

**Oregon CAPTA Panel  
Annual Report**

<b>County: Multnomah</b>	<b>Date: April 30, 2012</b>
<b>Time Period: 7/1/2011 - 6/30/2012</b>	

**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.):**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Andrew, Rachel	Lt., Portland Police Bureau C.A.T.
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
Green, Miriam	DHS, Child Abuse Hotline
Harding, Michelle	Parent Mentor
Kendoll, Skylar	DHS
Keltner, Leila	Medical Director, CARES Northwest
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)
Taylor, Ruth	Parents Anonymous, Morrison Center
Underhill, Rod	Multnomah County DA's Office

In addition to the members listed above, others who assisted the work of the Multnomah County CAPTA Panel included:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Gotch, Katherine	Multnomah County Parole and Probation
Jewell Jensen, Cory	Center for Behavioral Intervention
Ovelmen, Keith	Janus Youth Programs – Cordero House

Name	Agency
Swanson, Judith	Multnomah County DA Office

### Meetings:

Quarterly meetings were held:

- August 5, 2011
- November 4, 2011
- February 3, 2012
- May 4, 2012

All meetings were at Emanuel Hospital from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Our work continued to focus on developing practice guidelines for DHS staff to enhance effective intervention in cases of child sexual abuse.

In addition to the full CAPTA Panel meetings:

- a "Core Writing Group" met monthly at CARES Northwest to draft chapters of the practice guidelines. This group was comprised of members of the CAPTA Panel, as well as experts from the community.
- the CAPTA Panel sponsored a training on the "Dynamics of Sibling Sex Abuse" on July 13 at Emanuel Lorenzen Center.

### 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 sexual abuse. Our goal was to develop practice guidelines to assist DHS workers in responding to these types of cases.

On July 13, 2011, the CAPTA Panel sponsored a training on the "Dynamics of Sibling Sex Abuse" in Portland. The training was attended by 67 caseworkers, as well as members of the CAPTA Panel. Various community professionals with expertise in working with child offenders and victims were brought in to present.

A quarterly CAPTA Panel meeting was held August 5, 2011, with 18 attendees. As in the past, we brought in community experts and used

case presentations to help us better understand specific topics, as well as the challenges faced regularly by DHS workers. This meeting focused on child pornography and the internet. Detective Erin Schweitzer, a member of the Project Intercept Task Force that investigates cases of child pornography, shared information about their tri-county team, which issued about 300 search warrants last year.

The meeting also included a presentation by Cory Jewell Jensen from the Center for Behavioral Intervention. Corey presented on "Pornography, the Internet, and Criminal Sexual Behavior."

The case presentation involved two siblings whose father's computer was seized after it had been linked to child pornography. The father's children were not in any of the photos, and the children had made no disclosures of abuse. The Panel discussed questions such as "What threat does the father pose his own children?" and "If the mother does not believe that father poses a threat, will she be able to keep their children safe?"

There were 15 attendees at the November 4, 2011 meeting. The main topic was supporting child sex abuse victims. Kim Jacobowitz, an Intake Counselor at CARES Northwest and a member of the Multnomah County Family Support Team, provided a PowerPoint presentation and then a case review involving a young girl who had been brutally sexually assaulted by her uncle. Kim highlighted the importance of addressing trauma in therapy, and reviewed different types of therapy used for trauma victims. The group talked about how there is a lack of mental health therapists in our community with training in trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy for children who have been sexually abused.

On February 3, 2012, the 18 CAPTA Panel attendees addressed the topic of "Sexual Abuse between Siblings and Other Young Children." We heard from representatives of multidisciplinary teams from Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties who work to address cases involving children under 12 who sexually act out on other children. It was the first time the different County teams had come together. They shared information on case triage, membership of their respective committees, and the services they are able to offer.

At the May 4, 2012 meeting, we plan to focus on the topic of "Teen Consensual Sex." Specifically, how should DHS respond to cases involving "consensual" sex between a teenager and an adult? How do other community agencies respond to those types of cases? As we have in prior meetings, we plan to have a community expert present on the topic, and then review a DHS case to highlight the challenges to our community in helping these teens.

At each of the CAPTA Panel meetings, we provided updates on practice guidelines being developed for DHS caseworkers to assist them in assessing cases of alleged child sexual abuse. Sections include:

- Understanding Victims of Child Sexual Abuse
- Understanding Sexual Offenders
- Familial Sexual Abuse
- Threat of Harm Sexual Abuse
- Sexual Abuse between Siblings and Other Young Children
- Teen "Consensual" Sexual Abuse
- Child Pornography
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- Intervention and Case Planning

**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, gathered at CARES Northwest for 2-hour monthly meetings to review relevant research and draft chapters of the practice guidelines.

**Future Plans/Next Steps:**

The practice guidelines project has been progressing well and we anticipate a draft (estimated 200-250 pages) will be completed by early June. We plan to contract with a technical writer to produce a final document by the end of August. The practice guidelines will be available online, and in print. We anticipate using the guidelines as the basis for training caseworkers on responding to child sexual abuse.

## **Recommendations:**

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

With the support of DHS, the CAPTA Panel initiated this project in 2010. We expect to complete the project by August 2012.

## **Looking Ahead:**

The Multnomah County CAPTA Panel's last meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2012. We intend to have the practice guidelines completed and ready for distribution by the end of that month.

## **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.

This had been a particularly challenging year, as we learned in September 2011 that the CAPTA Panel contract we had with DHS for more than a decade would be ending the following month. Our CAPTA Panel was very concerned about the timing of the contract's end, given the fact that we were in the middle of a multi-year project. With the CAPTA Panel's encouragement, DHS agreed to establish a contract extending funding for the Panel's work through August 2012. We are very grateful to DHS for their willingness to listen to the Panel's concerns, and for their ongoing support of the project.

As in the past, we 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.

In particular, Karen Gibbs and Skylar Kendall of DHS have been instrumental in the development of the practice guidelines. It is because of their leadership, commitment and passion for helping protect children that the practice guidelines have been created as a resource to their DHS colleagues, and for all professionals seeking to enhance their ability to respond effectively to children and families coping with an allegation of child sexual abuse.