

BOARD OF CHILD ABUSE EXAMINATION
500 N. Broadway, 5TH Floor Conference Room
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

APRIL 15, 2009
(Regular Meeting)

Meeting Minutes

The Board of Child Abuse Examination meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Block at 9:09 a.m. Members present were: Dr. Bob Block, Sherri Snyder (CACO), Dr. Francene Weatherby (Board of Nursing), Cynthia Carroll (DHS), Pat Damron (OSDH), Steve Neuman (OSBI), and Dr. John Stuemky (Allopathic Assoc.) **Guests Present:** Afton Wagner, Candace Shaw, Janet Wilson, Amy Baum, Kathie Hatlelid, Grant Moak, and Tricia Gardner. **OCCY Staff Present:** Lisa Smith and Debbie McCowan.

Review and approval of minutes from the January 21, 2009, Regular meeting of the Board of Child Abuse Examination – Dr. Bob Block

Damron moved, Stuemky seconded to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2009, Regular meeting of the Board of Child Abuse Examination as presented. Stuemky abstained. All other members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Discussion and possible action on peer review and videoconference updates – Dr. Bob Block

Dr. Janet Wilson reported that they continue to meet with the CACOs across the state to ensure that their needs are being met; they have also been going around the state visiting with D.A.'s and they are very excited about becoming connected with one another.

Dr. Wilson stated that they will be continuing with their quarterly peer review sessions; strengthening their connections, internally and externally with U.C. Davis.

Dr. Block asked if, with the connection with U.C. Davis, is the focus of the program shifting some from peer review to educational presentations from U.C. Davis, and Ms. Shaw responded that peer review has always been the primary intent; however, if there are not actual cases available for review then they use the time for education and teaching. They do not actually set the agenda for the sessions; that is done by the advocacy centers.

Dr. Block also stated that there seems to be inter-connectedness, yet separate trainings centered on child abuse; i.e. CATCC that has been around for a long time that is primarily focused on non-medical training, KidSafe Telenet, and this Board who is statutorily responsible for educating health professionals on child abuse. There is some inter-mingling, but he wonders about duplication. With the economy the way that it is, he believes we should look at all efforts and opportunities to avoid or reduce duplication and use current resources to accomplish our goals.

Dr. Block stated that while we all want to work toward the same common theme, his concern is that the program has evolved from the Health Sciences Center; however, himself, Dr. Stuemky and approximately 6 other soon-to-be child abuse sub-specialists in Tulsa, have not been involved in the process, nor been approached in any way for contribution.

He is concerned that because the State of California handles child abuse matters differently than Oklahoma, it might be useful to be mindful of that and if the program is going to expand from a health professional peer review to a multidisciplinary team training, then CATCC should be more involved with that, especially given the multidisciplinary training for D.A.'s, as well as the quarterly training that is currently going on.

Dr. Block further stated that the BCAE training committee is working on refocusing the way it conducts training for child sexual abuse medical examiners because they are spending a great deal of money with a very small budget to cover it and participation has greatly suffered and he wonders if it is because some participants have chosen to go to the other training offered by the HSC and if that be the case, no problem, but we may need to look at cutting back on the training funds that are currently being expended; however, because this Board has no input into the HSC training then it would be hard for us to accept any responsibility for training that is not evolved through the training committee.

Dr. Wilson responded that the reason they have continuously attended the meetings of this Board was to keep the Board abreast on what they are doing and requesting input, and trying to maintain inclusiveness as much as possible. Dr. Block thanked her for this input and thanked her for always being here and providing information.

Dr. Block reported that Dr. Sarah Passmore, who could not be present for today's meeting, wanted to pass on to Board members that there is a new recommendation for child advocacy centers from the National Children's Alliance that speaks to having expert medical consultation for cases, and she is proposing that this Board consider having a discussion about the new Tele-Health Institute that has been organized by a national medical group working with the NCA to organize anonymous peer review of national experts. Dr. Passmore is suggesting that in addition to having Sherri Snyder as a representative from the CACO, it might be valuable for us to have all or part of the Executive Committee of this Board to meet with the Board of the CACO to review training issues and any national recommendation.

Stuemky moved, Damron seconded that the Executive Committee from the Board of Child Abuse Examination request a meeting with Board members of the CACO to discuss training issues and anonymous peer review. All members present voted in the affirmative. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Snyder requested a letter be drafted by Dr. Block outlining exactly what he (the BCAE) would like to discuss with the CACO Board, why he wants the meeting, what the outcome would be, etc.; however, Dr. Stuemky stated that he felt the letter should be addressed to the CACO Board Chairman and that is Mr. David Pierce, and Dr. Block asked that Ms. Snyder email him the address for Mr. Pierce.

Report from the Training Committee – Tricia Gardner

Ms. Gardner reported that the annual child abuse medical examiner training is scheduled for April 17-18, 2009, in Tulsa OK, and May 8-9, 2009, in Norman, OK. She distributed some announcements for both of these trainings and all members and guests of the Board are invited and encouraged to attend either one of the trainings.

Ms. Gardner stated that they are currently looking into changing how the initial training is done in 2010; possibly having some of the training being web-based and then having an

update with people coming together to do actual case review and actual mock trial training. However, for CME purposes they would not have time to get everything together for that to happen at the initial training in the fall so they will be working to do that sometime later in the year, 2010. They talked about the training being an on-line training; on demand rather than live and it will give participants a longer time in which to complete the training. The plan of action would include videotaping portions of the training and then make it available on-line for 30 days. If people actually complete this training, it would then allow them to attend a one-day session where people come together and do more interactive things that cannot be done on-line.

They also talked about if they came up with a good interactive, on-line training tool it could be marketed to other states that do not have training opportunities for their medical professionals and could create a revenue resource for this Board and the activities it does.

The committee also discussed the possibility of charging a minimal fee (\$25.00) for the one day training after the initial on-line training; this would cover the cost for those who required CME credit for the training and a \$15.00 fee would be charged if a person did not need the CME credit.

Also, in conjunction with the Child Abuse Prevention Conference in the fall of 2009, the committee talked about the annual update training, and their two choices for speakers would be Mary Case or Chris Greely, and those participating in any child abuse medical training in the past would be invited to this update training.

The final issue that the committee talked about was keeping track of medical child abuse training in Oklahoma. Discussions were held with OCCY staff about the possibility of having a link on its website (www.okkids.org) that would focus on child abuse medical examiner information. There would be standards that would dictate what is appropriate for medical professional training, what needs to be covered in that type of training, etc., and this information would then be posted to the website as a way of letting folks know when, where and what type of trainings are being held across the state.

Ms. Gardner stated that any other interested persons who wish to be part of the Training Committee for this Board, to contact her via email at tricia-gardner@ouhsc.edu and she will add them to the list of persons to be notified of meetings.

Reports from Agencies/Organizations on the Board of Child Abuse Examination

Dr. Bob Block, Chief Child Abuse Medical Examiner – Dr. Block stated that while this Board has been in existence and meeting regularly for quite some time he's not sure that if were to measure any outcome that we would be excited by what we found; however, if we were to look across the state we would find that there are more people now doing child sexual abuse evaluations, and we have worked very hard to bring some consistency in doing the evaluations. He suggested looking at some outcomes of this Board at the next meeting; have we been true to the statute; are there things that could be done differently, etc.

Dr. John Stuemky, Association of Allopathic Physicians – Dr. Stuemky talked about that when the Board first began meeting there was talk about appropriate reimbursement to Practitioners who went through all necessary training and who were willing to be experts in a

court room and/or provide forensic exams to kids, and after 20 years, nothing has ever been done about that. He suggested that an agenda item be placed on a future meeting's agenda to further discuss that and actually do something about it. He stated that in advance of this, it might be a good idea to do a survey of other states to see what and how they handle reimbursement to appropriately trained individuals, and reimbursement for expert witnesses in the courtroom.

Dr. Block stated that the Board of Directors at Tulsa County Child Advocacy Center, a very fiscally conservative group, are looking continuously at the way the child abuse multidisciplinary team account funding is distributed, and one of the things that they have taken an advocacy position for is that some of the money is used for supporting the medical team and in an effort to have some of this money available to other areas, they have taken an active role at looking at reimbursement and have had discussions with legislators and letters have been written to the Health Care Authority and they recently responded with an explanation of the history of payments. He stated that there is currently a difference in both work effort and reimbursement effort between sexual abuse exams and physical abuse exams because of the ability to code for the use of culpa scopes in sexual abuse exams that are not used in physical abuse exams.

He asked that an agenda item be added for the next meeting's agenda to discuss reimbursement issues, as well as court testimony reimbursement issue.

Dr. Stuemky also wanted to have some discussion about legislative remedies for Practitioners who are serving on state designated multidisciplinary teams; when advice is rendered to what extent they could be subpoenaed by defense attorneys and what efforts they have to go through when responding to such a subpoena.

Pat Damron, State Department of Health – Ms. Damron reported that she recently attended training where Skip Franklin spoke on new practice model approaches that are being conducted and from that training she came away concerned that lawyers there all talked about how could people even think of doing anything different other than taking kids away from bad parents. Since then she has been working with Lynn McGuire (Lawyers for Children) to talk about different ways that people can approach handling cases of child sexual abuse and removing children from the home.

Dr. Francene Weatherby, Board of Nursing – No news to report.

Cynthia Carroll, Department of Human Services – Ms. Carroll stated that DHS is aware that there is a great deal of misunderstanding about what practice models are. Practice models are basically putting into place best practice.

Ms. Carroll also reported that DHS is working on a centralized hotline; developing some consistency; the ability to get more information up front and the ability for DHS to screen the calls more appropriately.

Steve Neuman, OSBI – Mr. Neuman reported that the Child Abuse Response Team has been very active and continues to receive referrals from DHS.

Amy Baum interjected here to tell everyone about the Finding Words Training beginning on April 27, 2009. She stated that they were recently awarded a Children's Justice Grant that will assist in bringing in advanced forensic interview training. They will be joining with the child abuse conference in September 2009 (21 – 23), bringing in Victor Pete and Angie Scott Dickson to do an all day institute, as well as bringing in another national trainer to do two lectures on advanced forensic interview training. The training will be held at the South Penn Campus of the Moore/Norman Vo-Tech Center.

Sherri Snyder, CACO – Ms. Snyder reported that also slated to be at the Child Abuse Conference in September is Ms. Patty Tote (sp?), a prosecutor from Washington, D.C. who does an excellent job on prosecuting cases with forensic interviewing information. She will be asked to do training just for prosecutors on how to prosecute cases on what information they have; not concentrating on what they don't have.

She further reported that the CACO's will be providing training on Motivational Interviewing, May 3, 4 and 5, 2009, in Oklahoma City. This is something that is used by the Department of Corrections. It teaches how to have proper dialogue and communication in difficult situations.

Ms. Snyder stated that the organization she works for has received federal funding to provide all advocacy centers in Oklahoma with a Polycon Teleconferencing System. Every center in the state will receive one of these systems in the next 3-6 months.

Lisa Smith, OCCY – Ms. Smith stated that there has been talk about merging the Child Death Review Board and the Adult Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, because there appeared to be a lot of duplication in services; however, after meeting with authors of the bill; Senator Jolly and Representative Nelson, she believes that merging is now a non issue and each entity will remain on its own.

Candace Shaw, Telemedicine – Ms. Shaw requested that she be placed on next meeting's agenda to do a formal presentation on Friday's Against Child Abuse (FACE).

New Business

Next meeting date is July 15, 2009.

Adjournment

Dr. Block adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.