Task Force

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requires that states establish both a multidisciplinary Citizen Review Panel (CRP) and a Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force. In Delaware, CPAC serves as the federally mandated Citizen Review Panel and CJA State Task Force. Further information about each will be provided over the next few pages.

The Children's Justice Act Task Force

Background

The Children's Justice and Assistance Act of 1986 was a set of amendments to CAPTA, which were enacted to encourage states to adopt reforms to improve the legal and administrative handling of child abuse cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse. The CJA amended the Victims of Crimes Act of 1984 to add to the funding available under the Crime Victim's Fund and required that specified portions of such funds be used for CJA Grants to states. CPAC became the CJA Task Force in Fiscal Year 2008.

Statutory Requirements

The CJA provides grants to states to improve the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This also includes the handling of child fatality cases in which child abuse or neglect is suspected, along with some cases of children with disabilities and serious health problems who also are victims of abuse and neglect. To be eligible for CJA funds, states are required to establish and maintain a multidisciplinary task force (the Task Force). The Task Force is responsible for making policy and training recommendations to carry out the objectives of the grant, for conducting a comprehensive evaluation every three years of the state's child welfare system, and for making recommendations for improvement of those systems.

CPAC's CJA Task Force Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2017

- ◇ The Training Coordinator (a position funded under the CJA) provided mandatory reporting training to educators and general professional audiences; chaired the Cross-Education Workgroup; staffed the Abuse Intervention Committee, and Training Committee; oversaw the registration and prepared all the materials and evaluations for the Protecting Delaware's Children Conference; and, provided technical support to users of OCA's online training system.
- ◇ Over 14,500 educators, healthcare providers and members of the public were trained on their mandatory reporting obligations.
- ◇ Awarded scholarships to 2 MDT members attending the TX Crimes Against Children Conference in August 2017.
- ◇ Training Committee finalized revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding for the Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse and Neglect and created a mobile application to help professionals easily access the MOU.
- ◇ Child Abuse Medical Response Committee finalized the *Delaware Multidisciplinary Team Guidelines for the Child Abuse Medical Response*.
- ◇ CAN Panel, with oversight from the CAN Steering Committee, conducted retrospective reviews on 52 death and near death cases of abused and neglected children, which resulted in 157 strengths and 204 findings across six system areas.
- ◇ Joint Committee on Substance-Exposed Infants/Medically Fragile Children was awarded In-Depth Technical Assistance for Substance Exposed Infants from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare.

Reports

The CJA Annual Progress Report & Grant Application is available at: https://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/cpac/cja_taskforce.aspx.

Fiscal Year 2017

Citizen Review Panel

Citizen Review Panel

Background

In 1996, Congress amended CAPTA and required states that receive grants for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Treatment Programs to establish Citizen Review Panels (CRP) by July of 1999 in order to continue receiving funding. The amendments allowed states to designate one or more existing entities established under State or Federal law, such as child fatality panels. From 1995 through 2004, CDRC served as Delaware's CRP. Then, in 2004, CPAC was designated as the CRP. DSCYF's 2017 Annual Progress and Services Report, which designates CPAC as the CRP, is available at: https://kids.delaware.gov/pdfs_archive/fs/fs-cfsp-apsr-2017.pdf

Statutory Requirements

Although CAPTA defines the functions of the CRP broadly and generally, it requires panels to meet at least quarterly and to maintain confidentiality. More importantly, the purpose of CRPs is to evaluate the child protection agency's performance in four key areas: the state CAPTA Plan; coordination with Title IV-E foster care and adoption programs; review of child fatalities and near fatalities, and; to require responses to the recommendations from those reviews. CAPTA also mandates that CRPs examine the policies, procedures and practices of the child protection agencies and gives panels the authority to examine specific cases, where appropriate.

CPAC's CRP Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2017

- ◇ DFS convened an annual stakeholder meeting to review the Child and Family Services Plan progress, review performance data and gather stakeholder input for the coming year's strategic planning. The meeting was held March 30, 2017; forty-five representatives from the child welfare community attended. The agenda included a review of the agency's mission and vision, guiding principles, program updates and performance measures. The group gave their input on child welfare strengths and areas of concern. Comments for edits to the CFSP-2017 edition were accepted until April 30, 2017. In addition, agency and community partners were asked to submit an annual report for the APSR detailing their agency's accomplishments and priorities. The Chief Policy Advisor/CJA Coordinator submitted a report on behalf of CPAC/OCA and all of its program areas, including CASA and the Office of the Investigation Coordinator.
- ◇ CAN Panel, with oversight from the CAN Steering Committee, conducted retrospective reviews on 52 death and near death cases of abused and neglected children, which resulted in 157 strengths and 204 findings across six system areas.
- ◇ Delaware was selected to present a workshop at the May 2017 National Citizen Review Panel Conference titled *From Review to Action: How Delaware has improved the State's child protection system through the review of individual cases*. Tania, Culley, Esq., Rosalie Morales, and Linda Shannon, Program Manager - Intake & Investigation at the Division of Family Services presented on the topic.

Reports

This report serves as the Annual Report for Delaware's Citizen Review Panel. Findings and recommendations stemming from the review of child abuse and neglect death and near death cases are available at the following link: https://courts.delaware.gov/childadvocate/cpac/cpac_reports.aspx. The State responds to these reviews through its participation in an annual meeting between CPAC and CDRC, which discusses the findings and recommendations resulting from the reviews of child abuse and neglect death and near death cases. As such, the State contributes to the action plan developed to address the priority areas for the upcoming year.

Opportunities for the Future

In Fiscal Year 2017, CPAC accomplished much as both a federally mandated CRP and CJA State Task Force. As the CRP, the CAN Steering Committee provided oversight for the CAN Panel reviews and made several system-wide findings and strengths to the Governor, General Assembly and Public. In addition, CPAC began to monitor the 31 recommendations from the 2016-2017 Action Plan and received progress updates at its quarterly meetings. CPAC will continue to monitor these recommendations in FY18.

In its State Task Force role, CPAC submitted its CJA Annual Progress Report and Grant Application to the Administration on Children, Youth and Families in May 2017. The report provided an update on the priorities established in the 2015-2017 Three Year Assessment Report. CPAC has one more year of this grant award, which means the next Three Year Assessment will be planned for FY18 with oversight by the Abuse Intervention Committee. In addition, to remain eligible for CJA grant funds, CPAC will submit an Annual Progress Report and Grant Application, along with the Three Year Assessment Report in May 2018.

At the same time, the Training Committee, with the support of its workgroups and the Training Coordinator, will carry out the training initiatives identified in the federal grant application, including planning the forensic interview training and providing county-based training on the MOU for the Multidisciplinary Response to Child Abuse and Neglect. A de-escalation of life support protocol will also be drafted. In May 2017, CPAC also approved the creation of the MDT Case Review Workgroup to revise the current MDT case review protocol, as well as to expand the protocol to encompass serious physical injury and child death cases. Implementation of medical exams statewide for non-acute child victim cases is anticipated.

The Joint Committee on Substance-Exposed Infants/Medically Fragile Children is expected to complete its Action Plan goals and support the implementation of a Regional Partnership Grant awarded to Children and Families First to assist in the development of Plans of Safe Care for SEIs and their families.

The remaining CPAC Committees have identified future goals of their own. In Fiscal Year 2018, the Data Utilization Committee plans to transition to an online data dashboards to present the system-wide child welfare trends over a longer time period. Meanwhile, the Education Committee, in partnership and support from Casey Family Programs, will continue to make progress with its strategic plan to support the educational success of children in foster care and to provide additional resources to child welfare and educational professionals.

Over the next year, CPAC, through its various committees, will prioritize these goals while maintaining its commitment to current initiatives. CPAC will also continue its collaborative affiliation with CDRC by meeting annually to monitor and implement findings or recommendations from the state's child death and near death reviews. Finally, CPAC will strive to foster the collaborative relationships between its child welfare partners to ensure safety, well-being and permanency for all children in Delaware's child protection system.



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