

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCY

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (MACCAN)
Tuesday – September 27, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Child and Family Services Agency
200 I Street SE, Conference Room 1001-A
Washington, DC 20003

Draft Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am
 - Those in attendance introduced themselves.
2. Ascertainment of Quorum
 - A quorum was not reached as we did not achieve the participation of a minimum of 6 non-governmental members as required by MOT A. However, the meeting was held absent any decision making or votes.
3. Acknowledgement of Adoption of the Minutes of the July 26, 2016 meeting
 - There was no feedback or correction of minutes.
4. Report by the Chair and Co-Chair of MACCAN
5. Membership Update
 - a. CFSA- recommendation- Ariana Quinones, OPPPS administrator
 - The person identified by CFSA/Michele Rosenberg to represent CFSA at MACCAN meetings, Ariana Quinones introduced herself to the committee. She shared that her application has been submitted.
 - Per Heather Stowe, there may be some confusion as to this recommendation, so it will be further discussed with CFSA leadership.
 - b. 2017 Calendar/new meeting time
 - The 2017 meeting calendar was given to the committee members with a new meeting time of 10:00-11:30.
6. Discussion
 - What do we want to advise the Mayor and the community about?
 - The harmful impact of spanking on children. We know this is not against the law, so we are not looking at it from that angle, but we want to consider a campaign that gives parents something to think about.
 - “Think before you Spank”, as a possible slogan.
 - The meta-analysis shared at the last meeting listed 13 harmful effects of open hand spanking.

- We want parents to think before they spank, but we cannot take a mechanism away from parents without giving them alternatives.
- With the campaign, we want to provide tips on effective discipline.
- The hope is that we will lay this all out and have a big reveal in April 2017, during child abuse prevention month. The research does show where children are spanked in some cases we also see an escalation to child abuse.
- Thoughts or feedback? Dr. Streeter held a conversation with Mindy Good of CFSA to find out what CFSA typically shares with parents around this area.
- CFSA mostly gives out information at community fairs to recruit foster parents. The question becomes what if something like this is added to those tables?
- We want to see if the strategic plan developed by Dr. Streeter is realistic.
- What we do in April will be in addition to the “Wear Blue” campaign. The goal would be to have a PSA and handouts surrounding this. Also maybe information on the DC Government website and signature lines/tag lines in April. We will also have the calendar of events.
- Any reason why we should not move forward? – No comments were made.
- There is a lot of information out there saying what not to do, but nothing that is concise telling parents what to do.
- **Question:** What is the funding source or this project?
 - Combination of asking agencies if they have money for printing or federal or foundation grants. This would have to happen quickly if we want to send things out by April 2017 in mass.
 - Cards can be inexpensive with the more you buy the lesser the cost. Card on one side can have harmful effects of spankings with alternatives on the other side. If you need help call this number or go to this website, etc.
 - Dr. Streeter may have some money through her organization.
 - There is a printer in Silver Spring that will print 5000 for \$132.
 - Sam Tramel shared that the Children’s Trust Fund can also provide support.
 - We should prepare them and send them as “print ready”, so people can print their own copies as needed from their own budgets. As part of a tool kit you can include this. Part of the campaign can be to develop a tool kit that will give organizations an opportunity to do the work themselves.
 - Government agencies may have printing but not money to spend.
 - We can do a combination of both.
- **CFSA-** MACCAN wants to ensure we are not miss-stepping in any way with the message CFSA gives out. We want to empower parents in the City with information and get CFSA support in what MACCAN is doing>
 - Only issue is that it is not against the law and we are not categorically permitted to say that “You should not do...”, as we must follow DC Code Title 16.
 - Spanking cannot be abusive; it must be something that is appropriate for the child’s age, size, and mental state and condition.
 - The Code defines what abuse is, burning, biting, those types of extreme things. It makes it clear that corporal punishment is not illegal, but abuse is but it. People

must exercise common sense which is often not very common. It is a gray area, but it clear that it is not illegal.

- We spend a lot of time around clarity for people and when and when not to call the hotline. We want to make sure that anything we put out is clear that it is a recommendation.
 - The issue of additional resources is important. We need to be able to tell people what they can do instead. There are many types of parenting classes tailored to specific needs and populations.
 - We also need to think about the clinical significance of it all. When we think of parents, we think about anger and conflict resolution.
 - **Question:** As the advisory board do we need to get approval from the Mayor before we can proceed?
 - We are in the Deputy Mayor's cluster, so we would take it to her to see if she thought it was appropriate.
 - **Question:** What do we think of "Think Before you spank?" It is what we want them to do, and we are not being accusatory. Just as abuse has harmful effects on children, it is more clear now than ever that spanking does to, and we want to get that message out.
 - DBH- Thinking "Stop, Think, Breath". Sometimes parents need to take a pause and allow themselves to think. When we think about impulsivity behavior wise, this is something to consider.
 - Many parents don't even consider anything else besides spanking.
 - CFSA does not have the final call, but we want to make sure they know about the campaign.
- a. Research on alternative methods of discipline- themes
- Dr. Daughtery provided numerous articles in which can be used to pull out themes and develop the tip sheet.
- b. Draft Strategic Plan
- We need individuals to volunteer for the difference committees.
 - **Question:** Does anyone know how to create PSAs or process for getting PSAs televised?
 - Office of cable television is one option, but they do not do it for free.
 - You can use an existing PSA and repurpose it or bid it out and get a video contractor
 - We can ask to try to get it free. They have done it for Safe Shores and Child Abuse Prevention Month.
 - **Question:** How do we reach out to Mayor or Deputy Mayor to do PSA?
 - Mayor has communications team that entertains requests. Go through Deputy Mayor's office for processes and procedures.
 - How long is the process to get approval? Do we need to have a prototype first?
 - We should consider other targets besides the Mayor. We want to make sure other partners know.
 - Plan A and B should be proposed. Plan A would be PSA with Mayor. Plan B is that we roll it out without the PSA. There are things we can do without having the Mayor do anything.
 - For April 2017, these for items would be the dream:

1. PSA Released
 2. Email Tagline
 3. Distribution of Informational Pamphlets
 4. Presentations regarding information
- Someone may be willing to give you 30 minutes on a Sunday morning radio show. WHUR
 - It could be one of the MACCAN members, or a parent- The Mayor does not have children. There's a roll for a Mayor, but if you are trying to make the difference it is with the voice of parents or parent advocates.
 - There are peer parents at CFSA who may be willing to be part of the discussion. Ward 7 & 8 has a successful parenting program through DBH parent kept the group going after finished. They might be folks we can tap into.
 - We can get an email/paragraph off to the Mayor's office. Satira Streeter will send to Heather Stowe of CFSA to send out.
- Kick off meeting will be March 28th
 - Celebration meeting with finished information. Food, brochures and make this the kick-off.
 - We want to invite everyone on this date.
 - We also want to get a proclamation on "Think before you think day". A "spank out" across the District.
 - We want to get the conversation going.
 - Effective Discipline Tips Task Group
 - Satira Street
 - Sam Tramel
 - Ariana Quinones
 - Funding Sources for Printing Task Group
 - Satira Streeter
 - Ellen Wells
 - Darin Street
 - Foster Parents and Corporal Punishment
 - Foster parents are often told that they cannot use corporal punishment but many say they do not know why.
 - It is correct that foster parents cannot use corporal punishment. They are told this in training.
 - We do not want to get into conversation with them for this- FAPAC does teach alternatives.
 - Perhaps FAPAC, FAPA and Adoptions Together can sponsor a training on effective discipline techniques during April to support our efforts.
5. Opportunity for Public Comment
 6. Adjournment
- The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

7. Next Meeting December 6, 2016, 10:00-12:00 pm @ CFSA, **room 1001-A**

If any questions/comments, please contact Roni Seabrook at (202) 724-7076 or roni.seabrook@dc.gov.