REVISED Multidisciplinary Team Protocol

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Kentucky Multidisciplinary Team Commission on Child Sexual Abuse

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Introductions

- Name
- Profession
- Where would you most rather be today?

Kentucky's New Multidisciplinary Team Protocol

The purpose of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) is to review investigations, assess service delivery, and to facilitate efficient and appropriate disposition of child sex abuse cases through the criminal justice system. In Kentucky, the statutes require each local MDT to adopt a protocol in order to achieve this purpose. This year, a new model protocol was developed that all MDTs must adopt at the local level. This session will provide participants with the new model protocol as well as provide pertinent information regarding statutory requirements and best practices for local teams.

Why MDTs?

- What the system looked like before MDTs
  - Multiple interviews can be traumatic
  - Variations of story over time
  - Lack of coordination between agencies results in lower prosecution rate

Case Flow

- Group Discussion of how a case moves through the system

Why MDTs?

- Evidence of effectiveness of MDTs
- Collaboration has been a core component of meaningful child welfare system reform
- All states have legislation that mandates collaboration between government agencies on child abuse cases
- Kentucky's MDT members believe that a collaborative approach to child abuse cases is the right one

Kentucky MDTs

Status of the model in Kentucky

- Range of success from MDT to MDT
- Seen some slippage in the model
- An MDT is not a house
- New generation
- Negative messaging
- Loosing the "why"

How Did We Get Here

- Round table discussion across the Commonwealth
  - 4-22-2013 – Lexington Victims Assistance Conference
  - 8-22-2013 – Eastern Kentucky Region
  - 9-6-2014 - Western Kentucky Region
  - Kentucky MDT Surveys
  - Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission on Child Sexual Abuse reviewed in detail all comments and then reviewed entire protocol

Overview of New Components of Protocol

- Protocol is shorter!
- Human trafficking
  - New Legislation
    - KRS 620.029
    - KRS 15 A. 068
    - KRS 529.100
- Mental/ Behavioral Health and Trauma Informed Care language
- Movement away from idea of "core members"

Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission of Child Sexual Abuse KRS 431.660

- Prepare and issue a model protocol for local MDT regarding investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse the role of the CAC on MDT.
- Review and approve protocols.
- Advise MDT on investigation and prosecution.
- Receive data from PAC.
- Collect data on the operation of MDT.
- Seek funding to support special projects related to MDT.
- Receive and review complaints regarding MDT and make appropriate recommendations.
- Recommend effective intervention on CSAC and improve treatment for children.

Purpose of Model Protocol

- MODEL PROTOCOL: The protocol is intended to serve as a "model" or "best practice" standard for communities to use in drafting a protocol and building their own multidisciplinary team. Use of the term "model" is not intended to imply that every community's final protocol should exactly mirror the recommendations on the following pages.
- TEMPLATE: The Commission has developed a template to be used by each team in Kentucky. The model protocol template outlines the language that is required for each multidisciplinary team. A team may choose to add sections to their protocol, subject to approval by the Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission, however ***nothing from the template may be deleted.***
- APPROVAL: The law stipulates that local ***protocols shall be approved*** by the Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission on Child Sexual Abuse (KRS 431.600 (2)).

Two Primary Goals

(1) GOAL: Safety and Protection for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse

(2) GOAL: Accountability of the Child Sexual Abuse Service System

Goals & Objectives

GOAL: Safety and Protection for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse

* To ensure the immediate safety of the child victim and to minimize further trauma or systemic re-victimization;
* To protect the privacy rights of the child and the child's family (KRS Chapter 421);
* To minimize the number of victim interviews and to ensure interagency collaboration; and
* To facilitate access to medical and behavioral health intervention to promote successful healing.

Goals & Objectives

GOAL: Accountability of the Child Sexual Abuse Service System

* To increase the quality of sexual abuse investigations, prosecution and victim services and eliminate the duplication of efforts;
* To increase successful prosecution and offender accountability through multidisciplinary collaboration;
* To ensure that each case of child sexual abuse is appropriately reviewed;
* To hold all professionals involved in child sexual abuse cases to the highest standard of professional conduct;
* To identify and improve system and local resource deficiencies and to promote survivor and family voice;
* To promote child victim and family voice;
* To collect and maintain accurate information regarding the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse cases;
* To implement trauma informed care practices and principles; and
* To increase and maintain active participation and consistent attendance of each agency at multidisciplinary team meeting.

Defining Team Members

A multidisciplinary team member is defined as:

* A professional employed by an agency that has signed the multidisciplinary team protocol in effect for the multidisciplinary team; and
* Actively involved in the child sexual abuse service system.

Roles & Responsibilities of Team Members

* **Key Responsibilities Common to All Team Members**
  * Operate in the best interest of the child;
  * Educate team members on each discipline represented;
  * Attend team meetings and actively participate in the team's activities;
  * Work and communicate in a cooperative manner with other members on the multidisciplinary team, while maintaining the privacy interests of the child and the confidentiality of the case review process;
  * Report any significant developments in the case to appropriate agencies (law enforcement agencies, Department for Community Based Services, prosecutors) and the multidisciplinary team (KRS 620.030); and
  * Ensure privacy interests of the child will be protected during the review process.

Roles and Responsibilities

Group Breakout Sessions

* What are the roles and responsibilities of your profession?
* What strength do you bring to the team?
* What are tensions do you experience when working with MDTs?
* What are some tips for the other members of the team when interacting with you?

LUNCH

Operation of MDTs

Frequency of Meetings:

* Teams should assess for and outline a plan to meet so as to provide adequate time to review and discuss all cases on agenda. KRS 620.040(7)(d) requires teams to "hold regularly scheduled meetings if new reports of sexual abuse or child human trafficking cases involving commercial sexual activity are received or if active cases exist. At each meeting, each active case shall be presented and the agencies' responses assessed."

Operation of MDTs

Location of Meetings:

* Team meetings should be held in a location that is generally convenient to team members and meets the needs of the team. In order to protect the privacy interests of the victim and to maintain the confidentiality of the case review process, the case review portion of team meetings should be held in an area that is private, not open to the public, and ensures that non-team members will not be privy to confidential matters.

Operation of MDTs

Open and Closed Meetings:

* KRS Chapter 61, Kentucky's Open Meetings Law, may apply to team meetings and compliance therewith may be necessary before the team may meet in a closed session for the purpose of case review and staffing. Typically, team meetings will consist of both public and private portions of the meeting. If the mission of the multidisciplinary team is broad, much of the meeting (or a separate meeting) will be open to the public. The agenda for the public portion of the meeting may include community education and awareness, policy recommendations for the community, or other items. Case review and staffing of cases should be conducted in the closed portion of the meeting attended by team members from agencies represented by signature on the relevant MDT protocol. These team members should determine whether additional team members and related professionals attend the entire case review or are only present for specific cases.

Case Review Function of MDTs

Who May Attend the Case Review Process?

* Only team members may attend the entire case review process. Other professionals involved in a specific case may be invited to attend the relevant portion of a team meeting where the specific case is being reviewed. An invitation for other professionals to attend a meeting is provided at the discretion of the team.

Conflict of Interest

* If a team member has a personal or professional relationship outside of the investigation, that individual is responsible to inform the other team members of the conflict.
* The team will then determine the next course of action.

Case Review Function of MDTs

Objectives of Case Review:

* The objectives of the case review process include the following:
* To promote a thorough understanding of case issues and to monitor the progress of investigation and intervention, so as to ensure the most timely and effective system response possible;
* To facilitate efficient gathering and sharing of information and communication between team members;
* To develop joint solutions for problems by allowing team members a forum to voice opinions;
* To coordinate intervention and assess services;
* To facilitate efficient and appropriate disposition of cases.

Case Review Function of MDTs

Which Cases Are Reviewed:

* Reported or suspected child sexual abuse cases (KRS 431.600)
* Child human trafficking cases (KRS 620.040(7) (c))
* Teams may also include the review of cases involving the serious physical injury or death of a child in their local protocol.

Case Review Function of MDTs

Frequency of Case Review:

* Cases should be reviewed by the team on a regular basis from the initiating report through all court proceedings (both criminal and/or dependency.)
* Cases in which there is no court action shall be regularly reviewed until the agencies involved close the case and the team determines that all review objectives have been met.

Case Review Function of MDT's

Number of Cases Reviewed:

* It is the duty of the multidisciplinary team to review all child sexual abuse or child human trafficking cases.
* If the number of reported cases exceeds capacity for review or there is another extenuating circumstance, the multidisciplinary team must petition the Commission for review and resolution.

Case Review Function of MDTs

Who Brings Cases Forward:

* All team members are expected to initially present cases before the team for review. For ongoing case review, all team members are expected to provide case updates.

Case Review Function of MDTs

Process of Case Review:

* The case review process should include the following:
  * The presentation of newly reported allegations of child sexual abuse or child human trafficking since the last team meeting;
  * The review of pending cases and a plan for future action (investigation, prosecution, and therapeutic intervention);
  * The input of team members regarding prosecution and sentencing.
  * Information presented during past case review
  * Pertinent information needed for presentation of the case includes:
    * The names of the investigating law enforcement officer(s) and DCBS worker(s);
    * The name and respective ages of victim(s); the name of the alleged perpetrator; and the allegations or criminal charges.
    * Information needed for a meaningful discussion may include details of the victim's statement; other witness statements; child forensic interview; medical examination; victim and family behavioral health treatment needs; offender's statement; DCBS safety plan and issues; ability of the non-offending parent to support the child; cultural considerations and status of court proceedings.

Case Review Function of MDTs

MDT CASE REVIEW FORM:

- Information concerning each case being reviewed should be documented on case review forms that are generally maintained by the prosecutor (**See Appendix E**). Copies of the case review form are not distributed to team members. Team members should discuss with the prosecutor confidential records and their disclosure.

* **List of cases reviewed (agenda) – kept with Prosecutor or appointed facilitator**
* **Official case note review sheet (case review form) – kept with the Prosecutor or appointed facilitator**
* **MDT meeting notes/field notes – can be taken with the team members but must be kept confidential**

Notes taken by team members may be discoverable for this reason it is preferable that other team members not bring records or leave the meeting with notes taken during the case review. Team members should discuss with the prosecutor confidential records and their disclosure.

CASE REVIEW DOCUMENTATION

- CASE REVIEW FORM
- MDT MEETING NOTES
- AGENDA

Case Review Function of MDTs

Notification of Cases Being Reviewed:

* Each team must develop a process to notify team members of the cases scheduled for review. The notification process must provide confidentiality to the victim and alleged perpetrators whose cases are being reviewed. All notification should be mailed unless specific electronic security measures have been verified.

Data Collection

* The KMCCSA will be providing all teams a questionnaire that each team will be required to complete once a year.
  * The information will be on the operation of local multidisciplinary teams.
* Annually the KMCCSA will prepare a report on the state of the multidisciplinary teams in the Commonwealth.
  * This report is separate than the PAC report that Commonwealth and County attorneys are required to complete yearly.

Where do we go from here?

* What is the first step?
* What are your timelines?
* Who needs to be at the table to review and create your counties protocol?
* Who needs to champion the protocol in your agency?
* Who needs to sign the protocol?
* What will your counties barriers be in drafting and signing your protocol?
* How will you celebrate your success?
* How often will you review your counties protocol ?

Indicators of a Healthy Team

- Accountability for the team
- Accountability for team members
- Burnout prevention
- Celebration
- Clear Purpose
- Consistent and Total Representation
- Evaluation
- Extended MDT Concept
- Identified Meeting Facilitator
- Orientation of New Members
- Willingness to acknowledge weakness/ mistakes
- Protocol in Place
- Strategies for dealing with conflict
- Trust, Commitment and Respect for other team members

THANK YOU!