

Not One More Child Meeting Notes

March 18, 2019

Sallie Clark Farewell

- Sallie Clark is serving as State Director for USDA Rural Development in Colorado, a presidential appointment.
- Former Commissioner Sallie Clark thanked everyone for their involvement, efforts and engagement in helping protect the most vulnerable in El Paso County.
- Not One More Child shows how much the community is dedicated to protecting children.
- She will still be involved in our region; rural development and opiate initiatives impact the community. The USDA continues programs including loans and grants to help communities.

Commissioner Cami Bremer Welcome

- Elected official, Commissioner Bremer, joins District Attorney Dan May for Not One More Child.
- Commissioner Bremer is excited to work with community partners as we continue efforts to decrease child abuse and neglect in our region.
- More information on Commissioner Bremer can be found at <https://bocc.elpasoco.com/#district5>

Differential Response (DR) and Child Protection (Jill Calvert, Children, Youth and Family Services Director, Department of Human Services)

- Differential Response (DR) is an opportunity for child protection case workers to engage families differently.
- Child protection casework as a profession is relatively young – only 75 years or so.
- On average 20 percent of the child protection cases are considered severe; about 80 percent are for neglect or lesser abuse.
- Most DHS cases are civil, not criminal.
- The traditional approach makes it more challenging to engage families
- Background
 - Legislation was written to allow a change in how Human Services departments handled child protection; the focus is on finding the best way to improve the situation.
 - State model; El Paso County spent about a year setting up the structure and making changes to foster the communication changes necessary to accommodate the change in system
 - State will audit and check on structure as well as social work practices.
 - Additional training and coaching is built into the system
- Differential Response (DR)
 - First priority is child safety
 - “Right-size” the response by DHS

- Shift in services
- Families have a role in determining support
- Enhanced screening: Hotline call takers ask additional questions to develop a global view of the family and situation
- Focus on appropriate parenting and away from “all or nothing” approach
- Dual Track Response System (FAR & HRA)
 - Family Assessment Response (FAR) for low to moderate risk referrals; What is the situation?
 - High Risk Assessment (HRA) – Traditional investigative approach; Did this happen?
- Don’t anticipate a decrease in cases, but may yield a decreased in court cases
- Criteria will be/is developed for allegations to continue to be assessed in the traditional manner, for example sexual abuse and/or severe physical abuse
- Expectation for more checks and more follow-up to ensure safety demonstrated over time
- RED Teams (Research, Evaluate, Direct) will still decide if reports meet criteria for involvement. The teams meet at least eight times a day, and involve staff at several levels in the decision-making process.
- DHS is moving towards having a multidisciplinary team review cases, which utilizes the strengths in the profession.
- Facilitated Family Meetings are not new to El Paso County. These meetings will bring in community services as well as family members to better make connections and facilitate assistance.
- Improving supports
 - DR opens to door for front-loaded services, more flexible for helping to strengthen families.
 - Support planning builds on supports and strengths in place for families so when DHS steps out, families can sustain improvement.
 - Medicaid is a key component; families and children can maintain medical care without DHS involvement
- One expectation is the perception of DHS will change, so families will call in concerns of neglect/abuse before situations reach critical levels.
- DHS will be working even more closely with community partners to connect families to supports and services.
- Accompanying presentation is posted online.

Child Abuse Prevention Month (Julie Krow, Department of Human Services Executive Director)

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAP Month).
- DHS partnered with the Colorado Springs Conservatory.
- Goal is to focus Child Abuse Prevention Month on “what can we do to help the children in El Paso County.”
- CAP Month used to highlight child safety and the ongoing need for foster and adoptive families. Not everyone can be a home for youth, but everyone can do something.

- El Paso County has a high number of children in residential and congregate care and we want to bring them “home.”
- Window clings promoting CAP Month messaging.
- Magnets with “How to Choose a Safe Caregiver” – Fort Carson will sponsor.
- Proclamations read in municipalities across the region; Colorado Springs Conservatory children and musicians performed across the County.
- The NOMC community cards were shared at multiple events, and continue to be shared in the community to share safe messaging.
- What are your great ideas for Child Abuse Prevention Month 2020?

Committee Updates

Communication

- Please send ideas for presentation topics for future NOMC meetings to kristinaiodice@elpasoco.com
- Please check the NOMC website: [Notonemorechild.net](http://notonemorechild.net) – <https://humanservices.elpasoco.com/not-one-more-child/>. What information/details/etc. would you like to see added?
- NOMC Community Cards are available in English and Spanish. Contact kristinaiodice@elpasoco.com if you would like some for your organization.
- CDHS has a lot of materials to prevent child abuse and neglect available online to download for printing and sharing. Visit http://www.co4kids.org/2018_CAPM for materials.
- DHS PIO has created a 30-second safe sleep video, which can be shared: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWN_jw9TGno&feature=youtu.be
- More information and another video is available from Public Health: <https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/healthy-babies-safe-sleep>

Data Committee

- The mapping team is working on heat maps with the 2018 child protection data to show the distribution of abuse/neglect reports.
- Mapping details will change as child protection shifts to Differential Response, DR, when responding to reports of child abuse and neglect. The shift began in 2017.
- Maps are posted online: <http://dhs.elpasoco.com/Pages/NOMCChildAbuseData.aspx>
- CDHS shares a lot of statewide data on the Community Performance Center: <http://www.cdhsdatamatters.org/>

Medical Community

- Academy Kids Dental, Vision and Orthodontics would love to attend any community outreach events that are planned. Academy Kids Dental offers Tooth Fairy events upon request.
- For more information, contact Annette Bernal, Community Outreach Specialist, at Annette.bernal@academykidsdental.com or 719-375-9007.

Other Updates

CarePortal

- More than 4,000 children served as of April 23, 2019
- CarePortal will participate in Project Serve in October. They are looking for large projects for groups of 10-50 volunteers.
- For more information, contact Mike Worley at mike@beautifulredemption.com or (719) 659-2781.
- CarePortal is always seeking additional churches to join the network. If your church may be interested, contact Mike.

Colorado Department of Human Services

- Dianna Butler, Public Awareness Communications Specialist, has marketing materials that can be co-branded. CDHS is seeking partners in child abuse/neglect prevention efforts.
- For more information, contact Dianna at 303-866-3258 or dianna.butler@state.co.us.

BACA – Bikers Against Child Abuse

- The group focuses on helping kids in fear because of abuse or neglect; they offer a visible show of support and caring. The children can't wish themselves out of poverty but they can be given/taught the tools to live.
- BACA is looking into ways to support/Promote NOMC.
- <http://colorado.bacaworld.org/colorado/pikes-peak-chapter/>

Pikes Peak Community College

- PPCC has many resources for students, as well as sponsoring events, scholarships, and food assistance.
- For more information, contact Belenda Cornelius at 719-502-2088, 719-325-6831 or Belenda.Cornelius@ppcc.edu.

Department of Human Services

- Lynn manages resources at DHS. Organizations can share their materials with her for display in the information area at Citizens Service Center.
- Contact: D. Lynn Schulz (DianaSchulz@elpasoco.com) or 719-444-5722

Please check the website at Notonemorechild.net for information that can be updated or added.

The Not One More Child coalition will next meet at 9 a.m. on **June 24** in **Room 1020 on the first floor** of the Citizens Service Center, 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road, Colorado Springs.

If committees plan to meet between now and then, I'll gladly share those details with the group. Just let me know!

Notonemorechild.net