Welcome and Introductions

Secretary Ted Dallas welcomed the members to the meeting. He recognized the progress of the workgroups.

Agenda Review

Facilitator Carol Spigner reviewed the Agenda items. The minutes were approved.

Communications Message

Brian Schleter and Carnitra White reviewed the “Draft for external audience: Community Partners, Press, General Public, What is Alternative Response?” and the “Draft for internal audience: Local Departments and SSA staff, What is Alternative Response?” Recommendations from the council include:

- Use shorter sentences when possible
- Give an example of how AR is different from the Investigative Response
- Change “Traditional Response” to “Investigative Response”
- Keep the visual process chart
- Insert some language related to parenting and child safety

The message should inform the staff that Alternative Response is a new tool, not a tool developed because incorrect procedures were followed.

Other recommendations may also be forwarded to Carnitra White. After revisions are completed, the document will be distributed to the Council for a final review.

The Workgroups reported on their progress:
Policy Workgroup

Co-chairs Dick Paulman and Debbie Ramelmeier reported on the progress of the Policy Workgroup. A Preamble was developed and distributed to the Council. The Preamble would be placed at the beginning of the Policy Document. The Alternative Response (AR) Case Assignment Criteria was also reviewed. The Policy Workgroup reviewed other states’ information and developed the Case Assignment Criteria. Ten types of cases that are ineligible to be assigned to Alternative Response were identified. If any of the ten types of cases were selected by the case worker, the case would NOT be placed on the Alternative Response Track. The first six bullets are part of the Alternative Response law. The remaining four bullets were cases identified by the Policy Workgroup.

Possible Alternative Response Qualifiers were also identified. If any of the qualifiers from the possible list are selected, the case worker must place the case on the Investigative track. The full document is on the Council Website.

Implementation

The Policy Workgroup identified pros and cons of implementing Alternative Response by a Pilot, Phase-In or Full Statewide methods.

The Pilot Method would be implemented in selected jurisdictions, evaluated and changes made as necessary prior to Statewide implementation. The Phase-In Method would begin implementation in selected jurisdictions and employ a set implementation schedule at the onset so each region would know in advance when the Phase-In would start.

The Statewide method would be implemented in all jurisdictions at the same time.

The Workgroup will review the pros and cons at their next committee meeting and review how the obstacles listed for each method might be overcome. The Workgroup will submit a recommendation to the Secretary prior to the next meeting. For a full list of pros and cons, please review the Implementation pros and cons on the website.

The Policy Workgroup will distribute the final policy recommendation to the Council prior to the next Council meeting.

Practice Workgroup
Co-chairs David Thompson and Steve Berry reported on the progress of the Practice Workgroup. The Practice Workgroup developed a general plan to train staff and stakeholders on Alternative Response. The Workgroup recognized that each group, staff and stakeholders will need a separate approach to training. The Workgroup also noted that the Phase–In Method would work well with training. A core of trainers could be developed as each Phase-In is completed. The Workgroup will meet directly after the Council meeting to draft an outline of what should be part of training, coaching and sustained coaching. The Workgroup plans to review and use curriculum from other states that match Maryland’s policy.

Community Partners

Co-chairs Pam Brown and Shanda Crowder reported on progress of the Community Outreach Workgroup. This Workgroup is considering how the Alternative Response “message” will be given for each implementation method, Pilot, Phase-In and Statewide. The Workgroup agrees that the message must be clear and consistent. They plan to develop a Power Point and flyer that is very clear and could be utilized by groups statewide to deliver the Alternative Response message.

It was noted that the Workgroup should consider other statewide meetings to attend with other stakeholders, i.e., school counselors, psychologists, local and statewide school officials and parents.

Evaluation

Co-chairs Melissa Rock and David Ayer reported on the progress of the Evaluation Workgroup. The Workgroup is reviewing outcomes listed on the Proposed Outcome Indicators handout. Thirteen other states listed outcomes that were reviewed by the Workgroup. Under consideration is how strategies employed affect the outcomes. Another consideration is that if the implementation is the Pilot or the Phase-In, it will be easier to compare data from similar jurisdictions and time periods.

General Discussion:

The group discussed the need for a decision to be made regarding the implementation strategy so that the work that is dependent on that decision can move forward. The Secretary acknowledged the need to move expeditiously and will act after hearing from the policy committee.

Timeline
The Council reviewed the Timeline that was developed at the onset of the Council. Each Workgroup stated that they were on target with deadlines and the work should reach the July 2013 deadline. The Practice Workgroup noted that the Timeline may need some revisions as the training schedules are developed.

Each Workgroup reported on their next meeting time and date:

Policy
September 18th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at DHR, Room 508 A
October 3rd, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at DHR, Room 952

Practice
September 11
September 24, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Room 508 A&B or teleconference

Community Partners
September 13th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, teleconference
October 2nd, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, teleconference

Evaluation
September 18th, 10:00 am– 12:00 pm, room to be determined

The committee meeting dates will be updated on the website.

The Secretary confirmed that information is posted to the Website; please check the website regularly. New passwords were issued and if you have any questions regarding the passwords, please contact Audrey McLendon at amlendo@dhr.state.md.us.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at 311 W. Saratoga St., Room 1044, Baltimore, MD.