

**Oregon CAPTA Panel
Annual Report**

County: Multnomah	Date: April 29, 2011
Time Period: 7/1/2010 - 6/30/2011	

Mission Statement: N/A

Panel Members (Note the CAPTA Panel does not have bylaws regarding membership. The names listed below are those who attended at least 50% of the quarterly meetings.):

Name	Agency
Baker, Teresa	CARES Northwest
Baynes, Beth	Health and Social Services, Multnomah County Education Service District
Brandel, Judy	Multnomah County Health Dept.
Dowling, Kevin	CARES Northwest
Gibbs, Karen	DHS, Child Protective Services
Goldstien, Kim	CARES Northwest
Gotch, Katherine	Multnomah County Parole and Probation
Green, Miriam	DHS, Child Abuse Hotline
Harding, Michelle	Parent Mentor
Kendoll, Skylar	DHS
Montgomery, Dawn	Community Member (formerly with DHS, Child Protective Services)
Roelandt, Diane	Juliette's House
Stolebarger, Christine	Community Member (former parent mentor, now working for DHS)
Swanson, Judith	Multnomah County DA's Office
Taylor, Ruth	Parents Anonymous, Morrison Center
Underhill, Rod	Multnomah County DA's Office

In addition to the members listed above, the Multnomah County CAPTA Panel actively encourages other community members to

attend and participate in meetings. Additional attendees over the course of the year included:

Name	Agency
Broadbent, Jaime	DHS
Burns, Jerry	DHS
Farrenkopf, Marieka	CARES Northwest
Findlay, Tom	CARES Northwest
Grose, Cory	Lifeworks NW
Holmes, Caroline	FBI
Jacobowitz, Kim	CARES Northwest
Jewell Jensen, Cory	Center for Behavioral Intervention
Kaer, Jeffrey	Portland Police Bureau
Keating, Sarah	DHS
Keltner, Leila	CARES Northwest
Kroeger, Kathy	CARES Northwest
Nelson, Esther	Sexual Assault Response Center
Ovelmen, Keith	Janus Youth Programs – Cordero House
Parulski, Amanda	CARES Northwest
Porubsky, Amanda	Children’s Center of Clackamas County
Williams, Patrick	Gresham Police Department

Meetings:

Meetings were held on August 13 and November 5 in 2010, and February 4 and May 6 in 2011. All meetings were at Emanuel Hospital from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.

In addition to the full CAPTA Panel Meetings, the "Core Writing Group" met monthly at CARES Northwest to draft chapters of the training manual. This group was comprised of members of the CAPTA Panel, as well as experts from the community.

Activities:

The CAPTA Panel continued to focus on promoting children's safety by evaluating the current practices and policies at DHS regarding their response to child sex abuse. Our goal is to develop a training manual to assist DHS workers in responding to these types of cases.

At the August 13, 2010 meeting the Panel clarified plans to create the training manual. Three groups were formed to work on the manual. A "core writing" group was created to draft the manual. The group met monthly to discuss different topic areas and work on the draft. It included Karen Gibbs and Skylar Kendall from DHS, as well as experts from the community.

A separate "e-mail group" was created to allow for input on the training manual as it was being developed. People participating in the e-mail group were those who expressed an interest in the project, but were not able to meet in person at the monthly core writing group meetings, or the quarterly CAPTA Panel meetings.

The third group was the CAPTA Panel itself. We decided to use our CAPTA Panel meetings as an opportunity to review the status of the training manual, to educate ourselves about different types of cases and issues involving the investigation of child sex abuse, and to give input to help inform the writers.

A key method for educating ourselves at the CAPTA Panel meetings was the use of case presentations. At the August meeting, a child protective service worker presented a case highlighting threat of harm sexual abuse. The case highlighted the challenges DHS sometimes experiences in trying to obtain information to help them make a decision about children's safety. In this case, an adult had been investigated for neglect and sex abuse of patients at a group home for developmentally disabled, nonverbal adults. DHS was investigating concerns of threat of harm to the alleged offender's own children, but was not able to access the full report regarding the allegations in the group home. This significantly limited their ability to assess the threat of harm. At the meeting, Katherine Gotch from the Multnomah County Parole and Probation Office presented on psychological evaluations and risk assessments of alleged sex offenders. She recommended that when requesting an assessment, DHS should ask that a measure of physical sexual arousal be included, in addition to the other evaluation tools.

At the November 5 meeting, after reviewing progress on the training manual, the focus was on cases involving "non-believing" parents. Two case presentations by DHS staff helped highlight questions

regarding the role of DHS in those cases. We struggled with issues such as "When would a non-believing parent's behaviors be considered emotional abuse?" The point was made that when determining whether a child had been emotionally abused or neglected, the court typically required evidence showing an immediate effect of the alleged abuse/neglect on the child. For these types of abuse, this can be very difficult to show.

At the February 4 meeting, we began by discussing the training manual. Sections on threat of harm and sex offenders had been completed. The draft section on commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) was distributed and feedback was requested.

Caroline Holmes (FBI) and Esther Nelson (Sexual Assault Resource Center) then presented on working with CSEC. The presentation included watching excerpts of the "Pornland" video with Dan Rather, featuring an interview with the mother of a trafficked teen. Caroline and Esther led the group through an exercise highlighting how the words we use in referring to CSEC can have a significant impact on how the children are perceived. Panel members generated words that came to mind when considering the terms "child sex abuse victim" and "juvenile prostitute". Sexually exploited children have historically been referred to as "juvenile prostitutes", which does not reflect the fact that these are children who are victims of abuse.

The meeting included a case presentation by DHS of a 14-year-old girl who'd been in 13 different DHS placements, and had been trafficked multiple times. The case highlighted the many challenges associated with helping these child victims, such as their living circumstances which make difficult for them to remain in placement, their exposure to drugs, the lack of caring or support from people who aren't associated with an agency, the danger for caseworkers in trying to help these children who are often involved with pimps and other people with a criminal and/or drug and alcohol use history. The case also highlighted the importance of having a high level of collaboration between DHS, law enforcement, medical and social service agencies in order to successfully intervene and help these children.

At the May 6 meeting, we plan to focus on sibling sex abuse cases to help the core writing group address that topic in their training manual. The meeting will include a case presentation, and education from an expert in working with juvenile sex offenders on clarification and reunification.

In addition to the meeting activities noted above, the CAPTA Panel offered scholarships to The Child Abuse and Family Violence Summit for members attending two of the last four meetings. The Summit is a multi-disciplinary conference for professionals working in the areas of investigations, interviewing, assessment, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse, neglect and domestic violence. Scholarships for registration were provided to Christine Stolebarger, Dawn Montgomery, Skylar Kendall, and Kim Goldstien.

Subcommittees: The core writing group, led by Skylar Kendall and Karen Gibbs of DHS, and involving numerous experts on topics related to child sex abuse, met monthly at CARES Northwest to draft chapters of the training manual.

Future Plans/Next Steps:

This year the CAPTA Panel continued to work toward the goal established at the end of last year and create a training manual to assist caseworkers in responding to child sex abuse cases. We anticipate the project extending through the next year. Chapters on threat of harm, and working with sexual offenders were completed. We are currently drafting chapters on commercially sexually exploited children, and sibling sexual abuse. Future chapters will include familial sex abuse, teen "consensual" sex abuse, and child pornography. Others close to completion include recantation, tips on child interviewing, and children with sexual behavioral problems.

Recommendations:

1. **The Panel recommended DHS develop a training manual for DHS caseworkers to assist them in assessing cases of alleged child sexual abuse.**

This recommendation was made last year, and we are excited to report there has been much progress since then, as outlined

in the information above. We are looking forward to continuing to partner with DHS on this project in the upcoming year.

DHS Response:

The CPS Program previously developed guidelines for responding to the sexual abuse of a teen by another teen. The Panel's current project will complement that guideline.

Looking Ahead:

As noted above, we foresee working on the training manual over the course of the next year. Once complete, the Panel intends to help develop and host a training based on information in the manual.

Acknowledgements:

We want to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of the Panel members and attendees, who gave of their time and expertise, and who made it a priority to participate on the CAPTA Panel despite the many other demands on their time. We appreciated the collaborative approach they brought to the meetings and their commitment to promoting the safety and well-being of our community's children.

We also would like to thank the Multnomah County DHS staff who participated as Panel members and who came to present cases for review. Their willingness to patiently explain policies and procedures, share their successes and frustrations, and answer questions about casework served as the foundation for the work of the Panel.

And finally we want to thank Karen Gibbs and Skylar Kendall of DHS. Without their vision and perseverance, our current project involving the development of a training manual to help caseworkers would not have happened. As a result of their energy and leadership, our CAPTA Panel was revitalized and has been enthusiastically supportive and involved in the project.