Please note that the May 14, 2013 meeting was held via teleconference.

Council Member Attendees: Pamela Brown, Paul DiLorenzo, Hope Gary, Scott Krugman, Wendy Lane, Joan Little, John McGinnis, Dick Paulman, Melissa Rock, Dr. Albert Zachik, Sabrena McAllister (for James Trent), Claudia Remington, Vanita Taylor, David Thompson, Tracy Watkins-Tribbitt

SSA Representatives: David Ayer, Steve Berry, Shanda Crowder, Carnitra White, Audrey McLendon

Other attendees: Sandra Barnes, Caren Kaplan, Megan Lucy, Brian Schleter, Maria Tillman, Angela Lagdameo, Carol Spigner

Welcome and Introductions
In Secretary Ted Dallas’ absence, Carnitra White welcomed everyone to the meeting. Carol Spigner reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Minutes
The March 12, 2013 minutes were approved without corrections.

Workgroup Updates

Practice Workgroup
Steve Berry, co-chairs reported that the first specialized Alternative Response (AR) training was held May 13, 2013 in Hagerstown with representatives from all 5 Western Regional jurisdictions. Part of lessons learned from the training is to provide more case examples during the training session. Other training dates were provided in a handout. Carnitra White has asked for Implementation Plan updates from each jurisdiction.

The Central Region’s Kickoff was held April 19, 2013 at Harford Community College with favorable reactions from the jurisdictions in attendance. The first Co-chair meeting for the Central Regional will be held May 17th.

The Phase III kickoff is tentatively scheduled for June 21st.

Evaluation Workgroup
Co-Chairs Melissa Rock and David Ayer reported that evaluation documents were sent to the Council May 4th. The Workgroup asks that the Council review the documents and make any recommendations by May 15th. IAR, the group assisting with the evaluations is developing the Community Surveys. IAR representatives attended the local Directors meeting and reviewed the AR Evaluation process.
Community Partners Workgroup

Policy Workgroup
Co-Chair Dick Paulman reported that the policy is fully complete and is expected to be issued May 15th. The MD CHESSIE revisions are on track to begin with the July 1 implementation for the Western Region. As each region implements Alternative Response, the staff will have access to the MD CHESSIE changes. The policy will be posted on the DHR website and the MD CHESSIE changes will be available for review within the policy.

There was a question about how the new Substance Exposed Newborn policy will be handled in regards to Alternative Response. The substance exposed newborn is not part of the AR Policy unless the allegation of abuse and neglect is confirmed.

Communications
Brian Schleter reported that Communications is reviewing other states AR messages, utilizing social media, such as facebook and posting the kickoff pictures to the DHR Facebook. Looking forward, Communications plans to use positive AR stories in the press, and issue a brochure and fact sheet. The focus of the AR Campaign will be to message to the families we serve that AR will be a dual track system ensuring kids are safe. Pam Brown offered assistance with reviews of the information by the Navigators in Anne Arundel County.

Wrap up / Next Steps
- Feedback on the Evaluation documents is requested by May 15th
- Feedback on the draft brochure in the next couple of weeks
- The Southern Region kickoff date will be confirmed
- The next Council meeting will be held Tuesday, June 11th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at 311 W. Saratoga St., Room 1044, Baltimore, MD.