Council Member Attendees: Dick Paulman, Claudia Remington, Joan Little, Vanita Taylor, Al Zachik, Scott Krugman, Paul DiLorenzo, Melissa Rock, Tracy Watkins-Tribbitt, Pam Brown, John McGinnis

SSA Representatives: Steve Berry, Shanda Crowder, Rene King, Carnitra White, David Ayer, Debbie Ramelmeier, Audrey McLendon

Other attendees: Brian Schleter, Sandra Barnes, Megan Lucy, Jennifer Kelman (UMD SSW)

Welcome and Introductions
In Ted Dallas’ absence, Carnitra White welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Workgroup updates

Practice /Community Partners Workgroup
The final Alternative Response (AR) Kick-off for Phase 5 was held in Baltimore City February 24, 2014. All 5 Phases are at some point in implementation.

Phase 4 Implementation is April 1, 2014
Phase 5 Implementation July 1st is the final Phase to roll out AR.

The monthly Learning Collaborative was held in February. Adam Darnell presented to the collaborative. The presentation included research regarding the safety of children in states that utilize AR. The results show that children are safe. The presentation overview also showed that Maryland is on track for a successful AR implementation.

Casey Family Programs sponsored 2 trips for Maryland local departments of social services staff to shadow staff in Ohio and Minnesota, two states that use AR. Two MD staff visited OH and will sponsor other MD staff to shadow them in their MD jurisdiction. The Minnesota trip was rescheduled for April. Thanks to Casey Family Programs for making the trips possible.

The Maryland staff visiting OH and MN will also participate in a panel discussion during a Learning Collaborative meeting. The next Learning Collaborative meeting is March 20th.

Evaluation Workgroup
The preliminary data from MD CHESSIE is showing that families are cooperating with the AR methodology and support utilizing AR. The families involved in AR are receiving
more material support, such as cleaning services, informational services, etc. More drug abuse services are needed for the families in Investigative responses than the AR responses.

Also reported: around 1/3 of the caseworkers responding believe that they have not changed their approach to families after AR was implemented; 2/3 of the caseworkers responding believe that their approach has changed. 20% of the respondents feel that they need more training. In general, caseworkers feel that AR frees them to help families with services more than before AR was implemented.

Within Phases 1-2, about 40% of the cases have been determined to be AR cases. So far, the data does not indicate the number of cases that law enforcement was present with the caseworker during the investigation.

The survey response rate is consistent with other states.

**Policy Workgroup**
After the July 1st Phase 5 implementation and the evaluation feedback is received, the Policy Workgroup will review the policy to determine if any clarifications or changes are needed.

**Communications**
A Quarterly AR Newsletter is under development. The newsletter will include best practices, worker profiles, and new ideas related to AR.

Dr. Scott Krugman offered to distribute brochures to pediatricians during the Eastern Shore Pediatrician meeting.

Pam Brown (Local Management Board President) and Al Zachik (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene) offered their assistance in identifying services that could fill the gaps in service that are identified after all Phases have implemented. John McGinnis (Maryland State Department of Education) also offered to add AR segments to the School Directors meetings. He will solicit information from the Directors to see if they have noticed a difference since AR was implemented.

**Next Meeting will be a face to face meeting at 311 W. Saratoga St. Room 1044, Baltimore, MD 21201 June 10, 2014 at 1 pm.**