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**Yearly Report  
Child Abuse Action Network  
&  
Child Death & Serious  
Injury  
Review Panel  
October 2006 - September 2007**





***"No one has yet realized the wealth  
of sympathy, the kindness and  
generosity hidden in the soul of a  
child."***

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## A Message from the CAAN Committee & Child Death & Serious Injury Panel

This past year has seen tremendous growth in CAAN membership and community participation. We have twenty-five active members including representation from prevention and parent groups.

CAAN has taken on several projects this past year. One is to look at problems of sexual behaviors in children. We have a sub committee that is looking at available resources in Maine on how to improve training curriculum and services. We continue to address the problem of Adverse Childhood experiences by considering resiliency and joining with State and Community groups to work on this issue together.

CAAN held two conferences between October 2006 and September 2007. One was in conjunction with the Maine State Police and focused on Collaborative investigations. The other was the annual CAAN conference in May looking at Adverse Childhood Experiences: Hearts Trump Aces.

We have published two newsletters this year as well as the 2005 Annual Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel's report. All of these documents are available online at <http://www.maineaan.usm.maine.edu>. Our website continues to be a popular among professionals as well as community members seeking more information about child abuse and neglect.

Currently CAAN and the CDSIR Panel have worked jointly, as the Citizens Review Panel, to make recommendations to State policy and practice. This year the committees will work together to develop a fully functioning Citizen Review Panel in our State.

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 & 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  
2006-2007**

**Ellen Bridge**  
Maine Center for Disease Control

**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

**Renna Hegg**  
Department of Corrections

**Tara Karczewski**  
Crisis & Counseling

**Arthur Keenan**  
Dept. of Education

**Roxy Hennings**  
Dept. of Corrections

**Sandra Hodge**  
Medical Social Worker

**Tanya Labbe**  
Thrive Initiative

**Virginia Marriner**  
OCFS/DHHS

**Kathryn McGloin**  
Dept. of Corrections

**Barbara Piotti**  
Kennebec Behavioral Health

**Mark Rains**  
Psychologist, Private

**Lawrence Ricci**  
Spurwink Child Abuse

**Elizabeth Ward Saxl**  
Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Cindy Seekins**  
GEAR Parents Network

**Joan Smyrski**  
DHHS, Children's Behavior Health

**Nonny Soifer**  
Director, CASA

**Matt Pollack**  
Attorney General's Office

**Lisa Sockabasin**  
Office of Minority Health

**Carol Tiernan**  
GEAR Parent Network

**Lt. Gary Wright**  
Maine State Police

**CD&SI Members  
2006-2007**

**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  
**Marguerite Dewitt**  
Medical Examiners Office  
**Vickie J. Fisher, LSW**  
Muskie School  
**Judge Rae French**  
Maine District Court  
**Margaret Greenwald, MD**  
Chief Medical Examiner  
**Sandra Hodge, LSW**  
Medical Social Worker  
**Alan Kelly, Esq., DDA**  
Office of District Attorney  
**Marie Kelly**  
OCFS/DHHS  
**Ann LeBlanc, Ph.D.**  
State Forensic Service  
**Virginia Marriner**  
OCFS/DHHS  
**Stephen Meister, MD**  
Pediatrics, Maine General Hospital  
**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  
**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

**To provide staff support to the Child Abuse Action Network and coordinate ongoing work, professional training and collaboration among multiple disciplines and demonstration projects.**

### **Scope of Project:**

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, coordination of activities, research design, or report writing. The network and committee staff will work with individual network/committee members to implement network/committee goals/plans. It is important for professionals to and the public to have access to state-of-the-art information about child abuse and neglect. Hundreds of contacts are made over the year through our CAAN website, making access to professionals and resources easier for those seeking information. The newsletters and trainings keep professionals informed and promote increased collaboration.

### **Objective 1**

To provide monthly and ongoing support staff for CAAN meetings.

#### ***Outcomes***

- ❑ Produced minutes of monthly meetings for the Child Abuse Action Network
- ❑ Communication between CAAN members via written, electronic measures and individual meetings
- ❑ Produced and disseminated annual CAAN report
- ❑ Facilitated ten (10) CAAN meetings, two (2) conferences and one (1) retreat

### **Objective 2**

To enhance good working relationships between law enforcement and child protective caseworkers, particularly regarding protection of children.

## ***Outcomes***

- ❑ Sponsored a one-day Cops & Caseworker conference focusing on the needs of the region and recommendations of the CDSIR held on October 10, 2007.

## **Objective 3**

To support partnerships between state departments, public and private agencies and individual practitioners through the ongoing work of the CAAN.

## ***Outcomes***

- ❑ Assessed as CAAN's subcommittee on problem sexual behaviors available services, training and information regarding child sexual behavior problems.
- ❑ Worked with Child Abuse & Neglect Councils to develop an appropriate training regarding children with sexual behavior problems for educators, daycare providers and others. This training was presented in January, 2007.
- ❑ Reviewed (as the Citizen's Review Panel) DHHS policy and practice. CAAN also reviewed and provided feedback to the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel's Findings and Recommendations.
- ❑ Reviewed and provided expert feedback to the Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Parents Pilot Project. CAAN met with the director of the program once this year on October 6, 2006.
- ❑ Reviewed and provided expert feedback to special projects such as Trauma Informed Systems of Care.
- ❑ Added several new members to include more and diverse disciplines. Agencies added are Crisis and Counseling, Maine CDC, Office of Minority Health, GEAR Parent Network, Trauma Informed Systems of Care (THRIVE) and Maine Children's Trust.

## **Objective 4**

To enhance the availability of child maltreatment information and resources.



## ***Outcomes***

- ❑ Produced and published two issues of the professional CAAN Newsletter. Disseminated to child maltreatment professionals throughout Maine and New England.
- ❑ Provided ongoing management support for the CAAN website. Provided up to date training information, newsletters, treatment directory information and access to annual reports.

## **Objective 5**

To deliver a conference, building on the two previous annual conferences addressing the challenging issues of adverse childhood experiences.

## ***Outcomes***

- ❑ Coordinated May 17, 2007 conference with 85 people in attendance. Conference focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resiliency
- ❑ Participated in regular Public Health Cross Disciplinary Collaborative meetings regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences

## **GOAL 2**

**To provide staff support to the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel and coordinate on-going work and collaboration among multiple disciplines and demonstration projects.**

### **Scope of Work:**

There has been considerable attention paid to the issues of child fatalities. The Maine CDSIR Panel also considers serious injuries in its reviews. 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.

Through the work of the Child Death and Serious Injury Review panel, findings and recommendations are made to improve policy, practice, collaborations and working relationships among Maine professionals working in the field of child abuse and neglect.

10-12 Executive summaries are completed each year. A yearly report is published and distributed which includes not only the findings and recommendations, but also other important statistical data from DHSS and the State Medical Examiner's Office as well as the Department's response to the recommendations.

## **Objective 1**

To provide monthly and ongoing staff support and coordination for the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel meetings.

### ***Outcomes***

- ❑ Facilitated communication between the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel members via written, electronic measures and individual communication.
- ❑ Produced for each case reviewed, a Case Summary of all case related documentation for distribution to Panel members.
- ❑ Coordinated activities of the CDSIR Panel including obtaining, organizing, reviewing and distributing case records, creating genograms and including relevant parties to the case in meetings.
- ❑ Produced an Executive Summary including the Panel's Findings and Recommendations of each case reviewed for Program Administrators, DHHS Director and commissioner.
- ❑ Produced and annual CD of all Executive Summaries of cases reviewed in the Calendar year.

## **Objective 2**

To collaborate with the new England States' Child Death Teams and other state and international teams.

### ***Outcomes***

- ❑ Met with Maine CDSIR members and other New England CDSIR teams for one day in New Hampshire to review work done and support ongoing collaboration.
- ❑ Facilitated communication between the New England Teams.
- ❑ Attended annual Children's Justice Act grantees meeting in Portland, Oregon.

- ❑ Met with British Child Death team.

### **Objective 3**

To produce and publish Annual 2005 CDSIR report and collect information for the 2006 report.

#### ***Outcomes***

- ❑ Produced, published and disseminated the 2005 Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel Report.
- ❑ Compiled, organized and analyzed information for the 2006 Child Death and Serious Injury Review Report.

### **Objective 4**

To support partnerships and collaboration between state departments, public and private agencies as well as schools, universities and individual practitioners.

#### ***Outcomes***

- ❑ Supported and participated in the development of the Maternal and Infant Death Review Committee through the Maine Center for Disease Control.
- ❑ Supported and participated in the development of Maine's Citizen's Review Panel.

## **CAAN Recommendations**

### **Recommendation:**

The state of Maine will plan, organize and develop a separate functioning Citizen Review Panel.



CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES  
(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

Friday, October 6, 2006  
9:00 am to 11:00 am

**Attendees**

Dan Despard, Vickie Fisher, Mark Rains, Barbara Piotti, Janice Stuver, Dick Watson, Gary Wright, Sara Stewart, Jan Clarkin, Jeanine Brown

## **Dick Watson, DBT Therapy Group Report**

- Ran a group in Waterville
- Trained in Model
- No specific research details
- Most people DHHS involved parents (referrals)
- One mom began group unable to say “no” to 2-yr-old; progressed to the ability to say “no”
- Another mom had personality disorder and depression – made significant changes; stopped screaming at her kids
- Two other moms got their kids back in the process – group very helpful to them
- Overall; most everyone gained fair to significant improvement
- Augusta also did a group – had trouble getting participants
- New group in Waterville starts in November
- Dick has made appearances in court re: parents participation – positive reception
- Dan Despard indicated that the new Child Psychologist heading up Evidence Based at Department wants to meet w/Dick to discuss DBT – it will be arranged

## **Sexual Abuse Committee**

- Allison Gray wants us to plan ahead, do ground work prior to her coming to Maine
- She sent us a planning tool to begin with
- Identify who needs to be involved, send out planning tool
- Decide how much time we are willing to pay Allison for

- Set up a meeting with interested individuals
- Subcommittee is very overwhelmed but willing to work on details
- Stakeholders need to be identified, set a goal and move forward
- MACWIS would be a good resource to obtain information on all related cases
- DA's office should also have additional statistics (offenders w/o children)
- Next Subcommittee Meeting planned for 10/12/06

## **Continuing Thoughts/Discussion on Adverse Childhood Experiences**

- Hamilton McCubbin redirected us to his daughter; Dr. Laurie McCubbin – all agreed we should contract her for the event; May 17, 2007
- Mark Rains has agreed to speak with her prior to event as to the direction we would like her presentation to go in
- YLAT Play group willing to present and we also agreed to book them for the date.

## **Information for Citizen's Review Panel**

- Tracking Risk Factors
- Number of substantiated victims are going down
- Dan was asked to continue to bring data to this meeting

## **2006 Cops and Caseworker Conference, October 10**

- At full capacity
- Dr. Larry Ricci is the presenter
- Collaborative investigation is the topic
- Individual's function in investigation will be discussed

## **Other business**

None

Next Meeting: November 3, 2006



CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES  
(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

Friday, November 3, 2006  
9:00 am to 11:00 am

*Attendees*

Dan Despard, Vickie Fisher, Mark Rains, Barbara Piotti, Kathryn McGloin, Priscilla House, Marilyn Welsh, Joan Smyrski, Jeanine Brown, Maureen Baker, Ellen Bridge

## **Sexual Abuse Committee**

- Initial conception of this committee was to discuss what type of sexual abuse and prevention behavior problems training would best suite Maine
- First thoughts were to base it on Gail Ryan's teaching, but the committee decided this would not be in our best interest
- Currently the committee is discussing views with Alison Gray
- Next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 15 to decide where to go from here
- CAN Councils are moving forward with Sue Righthand doing some trainings
- Our target would be prevention of sexual abuse to be presented to Case Managers, etc.
- Vickie may be able to attend Sue's trainings to see what we can use from the training

## **Adverse Childhood Experiences 2007 CAAN Conference**

- Dr. Laurie McCubbin confirmed as our guest speaker
- Date confirmed for May 17, 2007 to be held at Central Maine Commerce Center, Augusta
- YLAT – Youth Leadership Advisory Team will perform a skit
- Thoughts to consider for the Conference:

- Dr. McCubbin will be conversing with Mark Rains to discuss Maine culture; he will mention the refugee aspect, as well as the native communities
- Dr. Irwin Sandler.
  - Should be considered as a resource in addition to McCubbin, he would be able to speak on resiliency to ACE and coping skills
  - May be able to have him attend by splitting his time with another organization to do a different workshop in the same time frame
  - Mark will speak to both Drs to see if a collaboration would be feasible

During the discussion on the Conference it was mentioned that a Native American representative on the CAAN team would be a good idea. Ellen Bridge will invite Lisa Sockabasin to attend in December to talk to us about her thought regarding membership and proper protocols in the approach

## **Citizen's Review Panel**

- How do we make this group and the Child Death and Serious Injury Review panel into a Citizen's Review Panel?
- The goal is to Improve Quality to Child Protection Program
- Kentucky would be a good model for this type of panel
- How and what type of data would be beneficial for Dan to bring to this group for the Department

## **CAAN Newsletter**

- Fall 2006 newsletter due to be mailed in approximately 2 weeks
- Winter 2007 newsletter will feature Mark Rain's pyramid of Adverse Experiences as well as an article from Joan Smyrski from Trauma Informed System of Care
- Members are reminded to use this resource (the newsletter) as a forum for getting the word out on their programs and other child related issues

## **Caseworker of The Year Award**

- Jane Smith has withdrawn the funding for this award
- This award has been given to a child protective caseworker for over 14 years
- Department would rather award a team, not single out one caseworker

## **2006 Cops & Caseworker Conference**

- Overall, Dr. Larry Ricci's presentation was very helpful and well received
- The panel presentation was not well received and perceived as 'dry' as well as too basic
- Dr. Ricci took findings and recommendations from CDSI and made it real to the audience
- Local PD was not in attendance as much as DHHS workers wanted, Maine State Police were in attendance, but problems do not lie w/working with them
- Need to work with Lt. Gary Wright to include the local PD next year
- Requested that the audience be grouped by counties
- In regard to interviewing children who are victims: State PD have been trained in this, local PD do not have that experience/training, clinical perspective to an interview, Department staff also needs training; process would benefit from information from this group

## **VII. Other Business**

Treatment Directory:

We still have this on the CAAN Website, created in 2000 and now outdated, not comfortable leaving it on the web. Group consensus was to remove it from the web immediately

**NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 1, 2006**





CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES  
(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

Friday, December 1, 2006  
9:00 am to 11:00 am

*Attendees*

Vickie Fisher, Mark Rains, Barbara Piotti, Jeanine Brown, Ellen Bridge, Janice Stuver, Arthur Keenan, Dean Crocker, Roxy Hennings

## **I. Continuing Thoughts/Discussion on Adverse Childhood Experiences**

- A potential list of goals for the conference was distributed
- Dr. McCubbin may be able to address building health instead of treating disease, concentrate on staying healthy vs. why we are getting sick
- Dr. McCubbin has also agreed to meet with CAAN members after the conference to answer additional specific questions/ideas
- Dr. Sandler could address what children are thinking about how their future will be – working w/kids about trauma and loss – he addresses ACE as a public health problem and discusses interventions for people at high risk *before* problems occur – resiliency
- Panel could discuss “Here is what Maine does now” for our children
- Dr. Sandler could possible do another workshop the next day to split costs; Dr. McCubbin plans to do something for Muskie the next day.
- Vickie will start negotiating contracts

## **II. Citizen’s Review Panel**

- Copies of the October 2005-September 2006 Yearly Report from CAAN and Child Death and Serious Injury Review panel were distributed
- Group asked to refer to page 8 of this report for CAAN Recommendations #1

- *There should be a parallel panel to the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel. This panel should ask the questions, “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*

Please review/research and we will discuss next month in more detail. Some ideas discussed today were; 1) involve legislature, 2) involve Health and Human Services committees, 3) the defense council would be a great source for input, 4) family input is critical; a person who has been through the system

### **III. Native American CAAN Representative**

- Lisa Sockabasin has been contacted and is very interested in becoming involved – will try to have her attend our January meeting

### **IV. CAAN Newsletter**

- Fall 2006 newsletter has been completed and mailed out
- Winter 2007 articles are needed before mid-January

### **V. Forensic Interviews of Children**

- Arthur Keenan from Department of Education is looking for thoughts/assistance to enhance the forensic interviews being done in Maine schools when allegations of abuse surface
- Ideally would like to pull together sources to create one source for school administrators to consult before/during interviews on child abuse cases
- Interviews are currently being done by individuals who don't have enough knowledge in the area
- Would there possibly be a chance for Muskie School to create an on-line training along with 'checklists' on 'what do I need to know', 'which interview comes first', 'protocol', etc.?
- Should schools be doing forensic interviews?
- Group agreed that key people should be included in any further discussions to be continued next month when Lt. Gary Wright, State Police and Dan Despard could be in attendance

## **VI. 2006 Cops & Caseworker Conference**

- What can be done to improve the conference, will discuss next month when Gary Wright can be in attendance.

## **VII. Other Business**

Possible new CAAN members: Tonya Labbee (additional parent representation) from the Mid Maine Trauma Project and Tara Karczewski (crisis representation) from Crisis and Counseling. Group was asked if anyone had any concerns regarding new members – there were none.

Next Meeting: January 5, 2007



CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES  
(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

Friday, January 5, 2007  
9:00 am to 11:00 am

*Attendees*

Vickie Fisher, Mark Rains, Janice Stuver, Roxy Hennings, Gary Wright, Lisa Sockabassin, Tara Karczewski, Ginny Marriner, Larry Ricci, Cindy Seekins, Jan Clarkin, Joan Smyrski, Tanya Labbe, Jeanine Brown

## **I. Introduction of new members**

- Tara Karczewski, Crisis and Counseling
- Lisa Sockabassin, Native American Spokesperson
- Cindy Seekins, Parent Advocate, GEAR network
- Tanya Labbe, Parent Representative

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

Ginny Marriner attended in Dan Despard's absence to bring us updates on Citizen's Review panel.

- Focus is on community representatives, Council on Accreditation in process; Chris Beerits is working on this with the Muskie School.
- Program Administrators in the districts have the lead in gathering community representatives
- Tony Morrison is the international consultant on this program
- Quality Assurance Staff person in each district does random reviews and fit federal child and family services tool; name has been changed to Performance and Quality Improvement PQI

- Plan is to pull together Future Search Conference PQI and individuals from various districts as part of a cross review process
- 2009 Federal Review will be reviewing the 2007 and 2008 time periods
- CAAN group members may be able to assist in bringing in representatives of multi disciplines. Contact information on the following was asked for:
  - Virginia ‘Ginny’ Marriner, DHHS, 287-2976  
[Virginia.S.Marriner@maine.gov](mailto:Virginia.S.Marriner@maine.gov)
  - Cindy Seekins, Parent Representative, GEAR, 223-9993  
[cseekins1@verison.net](mailto:cseekins1@verison.net)
  - Janice Stuver, AAG, [Janice.stuver@maine.gov](mailto:Janice.stuver@maine.gov)

### **III. Child Sexual Behavior Problems Subcommittee**

- Sue Righthand has agreed to do a training for the Child Abuse and Neglect Councils next month. This training is not for the abusers; but this could possibly be arranged to happen – Sue would be the one to approach with this issue.
- ‘Stop it Now’ would like the opportunity to come to Maine

### **IV. Parallel Panel to the Child Death and Serious Injury review Panel**

Referring to CAAN Recommendation #1 on page 8 of the CAAN and CDSIRP Yearly Report October 2005-September 2006: *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.*

- Legislation needs to be introduced to Commissioner and Governor first
- Department working on something similar on ‘who addresses complaints’
- Department of Corrections often faces custody questions; what services are appropriate? Guardianship issues, mental health needs
- Many difficult situations occur – what is the appropriate action to take
- Community Wide Response needed to help these adolescents with no guardianship
- Legal Aide would be a good group to approach on this issue
- We may already have some of these things in place
- Department looking at permanency issues – will be heading in this direction in the near future

- We will see by late spring if what we are doing will meet these needs and review from there
- It was suggested that law enforcement be involved; as they are a huge piece in the CDSIR and represent communities.

## **V. 2007 Cops and Caseworker Conference**

- Comments from the 2006 conference indicated that local police need to be involved, maybe create a separate conference for local PD's in addition to state police
- Interest is out there, might be good to approach Maine Chiefs and Sheriffs to see if there is enough interest for a separate training
- Criminal Division meeting is coming up soon, will reach out to child protective supervisors to see what their specific needs are
- Child Abuse Investigators are very receptive to any training offered
- Findings and Recommendations from CDSIR are very important to get out in large distribution
- Annual conference vs. every 2 years? CAAN felt this was not a good idea; 2 years may be too much of a time lapse

## **VI. 2007 CAAN Conference**

- Scheduled for May 17, 2007 – Augusta
- Dr. Irwin Sandler graciously accepted our proposal and will be one of our key note speakers
- A draft of the conference learning objectives was distributed – comments and suggestions have been asked for and will be discussed next month
- Flexibility in the date? No, not really because of Dr. McCubbin's and the YLAT team's schedule.
- Target audience? Multi-disciplines – families could also be included; usually 5 representative from each group – people in attendance should be people who can bring information back to others from/in their disciplines
- If you have possible candidates; get mailing list to Vickie and they will receive invitations
- This year is 'Part III;' on the ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) concept – we will be addressing resiliency to ACE
- In place of a Panel we could approach Tim Duffy, Resiliency Asset Coordinator to facilitate a discussion 'hand on' segment of the conference – this may keep participants interested enough to stay the entire day and not leave early
- Drs McCubbin and Sandler are planning to 'flow' off one another's presentations; other presenters should plan to talk with them prior to the conference to help keep from disjointing the theme
- YLAT group will put on a theatrical skit on kids in the system
- At February's CAAN meeting we will finalize the conference outline

## **VII. Newsletter Articles**

- Get them to Vickie soon, any contribution accepted
- Mark Rains presented a potential article – asked for comments/suggestions from other members

## **VIII. Other Business**

A question was asked by one of the members to the group: “Where do you find data on shaken baby statistics?”

New verbiage for the shaken baby syndrome is now referred to as Abusive Head Trauma; name changed because of the different mechanisms used in creating the trauma. Toni Wall may be a possible resource (287-8016)

There is no one place that keeps the statistics. A database was created a few years ago by contacting all major hospitals and combing thru their databases. Child Protective Services does not list by categories.

The prevention community is trying to determine what their target population should be regarding education on Abusive Head Trauma.

Currently (past 2 months) there appears to be an increase in this diagnosis – anecdotally, not statistically. Family stats have stayed the same over the years. Lisa Sockabassin offered to forward a report on to Vickie for distribution regarding “what to do with a crying baby” – results from a teen survey

## **IX Forensic Interviewing – Next CAAN Meeting**

It has been brought to the Panels attention that Maine school staff is faced with performing forensic interviewing – we would like to discuss this topic further next month with Dan Despard and Lt. Gary Wright in attendance.

**NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 2, 2007**



CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES  
(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

Friday, February 2, 2007  
9:00 am to 11:00 am

*Attendees*

Vickie Fisher, Mark Rains, Roxy Hennings, Gary Wright, Tara Karczewski, Ginny Marriner, Cindy Seekins, Lauren Sterling, Ellen Bridge, Arthur Keenan, Jeanine Brown

## **I. Introductions**

## **II. Information for Citizen's Review Panel— Dan/Ginny**

Ginny Marriner did not have anything new to report at this time

## **III. Parallel Panel to the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel**

- Districts have Family Team Meetings prior to child entering care
- In-depth assessment regarding decision making is not currently in place
- This will be discussed further when Dan Despard is in attendance
- Cannot do legislation for this at present time – we have time to discuss later



## **IV. May 2007 Conference**

- Title ideas for Conference
  - Moving Beyond ACES
  - ACE's and HEARTS: Healthy Experiences and Relationships That Support
  - Hearts trump Aces
  - How do Hearts trump Aces ?
- Goal of conference is to tap into audience we haven't addressed yet
- Dick Aronson and Susan Saville could use their Matrix as a Handout
- We would prefer something different than a Panel this year, something more interactive
- Provide an answer to "How To"
- Involve McCubbin and Sandler with the 12:20 – 1:20 time period
- A Panel is concrete, but takes more time than 1 hour
- Participants like 'real life' examples – participants of programs. What they got out of the program
- What really worked for them; enabled resiliency
- Waldo County Preschool works w/families on 'extended families' concept
- Odyssey Program – cross systems intervention and treatment program. Cindy Seekins to see if they could assist in conference
- Thrive another good program
- YLAT is confirmed to do a theatre presentation on experiences. Odyssey Kids is more of a conversation of their feeling rather than a presentation

## **V. Newsletter**

- Mark has an article – will email to Vickie
- All other articles welcome; please send to Vickie

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

- Law Supervisors will meet with DHHS Supervisors to come up with subject materials and discuss possible speakers.
- Scheduled for October 16, 2007

## **VII. Forensic Interviews**

- Dean Crocker, Ombudsman, has been concerned for over a year regarding interviews of children in the schools when there is alleged child abuse.
- Arthur Keenan gave group a handout—a flow chart of how things work now.

- Arthur Keenan wanted to bring together tools for investigation that could be used for school settings. He pulled together several resources that could be used for schools.
- The question was posed: where does law enforcement enter this system? There were questions if Law Enforcement was always notified. Lt. Gary Wright expressed concern that if a crime was committed, it is necessary that Law Enforcement be contacted.
- The understanding is that CPS Intake makes a DA referral when there is a possibility of a crime having been committed.
- There will be continued follow-up of this topic between Law Enforcement, DHHS and Education.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2007



CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES  
(Prepared by Jeanine Brown)

Friday, April 6, 2007  
9:00 am to 11:00 am

Please note: March 2, 2007 meeting was canceled due to a snowstorm.
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*Attendees*

Vickie Fisher, Mark Rains, Roxy Hennings, Tara Karczewski, Cindy Seekins, Barbara Piotti, Dan Despard, Matt Pollack, Jan Clarkin, Larry Ricci, Sarah Stewart, Tonya Labbe, Jeanine Brown, Margaret Zamboni

## **I. Introductions**

Matt Pollock has joined the committee – he is replacing Janet Stuver from the Attorney General's Office

## **II. Information for Citizen's Review Panel— Dan/Ginny**

Currently the CRP (Citizen's Review Panel) is two panels – the CAAN (Child Abuse Action Network) and CDSIRP (Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel). The goal is to create a combined CRP to make systemic recommendations to the state.

The COA (Council on Accreditation) is the newest project underway and it demands a quality improvement plan: CRP would accomplish this goal.

PIP Oversight Committee: Program Improvement Plan is now meeting bi-monthly to discuss pertinent issues regarding PIP.

Should we, CAAN, develop an actual panel? Perhaps we should make this part of our agenda to develop further, share information on initiatives, sharing of data; open discussion, etc. What is the Federal Requirement? Diverse disciplines need to be included, now CAAN and CDSIRP has met this requirement – judiciary is only discipline we do not have representation from, because of Judge Vafiades recent resignation from the Panel.

The two groups will plan to meet together between the two regularly scheduled monthly meetings for CAAN and CDSIRP – this will try to be set up for June. Interested parties please contact Vickie Fisher to become a part of this group – once established it will meet approximately 4 times a year.

### **III. Parallel Panel to the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel**

- Discussed in Agenda section II above

### **IV. May 2007 Conference**

- Noon time piece will be lead by Susan Savelle
- Tonya Labbe will introduce Thrive and bring youth members to elaborate
- Waldo County Head Start will bring a parent to discuss her personal resiliency
- Dr. McCubbin is currently researching cultures in Maine w/Lisa Sockabasin
- Dan Despard will introduce speakers
- Brenda Harvey has been asked to do the conference introduction; not confirmed yet.

### **V. Cops and Caseworkers Conference - 2007**

- Gary Wright is currently working on the logistics/planning
- It is scheduled for mid-October 2007

### **VI. Thrive Initiative – Tonya Labbe**

- Thrive was awarded a 6-year grant. It's goal is to develop a system of care, youth guided, etc. focusing on trauma informed piece. Thrive is a bridge to services – acts as a referral. Tonya will talk more about Thrive at the 2007 CAAN conference.

## **VII. Mark Rains – 4 year grant opportunity**

- Mark brought information regarding a potential grant to further explore ACE's in Maine. Seeking a letter of support from the CAAN group.
- This was a MidMaine Trauma Network project – this grant is not related to that
- Preventive Intervention would be ideal to help reduce long term ailments in ACE victims – research would look to find the answer to why numerous children who experience ACE do not develop problems.
- An additional idea would be to place emphasis on placement and stability – this has shown to have a dramatic affect on children

## **Summer Retreat**

- Group agreed it would be a great idea – will try to plan one in the Augusta area for some time in June
- Will include both the CAAN and CDSIRP
- Include discussion on
  - Home Visitation Programs
  - Shaken Baby Syndrome/Prevention
  - Pre-discharge education and follow up
  - Early Care Task Force

## **Children's Problem Sexual Behavior Meeting in March**

- Sue Righthand held a training; comments were positive
- 3 component training, overview, assessment and treatment
- Maine is starting to see kids developing serious sexual behavior preoccupation
- Children are ending up in residential care and receiving non-effective treatment
- Working to increase quality of treatment
- Might be a good idea/time to put together a directory of 'qualified' providers
- Would like a treatment model for 6-12 year olds

- Work with families to decrease stressors
- The CAAN website has listed additional links in relation to this issue ([www.maineaan.usm.maine.edu](http://www.maineaan.usm.maine.edu))



CAAN Monthly Meeting MINUTES  
(Prepared by Vickie Fisher)

Friday, May 7, 2007  
9:00 am to 10:15 am

*Attendees*

Mark Rains, Barbara Piotti, Dan Despard, Sarah Stewart, Gary Wright, Kathryn Lowe, Ellen Bridge, Vickie Fisher

## **I. Introductions**

Kathryn Lowe joined CAAN today as part of her pediatric residency

## **II. Citizen's Review Panel—Retreat on June 15**

Currently the CRP (Citizen's Review Panel) is two panels – the CAAN (Child Abuse Action Network) and CDSIRP (Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel). The goal is to create a combined CRP to make systemic recommendations to the state. Blake Jones of Kentucky will be facilitating a presentation about Citizen's Review Panels in the afternoon of the June 15 retreat.

The morning session of the retreat is to brainstorm ideas about activities and a 3-year initiative for CAAN. Dr. Ricci and Renna Hegg will do a short

presentation. There may be others as well as a facilitator. Sue Righthand will be available in the afternoon to answer questions about CAAN's report to the legislature, the subcommittee and any thoughts for activities regarding the children's problem sexual behaviors subcommittee that has been meeting this past year.

### **III. May 2007 Conference**

- Brenda Harvey will introduce the conference.
- Noontime presentation will be led by Susan Savell. It is entitled Resiliency Conversations. Nancy Webster of Head Start and Tina Flagg, a Head Start parent will have a conversation. Following will be another conversation by Tonya Labbe of Thrive and a youth member of Thrive County Head Start will bring a parent to discuss her personal resiliency
- Dan Despard will introduce speakers
- We are all set!

### **IV. Cops and Caseworkers Conference - 2007**

- Gary Wright is currently working on the logistics/planning. Joyce Winston from Spurwink may be presenting.
- Dr. Ricci will present the Findings and Recommendations of the Child Death and Serious Injury Review Team
- It is scheduled for October 16, 2007

### **VII. Mark Rains – 4 year grant opportunity**

Mark brought follow-up information regarding a potential grant to further explore ACE's in Maine. The members at the CAAN meeting were willing to sign a letter of support for the grant

### **Other Business**

June meeting is cancelled because of the June 15 retreat.

**NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 3, 2007**



## CAAN MINUTES

Friday, August 3, 2007

9:00 am to 10:45am

Central Maine Commerce Center

Augusta, Maine

### Attendees

Jan Clarkin, Dan Despard, Vickie Fisher, Renna Hegg, Tara Karceweski, Virginia Marriner, Barbara Piotti, Matt Pollack, Larry Ricci, Cindy Seekins, Gary Wright

## **I. Home Visiting in Maine—Jan Clarkin**

Jan Clarkin presented information about Home Visiting in Maine. Home Visitation programs throughout Maine offer voluntary parent education and family supports for first time families with children age prenatal through five years. A trained professional visits the home and offers a wide range of services depending on the needs, strengths and interests of the parents. Jan gave the members a handout that included information on:

- The history of Home Visitation in Maine
- Home Visiting in Maine today
- Goals for Home Visitation
- Services Offered
- Collaboration with Community/Visiting partners
- Qualifications and training
- Evaluation
- How Home Visiting is managed/guided



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

CAAN agreed to begin a Citizen's Review Panel. Virginia Marriner and Vickie Fisher will meet on August 21 to begin work on membership and invitation letters. They will present to the CAAN meeting in September.

Some issues that the Panel should look at include:

- Why children come into care
- Permanency issues
- People from the foster/adoptive community being included in this work

Vickie will send an e-mail to the board to notify of the next planning meeting. It is estimated that fully developing this panel will take 8 months to a year.

## **III. CAAN recommendations for the report**

The only recommendation identified by CAAN was: A Citizen's Review Panel shall be developed. Vickie will e mail the CAAN board to see if there are other thoughts on this.

## **IV. Ideas for the Spring Conference**

Group decided that CAAN should focus on Early Identification of Serious Risk Factors that Contribute to Maltreatment. Some suggestions were information regarding maternal depression and screening. Substance Abuse is another problem area as well as domestic violence. Some presenter names identified were:

- Diane English
- Richard Gelles
- Daniel Barth

The group will bring additional names and information regarding them to the next CAAN meeting. A decision regarding presenters should be made by the November meeting at the latest.

## **V. Cops & Caseworkers Conference**

The conference will be held on October 16, 2006. Brian McDunnough is in charge of putting the conference together. There was some concern stated that this conference is not reaching the areas of the state that are having problems with collaboration.

#### VI. Grant – Renna Hegg

Renna Hegg presented information about a grant opportunity for Sex Offender treatment program development and capacity building model. Dr. Sue Righthand is working on this as well as others. CAAN gave their support to the grant application by a letter signed by the Chair, Dan Despard. This grant addresses a lot of the issues that the CAAN subcommittee on problem sexual behaviors has been looking at the past two years.

#### VII. Newsletter

CAAN agreed that the newsletter should be available on the web and by list-serve rather than to continue printing and mailing it. This would be a big cost savings for CAAN next year when there will be less money available in the budget. Renna Hegg will write an article about the grant opportunity. Virginia Marriner has written a piece for *Common Ground* that would be good in a reduced format for the CAAN newsletter. The newsletter should be ready for publication by early fall.

**NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 7, 2007**



## CAAN MINUTES

Friday, September 7, 2007  
9:00 am to 11:00am  
Central Maine Commerce Center  
Augusta, Maine

### Attendees

Vincent Carrier, Vickie Fisher, Mark Rains, Cindy Seekins

## I. Introductions

Vincent Carrier, Supervisor at Crisis and Counseling was introduced to the group today replacing Tara Karczewski as the group's crisis representation.

## II. Citizen's Review Panel

Virginia Marriner and Vickie Fisher will be meeting with a group at Casey Family Services in Bangor to begin developing the Citizen Review Panel. This group of people will look at developing membership, mission and by-laws. The group of people invited to participate in the development are: Bett Hoxie, Erlene Paul, Bobbi Johnson, Christy Davis, Erika Jones and Det. Brent Beaulieu. Bangor was chosen as a site so other regions of the state can participate in this process. This group will report to CAAN in October.

### **III. CAAN recommendations for the report**

The only recommendation identified by CAAN was: A Citizen's Review Panel shall be developed. This will be added to the CAAN report.

### **IV. Annual Spring Conference**

Group decided that CAAN should focus on Early Identification of Serious Risk Factors that Contribute to Maltreatment. Some suggestions to include in the conference were: stories from LongCreek; substance abuse; Strengthening Families; maternal depression. The group discussed pathways to substance abuse. We discussed having a panel of several disciplines in the state discuss parental substance abuse from their viewpoint. The goal of the conference is to challenge people to become involved. CAAN will identify presenters by November and choose a spring date for the conference.

### **V. Cops & Caseworkers Conference**

The conference will be held on October 16, 2006. Brian McDunnough is in charge of putting the conference together. The final agenda has not been presented to CAAN yet. It is too late at this point to apply for social work CEUs.

#### **VIII. Newsletter**

The newsletter will now be online. To sign up for the list serve, go to the CAAN website, [www.maineaan.usm.maine.edu](http://www.maineaan.usm.maine.edu), and click on the sign up for list serve button.

#### **VIII. Other Business**

The CJA grant requires someone representing children with disabilities sit on the board. The Children's Center, Jonathan Leach has been contacted regarding serving on CAAN.

**NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 5, 2007**

