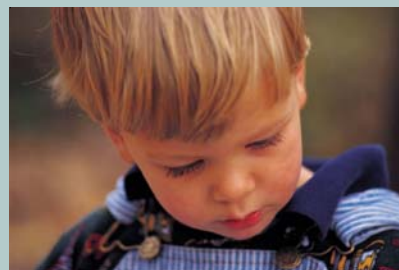


# **Yearly Report Child Abuse Action Network and Child Death & Serious Injury Review Panel**

**October 2005 - September 2006**





# Table of Contents

A Message from the CAAN Committee and CD&SI Panel	Page i
The Child Abuse Action Network (CAAN)	Page 1
The Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel	Page 2
Goals, Objectives, Outcomes	Pages 3-7
CAAN Recommendations	Page 8
Meeting Minutes from Child Abuse Action Network Meetings	Pages 9-30



*I think Maine needs people. It needs diversity. It needs to be able to respect people. Openness is crucial for this state because we do not want to be known for having the oldest state in the nation. We want young families.*  
- John Baldacci



*A child's life is like a piece of  
paper on which every person  
leaves a mark.*

*- Chinese Proverb*

## A Message from the CAAN Committee and CD&SIR Panel

This past year has seen tremendous growth in CAAN membership and community participation. Our already diverse committee expanded to include members from the fields of education and prevention as well as a parent representative.

CAAN took on several projects in 2005-2006, including committing to the development of a curriculum or project addressing the issue of sexual behaviors in children and teaming with state and community partners to examine the impact resiliency has on the problem of adverse childhood experiences

CAAN held two conferences between October 2005 and September 2006. The first, which took place in October 2005, was cosponsored by the Maine State Police and focused on collaborative investigations. The other was the annual CAAN conference in May entitled “Adverse Childhood Experiences: where do we go from here?”

We published and disseminated three newsletters and the 2004 Annual Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel’s report. All of these documents are available online at <http://www.mainecaan.usm.maine.edu>. The CAAN website has proven to be a popular site among professionals and community members seeking more information about child abuse and neglect.

We look forward to accomplishing even more this next year. As always, we thank you for your commitment to making Maine a safer place for our children to live.

Sincerely

*Vickie J. Fisher*

Vickie J. Fisher, LSW  
CAAN Coordinator  
Staff Assistant to the CDSIR Panel

**THE CHILD ABUSE ACTION NETWORK** is the entity designated by the Governor to receive Children's Justice Act funding. It has functioned cooperatively with the Department of Health and Human Services and with the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service since 1989. The Network's mission is to establish policy and programs designated to improve a) the handling of child abuse and neglect cases in a manner that limits trauma to children; b) the handling of suspected child abuse or neglect-related fatalities; and, c) the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.

To that end, and pursuant to its by-laws, the Network has established a Steering Committee and several standing committees. The standing committees address training; coordination and systems issues; quality assurance and professional standards; and protocols. The Network is broad-based and multidisciplinary, and includes but is not limited to individuals from the categories outlined in the Children's Justice Act.

The Child Abuse Action Network is unique in that it focuses primarily on addressing the needs of professionals working in various disciplines. By undertaking a host of activities in past years, the Network has enhanced the knowledge, skills and collaboration of professionals in Maine who intervene in child abuse and neglect cases, as a specific approach to meeting grant requirements. The network has been very effective in creating an improved system for child protection in Maine, utilizing its multidisciplinary approach.

## CAAN Members 2005-2006

Ellen Bridge  
Bureau of Health

Jan Clarkin  
Maine Children's Trust

Dean Crocker  
Maine Children's Alliance

Judy Deal  
Family Violence Project

Daniel Despard  
OCFS/DHHS

Vickie J. Fisher  
Coordinator CAAN

DeEtte Hall  
Dept. of Education

Roxy Hennings  
Dept. of Corrections

Sandra Hodge  
Medical Social Worker

Arthur Keenan  
Dept. of Education

Kathryn McGloin  
Dept. of Corrections

Barbara Piotti  
Mental Health Center

Mark Rains  
Psychologist, Private

Lawrence Ricci  
Spurwink Child Abuse

Elizabeth Ward Saxl  
Maine CASA

Joan Smyrski  
DHHS, Children's Behavior Health

Nonny Soifer  
Director, CASA

Janice Stuver  
Attorney General's Office

Carol Tiernan  
Child Advocate

Lt. Gary Wright  
Maine State Police

## **CD&SI Members 2005-2006**

Richard Aronson, MD, MPH  
Maine Bureau of Health

Lou Ann Clifford, AAG  
Attorney General's Office

Lou Ann Crinion, RN  
Public Health Nursing DHHS

Daniel Despard  
OCFS/DHHS

Vickie J. Fisher, LSW  
Muskie School

Joseph Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.  
Department of Corrections

Margaret Greenwald, MD  
Chief Medical Examiner

Sandra Hodge, LSW  
Medical Social Worker

Alan Kelly, Esq., DDA  
Office of District Attorney

Marie Kelly  
DHHS

Ann LeBlanc, Ph.D.  
State Forensic Service

Karen Mosher, Ph.D.  
Kennebec Valley Mental  
Health Center

Lawrence Ricci, MD, Chair  
Director, Spurwink Child  
Abuse Clinic

Cathy Roland, RN, CPNP  
School-Based Health Centers

William Stokes, AAG  
Dept. of Attorney General

Judge Vendean Vafiades  
Augusta District Court

Lt. Gary Wright  
Maine State Police, CID II

## **THE CHILD DEATH AND SERIOUS INJURY REVIEW PANEL'S**

mission is to provide multi-disciplinary, comprehensive case review of child fatalities and serious injuries to children in order to promote prevention, to improve present systems and to foster education to both professionals and the general public. Furthermore, the panel strives to collect facts, provide opinions and articulate them in a fashion that promotes change. The final mission of the Panel is to serve as a citizen review panel for the Department of Health and Human Services as required by the Federal Child Abuse and Treatment Act, P.L. 93-247.

The Maine Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel is comprised of representatives from many different disciplines. Its composition, which is mandated by state law, includes the following disciplines: Judiciary, Forensic Pathology, Forensic and Community Mental Health, Pediatrics, Family Practice, Nursing, Public Health, Civil and Criminal Law, Law Enforcement and Public Child Welfare. Doctoral Candidates completing their clinical or field practice regularly participate in these case reviews as part of their education and training.

There are several unique functions of the Panel. Most states only review child fatalities; Maine's Panel reviews serious child abuse and neglect injuries, as well as abuse and neglect fatalities, or suspicious deaths. Some states have multiple local review panels in addition to a state-level panel. In such cases only selected cases are reviewed. Because the State of Maine is less populous than other such states, all cases are reviewed by the full, central state-level team. The centralized forensic medical examiner system and representation on the panel promotes standardized forensic child death investigations and post mortem exams. The State of Maine has specialized medical examiner training for child death investigation units of law enforcement, which include Maine State Police, Bangor and Portland Police Departments. Representatives from this training sit on the panel. The Panel is established by a state statute that permits confidentiality of Panel's work and grants the Panel with the power to subpoena relevant case documentation and testimony. This latter feature allows the panel to conduct in-depth retrospective reviews of all relevant records, supplemented by oral presentations by key, involved service providers. Finally, the Maine Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel belongs to the consortium of Northern New England Child Fatality Review Teams. More recently, the Maine Child Death and Serious Injury Review Team has become associated with all the New England state teams through the National MCH Center for Child Death Review.

## GOAL 1

### **Provide staff support to Network and Child Death and Serious Injury Committee and assist in carrying out on-going work, professional training and demonstration projects.**

Network members are currently conducting several projects. Staff assistance will be provided to help Network members implement these initiatives. This assistance may be in the form of program planning, statistical analysis, research design, questionnaire design or report writing. The network and committee staff will work with individual network/committee members to implement network/committee goals/plans.

### **Objective**

Provide monthly and ongoing support staff for CAAN and Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel.

### **Outcomes**

- Minutes of monthly Child Abuse Action Network meetings and subcommittees
- Facilitation of communication between CAAN and DCSI panel members via written and electronic measures
- Executive summaries of eight child death or serious injury cases reviewed by the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel between October 2005 and September 2006
- 2004 Annual Maine Child Death and Serious Injury Report
- Organized regular meetings, subcommittee meetings, and two conferences
- Activities of the CD&SIR Panel including review of eight case records, writing case summaries and including relevant parties to the case in the meetings



*We worry about what a child will  
become tomorrow, yet we forget  
that he is someone today.  
~Stacia Tauscher*

## GOAL 2

### **To enhance multi-disciplinary collaboration between agencies which are responsible, in some measure, for issues pertaining to child welfare in the State of Maine.**

Collaboration between different state agencies is an important and necessary part of establishing and ensuring child safety. Although considerable collaboration is currently in place, there is a need for greater coordination and cooperation among agencies.

#### **Objective**

To support current partnerships between state departments, such as in the following projects:

- CAAN will support the development of a Maternal and Infant Death Review Committee through the Department of Public Health.
- CAAN supports the collaborative efforts of the Department of Corrections, DHHS, the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services and the Department of Public Safety in identifying young persons at risk of offending, identifying the types of prevention and treatment currently known to work with these young persons, coordinating prevention and education efforts with the goal of seeking coordinated services to transition at-risk youth to healthy adulthood and has reported these findings of the joint standing committees of the Legislature. CAAN will encourage the use of this report.
- CAAN will support and advocate for continued collaboration, training and the use of joint protocols between the domestic violence community and Child Protective Services.

#### **Outcomes**

- Minutes and correspondence of collaborative groups reported back to CAAN monthly.
- Action steps have begun to be developed for the *Report of the Committee to Prevent Sexual Abuse* by a committee that meets monthly to develop a training or curriculum and/or address this issue in ways better suited to Maine.
- CAAN acted as a liaison between the DHHS Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel and the committees developing the Maternal and Infant Death Review Committee. Staff person sat on the Technical Review Committee and regular development meetings to make recommendations for the development of this project.

## GOAL 3

**To enhance the availability of child maltreatment information and resources.**

### Objective 1

Prepare and publish up to three (3) issues (4,500 copies) of “Child Abuse and Neglect: Maine Health Perspectives” professional newsletter.

#### Outcome

- Three issues (4,500 total copies) of this professional newsletter were published and disseminated to child maltreatment professionals throughout Maine and New England.

### Objective 2

Provide ongoing management support for the CAAN web site. Providing up to date training information, newsletter and treatment directory information.

#### Outcome

- Child Abuse website managed/updated on a regular basis.



*Make yourself necessary to  
somebody*

*- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## Objective 3

Continue efforts to integrate state-of-the-art assessment and treatment skills among Maine mental health clinicians and other service providers.

### Outcome

- Distribution of the assessment and treatment guide, *Assessing and Treating Complex Children*, provided a common base of knowledge for providers working with complex children.
- Invited guests to CAAN meetings and CAAN members were provided with information related to policy and practice in Maine and nationally.
- A DBT therapy research program for parents was considered and monitored by CAAN on a regular basis.
- Several projects undertaken by a school psychologist and Local Services Systems for Children were given input by CAAN. CAAN continues to offer input and direction, as projects are made known.

## Objective 4

Undertake an initiative to address the challenging issue of adverse childhood experiences.

### Outcome

- CAAN continued the initiative by coordinating a conference titled: *Adverse Childhood Experiences: Where Do We Go From Here?* Last year's theme was followed and built upon as CAAN looked at programs that are working in this area and explored how to incorporate the work into Maine's plans.

## Objective 5

CAAN will encourage the Department's use of the 2004 report of the DHHS Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel to inform legislative, departmental procedures and collaborative multidisciplinary work on behalf of maltreated children.

### Outcome

- The 2004 report was completed, signed by the DHHS Commissioner and published by Muskie.

## GOAL 4

**To explore issues pertaining to child protection, especially with regard to child fatalities.**

There has been considerable attention paid to the issue of child fatalities; however, this is an issue which demands more consideration.

### Objective 1

The state will explore the possibility of co-sponsoring a child fatality conference with the other two northern New England States.

#### Outcome

- Representation from the Maine Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel met with representation from New Hampshire's and Vermont's child death review teams. No event is planned at this time.
- The three states included additional New England states and met in October 2005.

### Objective 2

CAAN will continue to support good working relationships between law enforcement and caseworkers, particularly regarding protection of children.

#### Outcome

- CAAN Sponsored 1 1/2 days of the Maine State Police CID 2-day conference in October 2005. The event was entitled *Cops and Caseworkers*. Approximately 80 people from law enforcement and the Department of Health and Human Services attended.

# CAAN Recommendations

In the last two years, CAAN has undertaken an initiative to look at Adverse Childhood Experiences, what to do about the prevalence of them in our state, to examine resiliency and determine ways to create a better environment for children and their families. Below are some recommendations that were developed from the 2006 Conference.

- 1) There should be a parallel panel to the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel. This panel should ask the question, “Is there anything the system could have done to prevent a child from entering foster care?” A segment of these cases would be reviewed. Confidentiality issues would need to be addressed in legislation much as the legislation that allows the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel and the Maine Maternal and Infant Death Review Team.
- 2) Title IV E requires reporting of all reasons for foster care. There should be a tracking system that breaks out the major reasons why children enter foster care such as substance abuse or physical abuse and could link those reasons to Adverse Childhood Experiences scores and resiliency.
- 3) Adverse Childhood Experiences scores should be considered in the parents of children entering care. These scores could be used to educate parents and help motivate change for themselves and their children.
- 4) Parents should be supported in developing family networks. Adverse Childhood Experiences and resiliency information could be introduced in these networks.
- 5) Integrate knowledge of Adverse Childhood Experiences and resiliency into home visits by Child Protective, Children’s Services, and Community Integration Programs as well as visiting nurses.
- 6) CAAN will develop an initiative that explores resiliency in relation to Adverse Childhood Experiences.



# CAAN Meeting Minutes

## CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES

(Prepared by Vickie Fisher)

**Friday, October 7, 2005**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Dan Despard, Vickie Fisher, Janice Stuver, Sandi Hodge, Mark Rains, Paula Cookson, Jim Jacobs, Ellen Bridge, Gary Wright, DeEtte Hall

### **I. Introductions**

- DeEtte Hall was introduced as the new Education representative.
- Vickie will contact Nan Bell to see if Family Violence is going to be represented.

### **II. CAAN reaction to Program Improvement Plan and CSR/Dan**

- It was noted that the 3 biggest areas needing improvement were permanency, safety and well-being with permanency being the greatest. It was also noted that in Maine children stay in foster care too long.
- The Residential rate of negative discharge is quite high.
- The four areas of the Program Improvement Plan are 1) timeliness of initiating investigation; 2) Risk of Harm to children; 3) Full exploration of relative resources and 4) caseworker visits with the child to assess well-being and safety.
- Mark Rains asked what would be helpful from CAAN as we look through the report.
- Dan will send the PIP and grid to Vickie for distribution. Draft policies will be sent from Glenda Hamilton.

### **III. Adverse Childhood Experiences**

- Mark Rains will be going to a conference in November and may be able to locate or get a lead on a speaker for the CAAN conference in May.
- The conference is scheduled for May 18, 2006 at Florian Hall in Augusta.
- Maine has been awarded the Trauma Informed System of Care grant. It is targeted for the tri-county area. The first population to be served is 0-5 years with severe emotional needs. CAAN questioned where they could be involved and would like to have Joan Smyrski present at the next meeting.

#### **IV. CID Conference**

- The conference will take place on October 11 and 12 at Florian Hall. Dr. Robert Reece and Det. Timothy Madden will be the presenters.

#### **V. Citizens Review panel**

- The Child Death and Serious Injury Review panel's Findings and Recommendations will be reviewed by CAAN. Vickie will send these out to members before the next meeting.

#### **VI. CAAN Summer Newsletter**

- Mark Rains will edit the article he has for the newsletter
- Dan Despard will have an analysis of data to go into the newsletter
- Paula Cookson will have a summary of the Ombudsman's Report for the newsletter.
- Vickie will ask Joan Smyrski for a short article about Systems of Care
- Vickie will ask Dr. Aronson for an article about the Infant and Maternal Death Review Team that is being developed.

#### **VII. Treatment Directory**

- Sue Righthand reviewed the draft of the treatment directory that Jim developed. She added feedback for our consideration.
- Jim Jacobs brought in a list from *The New England Psychologist* of 120 residential schools in New England.
- When children go to residential placements, they stay too long and do not do well when they come out. Clinicians are using the skills they learned in the early 1980's. This is a problem that needs to be fixed.
- The recommendations from the Children's Services Reform Treatment workgroup will inform CAAN a lot about this. The recommendations have not been formatted and are not ready for distribution. CAAN will wait to hear what this workgroup's recommendations are.
- Dan Despard said a directory of the type envisioned by CAAN would help the needs of many caseworkers.

#### **VIII. DBT research project**

- The referrals for the Dialectical Behavior Therapy model for parenting skills have been slow to come in. Parents do not have to carry the diagnosis of Borderline Personality to take part in the group. The group uses the ideas from DBT to teach skills that may be beneficial to parents. The group is also time-limited. Mark Rains will send the information to Janice Stuver to make sure it goes to all the AAGs

**Next Meeting: November 4, 2005, Central Maine Commerce Center**

## **CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES**

(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

Dept. of Safety, Augusta, Maine

**Friday, November 4, 2005**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Vickie Fisher, Dan Despard, Jim Jacobs, Sandi Hodge, DeEtte Hall, Janice Stuver, Gary Wright, Elizabeth Ward-Saxl, Roxy Hennings, Larry Ricci, Jeanine Brown

### **I. Jim Jacobs**

Jim Jacobs announced that he would be leaving the CAAN group; as he has accepted a position working with disabled vets at Togus starting in a few weeks. The group expressed their concern for the gap Jim will leave in children and family services; and recognized just how valuable Jim has been to CAAN and the community. We wish him well.

### **II. Memory of Jean Meggison**

Vickie has received money donations to be used by CAAN in the memory of Jean Meggison. Suggestions for the use of this small monetary amount were:

- Create scholarship in her name to give to someone going into the child protective service field
- Present to “Youth in Care” – contact Panthea Burns who might have an idea of what to put towards

### **III. Train the Trainer - Sexual Abuse**

- Sue Righthand is aware of Gail Ryan’s train the trainer work. There was a thought about integrating her work with the people who are doing this in Maine. We need to discuss the need and target audience and purpose of the training. There may be another way to meet the need in Maine instead of investing the money to hire Gail.
  - We often have people identify sexual behavior as sexual abuse. Maine has people who work in this area that are not kept up with the newest theories/practices – would like to see these people targeted.
  - Residential placement for these kids is not helpful – actually harmful to them. Findings show that a family setting is beneficial and education for the caregivers is crucial
  - Vickie will collaborate with Elizabeth to set up a time for Jan Clarkin to address the group and discuss what the need is and the best way to get the needs met.
- Reunification plan should be included in this theory

**Next Meeting:**

**December 2, 2005**

#### **IV Adverse Childhood Experiences – Speakers for 2006 CAAN Conference**

- David Finklehorn may be a good guest speaker
- Mark Rains is planning to give us possible names after attending a conference coming up soon
- Maury Strouse; colleague of David Finklehorn
- Jim Leonard

#### **V CID Conference**

Was very successful and feedback has indicated that it would be beneficial to do again. CAAN will work on this again with Gary Wright for next year. We will have time to do a little advance planning this time and identify which staff from the Department should be included and open it up to a wider range of police departments.

#### **VI Citizens Review Panel**

Involve this group in providing feedback. Add to agenda for next month's meeting. Vickie will re-send information in an e-mail.

#### **VII. Newsletter**

- October 31 was the deadline for story submission – more contributions from members would be beneficial.
- It was agreed that Vickie would ask Dean Crocker for a summary of the ombudsman's report.

#### **VIII. Treatment Directory**

With Jim Jacobs's resignation this project will have to be readdressed.

#### **IX. DBT Research Project**

- Ben Saunders spoke on the issue and drew up a grid – not really new information, just information not being practiced.
- We now have stronger foundation to insist upon evidence based practice
- Reunification plan should be included in this theory

**Next Meeting: December 2, 2005**

## **CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES**

(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

Dept. of Safety, Augusta, Maine

**Friday, December 2, 2005**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Vickie Fisher, Janice Stuver, Gary Wright, Elizabeth Ward-Saxl, Roxy Hennings, Larry Ricci, Mark Rains, Paula Cookson, Jan Clarkin and Kate Stern, Jeanine Brown

### **I. Train the Trainer – Sexual Assault**

Jan Clarkin and Kate Stern from Maine Children's Trust joined the first part of this meeting to discuss Sexual Assault training in Maine.

- Jan supports Gail Ryan as a trainer on sexual assault
- Would like to partner w/CAAN to deliver training
- Gail Ryan's training provides curriculum and overheads to use after training
- Sue Righthand, who works with CAAN recommends Gail Ryan's trainings
- Roxy Hennings, Sue Righthand and Gail Ryan to meet and discuss needs in Maine
- Foster parents need to be trained as well as caseworkers
- Maine is missing the training needed for younger children – daycare and preschool age

Vickie will arrange a meeting to include Sue, Jan, Kate, Elizabeth and Roxy to discuss possible needs for upcoming trainings. Vickie will also send contact information on Sue Righthand to Jan.

### **II. Adverse Childhood Experiences Speakers for next CAAN Conference**

#### **Possible Speakers**

- Steve Rose; University of New England and York County Community Action
- Paula Duncan; Vermont pediatrician recommended by Dick Aronson
- George Duval; motivational speaker
- Susan Seville
- Robert Anda
- Glenn Saxe; Trauma Systems Therapy - Boston

#### **Issues to cover**

- Families who aren't doing well – parents of ACE working with their own kids are needing help

### **III Jim Jacobs**

- Private mental health provider or agency representative needed to fill Jim's discipline on the committee.
- Karen Mosher or one of her coworkers
- Mark Rains – no longer w/Maine General, would like to continue w/CAAN, could represent the private practice
- Maine Trauma Network still connected w/National Trauma Network
- Luncheon or evening dinner to be planned for a later date – Vickie will work on this

### **IV. Citizen's Review Panel**

Findings and Recommendations from Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel. What can CAAN do with this?

- Needs additional work – working needs to be re-evaluated
- Less Bulky – needs editing
- Larry Ricci volunteered to edit the report

### **V. DBT Research Project Update**

Groups have had only one session to date, not much data available at this time.

**Next Meeting: January 7, 2006**

## CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES

(Prepared by Vickie Fisher)

Dept. of Safety, Augusta, Maine

**Friday, January 6, 2006**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Vickie Fisher, Janice Stuver, Gary Wright, Sandi Hodge, Roxy Hennings, Dean Crocker, Mark Rains, DeEtte Hall, Nan Bell, Doreen Merrill, Joan Smyrski, Dan Despard

### **I. Trauma Informed System of Care Grant**

Joan Smyrski presented information on the Trauma Informed System of Care Grant. She discussed:

- The **purpose** of the grant: to build an infrastructure and implement an integrated system of care for children ages' birth through 18 with serious emotional disturbances.
- The **rationale** is that recent studies have documented that exposure to trauma, left untreated, can interfere with children's healthy brain development and lead to mental disorders. The treatment of trauma lends itself perfectly to a system of care approach.
- The **approach** is that Children's Behavioral Health Services has teamed up with Child and Family Services, Department of corrections, Department of Education, parents, youth and Tri-County Mental health services to develop its system of care. The focus will be in Androscoggin, Oxford and Franklin counties.
- **Community, State and National Support:** Over 30 state and local agencies, respected professionals in the field of children's mental health and childhood trauma, statewide family organizations and national experts have committed their support to this project
- **Family & Youth Voice:** Family and youth will serve on the State and local management teams.
- **Results:** In addition to the national measures, the project will document the prevalence of trauma among children with serious emotional disturbances; the characteristics and evolution of a trauma-informed approach to service delivery within the system of care community; and a longitudinal outcome study of the effectiveness of trauma-informed system of care service.

Joan invited members of CAAN to attend the Kick-off event at the Hilton Garden in Auburn on February 8, 2006 from 11:30Am to 5PM. This will be an opportunity to partner and hear what is happening.

The reason Western Maine was chosen as a pilot is that the District has the highest number of reports, the highest number of children in out of home placements and the area struggles with issues of unemployment and poverty. There are not enough services in this area and very long waiting lists when there are services. This is an area that does have some cultural diversity because of the Sudan and Somalian population.

It is hoped that the outcome of this pilot will be a significant reduction in hospitalizations, an d out-of home placements, a decrease in incarcerations, more services to children and families and better school performance.

## **II. Adverse Childhood Experiences Speakers for next CAAN Conference**

### **Possible Speakers**

- Tom McLaughlin: University of New England and York County Community Action
- Pediatricians that Sandi met—Sandi will contact
- Unnamed woman who has overcome ACE—Holly Stover knows—Roxy will contact
- Girls of Corrections?—Roxy will follow up.
- Robert Anda—Mark will contact and send Vickie contact info
- Glenn Saxe; Trauma Systems Therapy – Boston—Mark will contact
- Trish Riley, Dirigo Health—Vickie will contact
- Managed care/other speakers to fit into our topic—Joan will follow up
- Family Violence presentation—Nan Bell will follow up.
- Jane Farmer? Children of Prisoners

Vickie will develop a tentative agenda once she hears from people who are able to participate.

It was suggested that conference breaks into smaller groups at the end of the day (perhaps geographically) to look at action steps.

## **III Train the Trainer**

- Committee will meet again on 1/31/06 at 12:30PM in the Riverview Room at Muskie.
- Vickie will contact Mountainview and Longcreek about participating
- Sue Righthand's curriculum does a great job distinguishing between what is normal and what isn't normal.

## **IV. Jim Jacobs**

- Karen Mosher or one of her coworkers—Vickie or Sandi will follow up to ask Karen about a replacement for Jim
- Get-together to honor Jim—February 3 at 5PM at The Senator in Augusta

## **V. DBT Research Project Update**

Dick Watson will present in February.

## **VI. Newsletter**

- Articles needed by beginning of February—Janice Stuver may edit an article about an appealed permanency decision.
- Dan will edit Chris Beerits article.

**Next Meeting: February 3, 2006, 9AM to 11AM**

## **CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES**

(Prepared by Vickie Fisher)

Dept. of Safety, Augusta, Maine

**Friday, February 3, 2006**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Gary Wright, Sandi Hodge, Roxy Hennings, Dean Crocker, Mark Rains, Dan Despard, Barbara Piotti, Dick Watson, Ellen Bridge, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Vickie Fisher

### **I. Welcome Barbara Piotti**

- Barbara Piotti was welcomed to CAAN. Barbara has been with Kennebec Valley Mental Health Center for many years. We look forward to working with her.

### **II. DBT Research—Dick Watson**

- The Augusta group has 5-6 members.
- There were not enough referrals for the Waterville group. There is a new start date of March 1—referrals are needed.
- Carey Leah McLeod is attempting to start a coastal group on Vinylhaven.
- Barbara Piotti mentioned that there many be people that she can refer. Dan Despard said he would pass the message onto the supervisors about referrals.

### **III. Adverse Childhood Experiences Speakers for next CAAN Conference**

- Tom McLaughlin: University of New England and York County Community Action—confirmed
- Dr. Aronson and Susan Savell are confirmed for a presentation
- Yvonne Mickles with Maine State Housing Authority is confirmed. She will talk about her experiences and how to overcome adverse childhood experiences
- Mark Rains suggested Frank Putnam from Cincinnati. He has done research with abused girls between ages 6 and 9. He looks at what happens to them biologically and how stress effects physiological changes. Mark has had preliminary conversations with him and it looks like he will be available. Mark will follow up and get the contact information to Vickie.
- We would like to include many more disciplines this year.
- The date has been changed to May 25, 2006.

Vickie will develop a tentative agenda that includes Frank Putnam if he is confirmed.

### **IV. Citizen's Review Panel**

- Findings and Recommendations from the Child Death abd Serious Injury Review Panel were reviewed and accepted.
- Once a response from the Department is in, the yearly report will be developed and published.

## **V. Train the Trainer**

- 1/31/06 at 12:30PM was cancelled.
- Dan Despard and Roxy Hennings need to meet to decide if there is room in Sue Righthand's contract to work on this project.
- Another meeting will be set up if Sue is able to be involved.

## **VI. Jim Jacobs and Tim Doyle**

- Get-together to honor Jim and Tim—Tonight at 5PM at The Senator in Augusta
- A plaque and a gift will be presented

**Next Meeting:**                      **March 3, 2006, 9AM to 11AM**

CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES  
(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

**Friday, March 3, 2006**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

**Attendees**

Dan Despard, Vickie Fisher, Sandi Hodge, Mark Rains, Roxy Hennings, Ellen Bridge, Janice Stuver, Judy Deal, Doreen Merrill, Barbara Piotti, Gary Wright, Joan Smyrski, Jeanine Brown

**I. Introductions**

- Everyone introduced themselves

**II. Adverse Childhood Experiences Conference**

- Frank Putnam is confirmed – he is a psychologist and MD – great speaker, includes intervention in his address
- Dr. Rose may do the speaking himself
- Dr. Aronson and Savell are confirmed, will do overview on research on ACE, explore how Maine could move forward
- Yvonne Mickles confirmed. Grew up with ACE – Sun Journal did an article on her
- Agenda is drafted
- Brenda Harvey will be asked by Dan to give introduction
- Tables will be set up by district locations
- Save the Date postcards have gone out
- Goals should include the working intervention and healing and stress that it is for “child” also ask that statistics include national and Maine numbers
- Total Conference will be approximately 125-130 people
- It was suggested that a response form be created and left at the tables for wrap up period – this will be on the Agenda for Aprils’ meeting

**III. Cops and Caseworkers Conference**

- Would like to make this an annual event
- Ideas for next conference:
  - Interview piece was good but not appropriate for caseworkers
  - Need the child interview side
  - Use findings from Child Death Panel Reports
  - Speakers/presenters should be from Maine, not out of state
  - Interviewing the Child Victims piece as part of the Cops/Caseworkers
  - Bring in the person from AG office (Meg Elim) re: gathering evidence
  - Answer what is criminal?, What is child protective?
  - Look at reaching out to child protective services and police who do investigations
  - Gary, Larry and Dan will meet to begin discussions on what should be part of the conference

#### **IV. Committee to Develop Curriculum Regarding Sexual Behaviors**

- What would it take to put Sue Righthand's curriculum together so that it was useable and there was follow-up
- CAAN feels that they can be supportive to this project, but not take on the whole thing
- Curriculum needs to be informed by a consultant, needs a writer to put the curriculum together
- Possible that Center for Learning could work on that
- Would like to put the curriculum on line
- Sue Righthand should be invited to next meeting to discuss further

#### **V. Other Business**

- Public Health Nursing is getting referrals from Neonatal Intensive Care Units to avoid going thru the Department. Dan, Robert Provost and Ellen to meet and discuss further
- Attorney General's office is presenting a mock trial to Public Health on 3/21/06 – it will be videotaped
- Ellen Bridge needs help with \$6000 donation to be used by July 1 on a Maine Children's Health Conference – Joan Smyrske volunteered to help them out
- Dan Despard indicated that the Department was working on developing protocol for removing children living in meth labs. Meth labs have been having a high impact on Maine children; neglect, abuse and sexual abuse; Dept. needs to come up with a training.

**Next Meeting: April 7, 2006**

## **CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES**

(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

**Friday, April 7, 2006**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Dan Despard, Vickie Fisher, Mark Rains, Roxy Hennings, Ellen Bridge, Janice Stuver, Judy Deal, Gary Wright, Joan Smyrski, Betsy Norcross-Plourde, Elizabeth Ward-Saxl, Sue Righthand, DeEtte Hall, Bev Boose, Jeanine Brown

### **I. Introductions**

- Everyone introduced themselves

### **II. Committee to Develop Curriculum Regarding Sexual Behaviors**

Dr. Sue Righthand and Betsy Norcross-Plourde were at this meeting to add to the discussion on the idea of developing curriculum for the State of Maine regarding sexual behaviors and to what extent CAAN can/should/would like to become involved.

- Gail Ryan's writings/findings is copywrited and we could attend her workshop to use her materials, but Maine needs to come up with our own curriculum
- It was suggested that Alison Gray could work as a facilitator or curriculum writer with everyone; she or someone like her could facilitate a committee to prepare a prevention/intervention curriculum for the State for the use of educators, foster parents, multi-disciplinary professionals, etc.
- Child Bureau of Health could really use this type of information
- This project is just now getting off the ground at this time
- Difficult to place an estimated cost on this project
- Very big undertaking
- CAAN needs to decide what level of involvement we want to commit to
- How big of a budget does CAAN have?
- Use this group as a collaborator
- Need to determine what is already out there and what is being used
- Vickie will pull together a group of interested parties to brainstorm this idea – meeting will be scheduled

### **III. CAAN Conference**

- Dan has confirmed Brenda Harvey to do the welcome introduction
- CEU's have been applied for

- Handouts. Only have Dick Aronson's at this time
- Response Form:
  - Ask what can you commit to doing within your local community
  - What can you do in the next week
  - Who can you engage in this and get involved
  - What do you wish someone else could do
  - How can you actualize in your own practice
- Should check with speakers to get permission for video taping – Vickie will check

#### **IV. Cops and Caseworkers Conference**

- A suggestion for the next conference is to refer to the MidCoast District who has a protocol for collaborating investigations – could use this as a model

#### **V. Nominee for Scholarship**

- Panthea Burns has nominated Kala Clark, Dan agreed that she is a worthy nominee

**Next Meeting: May 5, 2006**

## **CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES**

(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

**Friday, May 5, 2006**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Vickie Fisher, Roxy Hennings, Ellen Bridge, Elizabeth Ward-Saxl, Barbara Piotti, Jeanine Brown

### **I. Committee to Develop Curriculum Regarding Sexual Behaviors**

Gail Ryan has offered an opportunity for free training

Questions/concerns still unanswered:

- Can she be flexible enough to do co-training with a Maine trainer – modify her curriculum?
- Is Evidence Based Practice supported by Gail?
- How can we make this work for our system?
- We need to add additional knowledge and correct differences she presents w/Maine Practices
- A lot of misinformation out on sex offenders, we need to be careful
- Need to add our training immediately after hers in conjunction with her presentation
- If we do this in July it would not allow us enough time to address key issues
- We would like/need to see/review the curriculum before we go ahead with agreeing to her training
- Need to consult Sue Righthand to hear her opinion

### **II. CAAN Conference**

- Members who asked to be added to attendance: Elizabeth Ward-Saxl, Sara Steward, Roxy Hennings, Barry Stoodley
- Response Form Suggestions were made; Vickie will pull comments and suggestions together and email to all
- Suggested that a CAAN Member be placed at each table to help generate conversation/discussion at the tables
- Research piece is VERY important for this conference – planned for right after lunch

### **III. Cops and Caseworkers Conference**

Due to Dan Despard and Gary Wright not being at this meeting, we will need to discuss at another time.

**Next Meeting: June 2, 2006**

## **CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES**

(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

**Friday, June 2, 2006**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Dan Despard, Vickie Fisher, Roxy Hennings, Ellen Bridge, Barbara Piotti, Gary Wright, Jan Clarkin, Doreen Merrill, Joan Smyrski, Arthur Keenan, Jeanine Brown

### **I. Introductions**

Members introduced themselves to Arthur Keenan from the DOE – he will be here observing to see if being on this board would be a benefit to him in his position at DOE and if he may be helpful to the CAAN group.

### **II. Denver Conference on Evidence Based Practice**

Roxy and Dan attended the conference in Denver and reviewed some of its highlights

- The conference was a review of programs that are effective in reducing violence
- Most programs are running without a review of their effectiveness
- Conference was split in two groups – prevention and intervention
- Prevention theme: develop solid kids; builds on concept of nursing family partnerships – new parents are more receptive of information, training
- Conference Goal was to stress the importance of following model practices in order to maintain effectiveness
- Findings indicate that the DARE program is not as effective as once planned, Scared Straight doesn't work and often leads to increased risk – much research was presented
- When you do Functional Practices and don't follow the model, it creates worse results than doing nothing
- Multi Systemic Therapy does happen in Maine – if not faithful to model; outcome can be detrimental
- Mentoring programs are great, but duration of relationships are key
- Agencies need to put their foot down; following the model is crucial to be effective
- Multi dimensional therapeutic foster care is designed to work with families foster kids are going to live with – implementing in Maine now.

### **III. Curriculum Regarding Sexual Behaviors**

- Meeting scheduled for 6/6 at 10:30 to discuss with Sue Righthand
- Sue currently talking to Gail Ryan – She doesn't want to support all of Gails' ideas, i.e.: perps cycles of abuse, negative labels used 'chronic', not child and adolescent sensitive
- Sue doesn't feel as though she can support all Gail's theories even though some of the ideas are very good

- We should go ahead and listen to Gail's presentation and pick pieces we want to go with; use as a baseline
- Curriculum writer would need to be in attendance
- Muskie person has volunteered to attend
- Fall Training possibilities would have to be addressed later
- Group consensus is to go with proposal; take what we feel is appropriate to use here in Maine
- Organize a common sense discussion after the training

#### **IV. ACE Conference**

Overall the conference was well received. Some comments are as follows:

- Excellent flow of presentation
- Productive
- People seemed pleased
- Ended kind of scattered
- Started with 92 people ended with 30
- Didn't lose anyone until after Yvonne
- Brenda Harvey did a good introduction
- Dr. Putnam's information was very useful – interesting what they are doing in Cincinnati
- Keep the theme of ACE and build on it – make it Maine Related
- Enforces the Multidisciplinary goal of CAAN
- Personal story at end may keep more people there
- Microphone in the audience for next year
- Different disciplines are starting to come together

#### **V. 2006 Cops and Caseworker Conference**

- Meth epidemic presenters from other states may be a good choice
- Dr. Ricci reporting on findings with CD&SR Panel would be good
- Repeat Offenses happening in Maine
- Tentative date: October 10 and 11, 2006
- Collaboration would be a good topic

#### **VI. Summer Newsletter**

- We have an article from 2-1-1
- Also have an article on the CAAN Conference
- Dr. Aronson's permission will be asked to reprint article "10-points"
- Member input would be appreciated

## **VII. CDSI Findings and Recommendations**

Vickie distributed draft for comments

- Spell out acronyms
- Dept. would like more immediate review instead of after criminal investigation is over
- Deficiencies in which law addressed these issues
- Jeopardy findings

**Next Meeting: August 4, 2006**

## **CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES**

(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

**Friday, August 4, 2006**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Vickie Fisher, Roxy Hennings, Barbara Piotti, Janice Stuver, Gary Wright, Jan Clarkin, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Mark Rains, Carol Tiernan, Arthur Keenan, Jeanine Brown

### **I. Introductions**

Members introduced themselves. CAAN has two new members: Jan Clarkin from Maine Children's Trust and Carol Tiernan; Parent Advocate from GEAR (Gaining Empowerment Attains Results).

### **II. Disciplines Required on Panel**

Group was asked for suggestions regarding additional disciplines to add to the group. It was agreed that representation from Crisis Programs such as Crisis and Counseling would be a benefit.

### **III. Citizens Review Panel**

- CAAN is required to produce a report for the Citizens Review Panel
- Vickie distributed Kentucky's report for everyone to review and maybe generate new ideas and/or comparisons for our own
- We will ask for comments at the next meeting

### **IV. Gail Ryan Training**

This did not take place. The subcommittee met with Sue Righthand and decided not to go in that direction. Other questions that have been proposed are:

- Do we (Maine) want to partner with Massachusetts in their training/curriculum. Currently Jetta Bernier from Prevent Child Abuse Massachusetts has an infrastructure in collaboration with CDC in working with perpetrators in Child Sexual Assault
- Need to identify the various Maine people/disciplines/groups already involved in this and develop an infrastructure
- Would CAAN be the group to identify the central focus? Need one thing to bring it all together
- CAAN is supposed to be intervention, not prevention – need to look at how we want to approach
- Next subcommittee meeting is 9/14/06
- Would like to have more people involved with this subcommittee

## **V. ACE Conference for 2007**

- It was agreed that ACE being such a large topic; we need to continue with this theme
- The Children's Cabinet has also been working with this issue
- There are many directions to go in, we need to focus on one and follow thru
- Many Maine disciplines are now continuing with their own conferences based on what they have learned from CAAN's previous Conference materials
- A focal point for our next conference was suggested as "Sense of Coherence"
- Mark Rains offered to bring more data regarding coherence to the next meeting for further discussion
- Personal story at end of the Conference may keep more people there

## **VI. Cops and Caseworkers Conference**

- Larry Ricci will be one of the main speakers
- Focus will be Child Death and Serious Injury Reviews emphasizing collaborative efforts and protocols
- Janice Stuver has volunteered to be a Panel Member to help stress "collaboration"
- Invitations by word of mouth have gone out to Law Enforcement
- Group will be made up of 50 cops/50 caseworkers
- Date set for October 10 and 11 (October 11 is for Law enforcement only)

## **VII. CDSI Findings and Recommendations**

- 2005 Findings from CDSI Draft report was distributed, Vickie is looking for comments/feedback from all members

**Next Meeting: September 1, 2006**

## **CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES**

(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

**Friday, September 1, 2006**

9:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Attendees**

Dan Despard, Vickie Fisher, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Mark Rains, Ellen Bridge, Carol Tiernan, Jeanine Brown

### **I. Introductions and New Membership**

Members introduced themselves to one another. It is agreed that we would like someone from crisis services added to the group; maybe from outreach program or rapid response. Scott Moore of Crisis and counseling had another Commitment that day. Vickie will contact Joan Smyrski about suggestions for a person to fill that discipline. The ultimate goal for CAAN is to become a Citizen's Review Panel making systemic recommendations to the State of Maine in regard to child abuse and neglect.

### **II. Caseworker of the Year Award**

The Spurwink Conference is September 13 and 14, 2006; our nomination for recipient of caseworker of the year is Denny Murphy, District 2. Denny has 22 years of dedicated experience to child protection. The Award comes with a \$500 stipend and plaque, originally set up by Samantha Smith's mother, Jane Smith.

### **III. Citizens Review Panel**

- CAAN's goal is to become a Citizen's Review Panel making systemic recommendations to the State of Maine in regard to child abuse and neglect
- As a panel we should be able to make recommendations to the state as to an approach for Maine regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)
- A starting point would be to use the current Annual CAAN Report
- End goal would be to combine the Child Death and Serious Injury Review findings and the CAAN Report to make a Citizen's Review Panel Report – one report.
- Potential recommendations include 1) a parallel to the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel that looks at a segment of children entering foster care to ask the question, "Is there anything the system could have done to prevent this child from entering foster care?" 2) Tracking the major reasons (ACEs) that children come into care such as substance abuse. Resiliency could also be tracked.

#### **IV. Sexual Abuse Committee**

- Committee is continuing discussions to determine the best direction Maine should go and whether CAAN should be involved. Need to see who is doing what type of work and where we should go from here. A presentation by Jetta Bernier from Massachusetts was made. Massachusetts has started an “Enough Abuse” project. Vickie has talked with Sarita Hudson from “Stop It Now”. These programs require a large start up cost and are not really compatible with the committee’s goals at this time.
- Next subcommittee meeting is 9/14/06 at 8:30 am at Marquardt Building in Augusta.

#### **V. ACE**

- Group agreed that we should contact Dr. Hamilton McCubbin (resiliency research) as a possible speaker or ask him whom he might recommend. Mark Rains and Vickie Fisher have been researcher potential speakers online. Dr. McCubbin appears to have the information on resiliency that we would like to see presented at the May 2007 conference. This would be a good next step to the Adverse Childhood Experiences information.

#### **VI. Cops and Caseworkers Conference**

- Date set for October 10 and 11 (October 11 is for Law enforcement only)

#### **VII. Sean Faircloth**

- Running for leadership position, asked that his vitae and list of supporters be distributed at this meeting, as he would like our support. Sean has been very involved in children’s issues.

**Next Meeting: October 6, 2006**

