FAMILY CENTERED SCREENING

QUESTION BANK

Child Welfare Academy

A partnership of the University of Maryland School of Social Work and the Maryland Department of Human Resources
Special Thanks To

American Humane Association
Caren Kaplan, MSW—Innovations in Child Welfare
Colorado Year 1 Site Visit Final Report Appendices

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Reason for Referral/General Information

- What is the concern causing the report?
- Where is the child now?
- When were the children last seen and by whom?
- Where is the alleged perpetrator now?
- How long has this been occurring/ have you been concerned? Have things stayed about the same, become worse or improved? Is the child reporting how often this occurs?
- How did the reporter come to know this information? Does anyone else know about the maltreatment?
- What school does the child attend and how long are they there?
- Are there any weapons in the home or known to be carried by the family or accused abuser?
- Is there a history of violence, drugs, mental illness or retaliation in the family?
- Are there any other environmental hazards in the home (vicious animals, meth labs, criminal activity etc.)?
- Who else lives in the home?
- Are there other children in the home?
Neglect (Basic Needs/Environment/Dirty Home)

- What specifically did the reporter see?
- Description of child’s condition and what they have been exposed to.
- What does the child mean by “no food in the home?” Is there no food at all (cupboards, refrigerator/freezer bare) or no food the child wants to eat?
- Does the child have food to eat elsewhere (school/neighbor)? When did the child last eat? Does the family use community resources to assist them with food?
- When was the last time you were in the home?
- Explain what you mean by “deplorable/nasty?” Can you walk me through the house and describe each room to me? Is there any room in the home clean?
- Observations of parent’s behaviors.
- When was the last time the home was clean/in order?
- Are there cleaning supplies in the home?
- Does the family have alternative means for lack of utilities? If so, what are they?
- Does the family go to a friend/neighbor to bathe/eat?

Lack of Supervision

- Are they alone now?
- How often and what time of day does it occur?
- How long is the child(ren) left alone?
- Do they know where the parent goes at these times?
• Does the child have access to a phone? Do they know who to contact in case of an emergency? Is the parent easily accessible to the child by phone or in person?

• Are the children asking for help, or seem scared to be alone?

• What is the child’s level of functioning?

**Drug Allegation**

• How do you know the parent is using drugs? Have you observed them using drugs or alcohol? If so, when was the last time?

• How often does the parent use alcohol/drugs? When was the last time you saw the parent not using alcohol/drugs/sober?

• How does the alcohol/drug use affect the parent? Is the parent impaired/unable to function?

• What substance is the parent using?

• How does the drug/substance use impact the parent’s ability to care for the child? Is the parent able to meet the child’s daily needs (food, clothing, shelter, supervision etc.)? Describe.

• What is the impact on the child?

• Is the substance accessible to the child?

• How long has the parent been using? Is the parent experiencing stressors in their life right now?

• Is there a second adult assisting in caregiving?

**Drug Exposed Child**

• Is the mother still at the hospital? Who else is at the hospital?

• Has a toxicology screen been ordered? Types and levels of drugs present?

• Does mom have a place to go? Do they have a car seat and other supplies
• How long will the child remain in the hospital?

**Mental Injury**

• What is being said to the child or what did they witness?
• When, where and how often does this occur?
• How is the child being affected?

**Domestic Violence**

• Is the arguing/fighting verbal or physical? Can you describe the domestic violence?
• How often does the violence occur? When was the last incident?
• Where were the children during the incident?
• Was the child(ren) physically harmed during the incident?
• Were the police called?
• Who called 9-1-1 and at what time? Were any charges filed or was either parent incarcerated?
• Was the child(ren) physically injured?
• Did child(ren) make any statements about how they feel regarding what occurred?

**Physical Abuse/Physical Discipline**

• Did the reporter see the injury? What does it look like? Where on the child’s body is the injury?
• Is medical intervention necessary?
• What was the situation that caused the injury?
• Has this happened before? Have you noticed any similar injuries on siblings?
• What does the child mean by the word, “beat/hit/whooped”? What did the child describe?
• What is normal parenting practice for the family?
Youth In Conflict

- What specific behaviors have you seen that worry you about this youth?
- How often are these behaviors occurring?
- When was the last time you observed it?
- Have you contacted the parents about this? Their response?
- Describe what you know about the youth’s friends. Gang involved? Drugs/alcohol?
- Is the youth attending school?
- Has the youth runaway? How many times? How long are they gone when they run?
- Are there other agencies involved such as the courts, DJS or therapists?
- How are the youth’s behaviors affecting the family?
- Does the youth have any informal supports such as mentors and/or close friends or family?

Sexual Abuse

- What, when, who, where and how often?
- Did anyone else witness the incident?
- Have law enforcement been notified? Have the parents been notified?
- Any physical indicators?
- Has the child made a direct disclosure? What was said?
- Is the child reporting they have been inappropriately touched before?
- What is the relationship to the perpetrator?
Protective Factors/Strengths
“What’s good?”

Family Community/ Tangible Supports

- How long has the family lived in the community?
- How long at the current address?
- Does the family have a telephone, transportation?
- Are the adults in the home employed?
- Is the family receiving any public assistance?
- What supports does the parent/family have in place (family, friends, services, etc.)?
- Are the supports utilized by the parent/family?
- What is father's involvement? How is the father/child and mother/father relationship?
- Does the family call on others to help solve problems? Who do they call upon?
- Are you familiar with any of the extended family? Who are they and how is their relationship with the family? What do they say?
- Are there aspects of your relationship with the family that, in conjunction with DSS intervention, might help influence them for the better?
Child Information/Child Functioning/ Special Needs/ Vulnerability

- How would you describe the child (happy, sad, worried, tired, fun loving)?
- Does the child have any developmental delays or physical disabilities?
- How does the child do in school?
- Does the child have friends?
- What does the parent say about the child—how would they describe the child?
- What is exceptional or unique about this child(ren)?
- How does the child describe the situation in their home?
- What does the child like most about their family? About school?
- Does the child have any informal supports they rely on such as a teacher, mentor, coach, extended family member?

Family Coping/Strengths

- Are the parents concerned about these problems? How did they react to you expressing concern?
- Describe how the family gets along.
- What does the parent due to ensure their child is safe?
- What are the positives of the parent/family? What would you say is good about mom/dad’s parenting? What would the child say?
- Based on what you know, who would you say is in charge of the family?
- Are there times when the mother/father is attentive rather than neglectful? Can you tell me more about those times? What did the parents and child(ren) do instead?
• What do you think contributed to the parent responding differently?

• According to what you know, how did the non-offending parent react to what occurred? If this has happened before- how has the family addressed the situation?

• How does this parent/family unit solve problems? Have you observed the parent/family solve problems in the past? What have you seen them doing?

• Can you explain what is happening when the situation is okay? What is different about those times?

**Mandated Reporter Working with the Child/Family**

• What are the issues/concerns that brought you to work with the child/family?

• What progress has the child/family made? What has gone well with the child/family

• Since you have been involved with the child/family what has changed?
Solution Focused Questions

Exception Finding

- Past Successes.
- Times when the problem could have occurred but did not
- Was there a time the family had a similar problem and handled it differently?
- Are there times when the Mother is attentive rather than neglectful?

Miracle Question

- Visualize life without the current problems or challenges.
- Imagine life in a successful future.
- If you were no longer worried about this family, what would be different?

Coping Question

- Resilience’s, personal strengths and resources
- How does this family handle stress?
- Who is the family’s support system?
- Does the youth have any informal supports such as mentors, and/or close friends of family?

Relationship Question

- Looks at the situation from another person’s perspectives.
- Is anyone else concerned about what you’ve observed/are reporting?
- How do the children feel about this situation?
Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Demeanor/Behavior

- Does the child have any history of emotional, sexual or physical abuse?
- Are there any current mental health or substance abuse concerns?
- Has the child appeared withdrawn or lost interest in activities?
- Does the child appear disoriented or confused?
- Does the child show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Does the child have any current injuries or signs of physical abuse or torture?

Living/Working Conditions

- Where does the child currently reside?
- Does the child feel safe in his/her current living environment?
- Is the child familiar with the community in which they reside?
- Does the child have a history of running away or on current runaway status?
- Has the child recently acquired expensive gifts, clothing, or other costly items?
Does the child lack possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?

Does the child usually embark on frequent, sudden travel without notice?

Does the child have freedom of movement? Can the child freely leave where they live?

Do high security measures exist in the living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)?

Does the child have access to identification documents?

Does the child have access to medical care?

**Work/Other Activities**

Has the child stopped attending school?

Does the child work?

How does the child support his/herself?

Does the child work excessively long and/or unusual hours?

Does anyone control the child’s money?

Has the child ever worked (or done other activities that were different from what they were promised or told)?

Has the child ever been told to lie about his/her age?

Has the child ever been tricked or pressured into doing something they did not want to do?

Has anyone ever pressured the child to have any unwanted physical (or sexual) contact with another person?

Does the child ever have sex for things of value (for example money, housing, food, gifts, or favors)?
Relationships

- Does the child have an older, overly controlling or abusive boy/girlfriend?
- Is there any gang involvement?
- Does the child appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Is the child able to freely contact family, friends, or others?
- Is there child often in the company of someone to whom her or she defers?
- Has anyone ever harmed or threatened to harm the child or people close to them like family or friends?
- Has anyone ever threatened to report the child to the police or other authorities?

Foreign Born Nationals

- Why did the child leave her/his country of origin?
- Did anyone arrange their travel to the U.S.?
- Did the people or child who arranged their travel pressure them to do anything?
- Did the child (or family) borrow or owe money, or something else, to anyone who helped them come to the U.S.?
- Does the child (or family) still have this debt, or does anyone claim that they do?
- It they did borrow or owe money, were they pressured to do anything that they didn’t want to do to pay it back?
- Does the child have access to identification documents?
Wrap-up

**Intervention/Solutions**

- Have you taken other action in addressing the maltreatment, other than making this call?
- Are you aware of anything the family is doing to address the concerns?
- Has the child expressed concern about being at or going home?
- Do you have concerns about the child going home/being at home? If yes, describe.
- Have you talked about these concerns with anyone else who knows the family?
- What do you think is the cause of this problem?
- What would it take to make the child safer?
- How will you know when this problem will be solved?
- Is there anything else you can think of that you would like to add to this report?

**SCALING**

- If this situation remained unchanged, how would you rate the level of safety in the home on a scale from 0 to 10, 10 being very safe with no concerns, and 10 being very dangerous?
- Tell me how you reached this number.
- What do you believe needs to happen to move it one point higher on the scale?