Welcome and Introductions
Secretary Ted Dallas welcomed everyone to the meeting. He remarked that the training schedule is almost completed, the public forum is organized and the Implementation phase is moving forward.

Agenda Review
ML Wernecke reviewed the Agenda items. The December 11, 2012 minutes were approved.

Workgroup Updates

Community Partners Workgroup / Community Forum Update
Carnitra White gave an overview of the Community Forum on January 17th at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Hagerstown, MD.

The first part of the forum will revisit the background of Alternative Response and the process developed for implementation. The shift in the approach to families, assisting families with services rather than viewing the agency as taking from the families is a major shift in approach for caseworkers and for the public at large.

Differences between the Alternative Response and the Investigative Response approaches, goals of the implementation plan and the community partners roles will also be reviewed at the forum. Time is allowed on the agenda for a question / answer period.

The attendees will break into smaller groups by jurisdiction and discuss how their community can support Alternative Response, what additional services may be needed and the major partners needed to assist with implementation.

Each group will report out to the larger group. Lessons learned from the first Community Forum will be applied to the remaining 4 Community Forums.
Audrey McLendon will send the Community Forum registration information to the Alternative Response Council members. Al Zachik requested the list of registrants from Audrey McLendon to ensure that the Health Community was represented.

**Communications**
The Community Forum Power point presentation was viewed.

*Recommendations: Change “Initiative” or “Program” to “Practice Change” High Risk” to “High or Moderate Risk”*

Communications developed a flyer for the jurisdictions to use to advertise the forum. The flyers may also be changed and used for the next Community Forum. A video regarding Alternative Response was developed for the DHR website and will be posted soon.

**Practice Workgroup**
Steve Berry, Co-chair reported that the “Train the Trainer” day is scheduled for March 13, 2013. Central and local staff will attend. The Practice Workgroup will request a partner from the local departments of social services (ldss) to coordinate the Implementation Plan and be the point person for the Central staff. Central staff plans to meet with the five jurisdictions, Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery and Washington counties between January 17th and March 13th to review the Implementation Plan, answer questions and provide technical assistance.

**Evaluation Workgroup**
David Ayer, Co-chair reported that the Workgroup is finishing the scope of work and receiving feedback from workgroup members. The Alternative Response requests are included in the MD CHESSIE builds. The Evaluation Workgroup will “meet” via email going forward.

**Policy Workgroup**
Co-Chair Dick Paulman reported that the Policy Workgroup does not have any updates to report and no meetings are scheduled for the workgroup.

**Wrap up**
The Secretary thanked everyone for their continued work on the Council. Council members are welcome to attend the Community Forum.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 12, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at 311 W. Saratoga St., Room 1044, Baltimore, MD.