

Child Abuse Reporting:
Building capacity in identifying barriers, misconceptions
and fears that prevent child abuse reporting in Early
Childhood settings

ECMH- “We Can’t Wait” Conference
September 15, 2018

About Us

- **Introductions:**
 - **Ed Stanfield**
Child & Youth Development Quality Analyst, YMCA of San Diego County
 - **Chrissie Martinez**
Senior Protective Services Worker, Child Welfare Services, San Diego County
 - **Lexie Palacio**
Regional Lead, Healthy Development Services at Rady Children’s Hospital

Agenda

- Logistics
- Learning Objectives
- Ground Rules
- Icebreaker
- Mandated Reporting:
The Basics
- Reportable or Not?
- Addressing Barriers to
Reporting
- Organizational
Considerations
- What Happens Next?
- Supporting Families and Staff

Learning Objectives

UNDERSTANDING:

- Misconceptions and concerns regarding child abuse reporting and the child welfare system (CWS).
- Why some mandated reporters may not report.
- The most commonly asked questions received by CWS.
- What happens at CWS once a report is made.
- What practices can your organization utilize to support reporting.
- How do we support families at risk of entering the child welfare system.

Ground Rules

As a courtesy to your colleagues, please:

Silence your cell phone

Contribute thoughtfully and respectfully

Ask questions if anything isn't clear

Listen when others are speaking

Respect each others views

Practice confidentiality

Icebreaker

- Turn to a partner (or two), who you don't know
- Introduce yourself, what you do, and where you do it.
- Share (at least) one thing you are hoping to learn in this session.

Mandated Reporting: The Basics

- Everyone here is a Mandated Reporter
- Disclosure of Abuse
- Reasonable suspicion
- Not mandated 24 hours a day
- Scope of their job
- Confidential - Not anonymous
- Initial questions or thoughts?

What is considered reportable?

- Turn to your nearest 4 or 5 new friends and form a group.
- Discuss and answer the CWS Reportable vs. Non-Reportable questionnaire.

What Prevents US from reporting?

- Personal barriers
- Cultural barriers
- Bias
- Trauma
- It's not my problem?

Why Report?

- Legal
 - Society relies on Mandated Reporters
- Intervention/Immediate Safety
- Support Families

What Organizational Barriers do we encounter?

- Do staff know that your organization expects them to be mandated reporters?
- Would they know what to do if they needed to make a report?
- Do you have written procedures for these expectations?
- Do your procedures create barriers?
- What if Licensing comes to investigate?

Organizational Opportunities

- Create policies that support prevention
- Create a system that helps staff make a report, if they want help.
- Make CPS/CWS information readily accessible.
- Have a written process for your expectations and how you support staff. Training?
- Make sure parents are aware that staff are mandated reporters.
- Ensure staff trust you to maintain their confidentiality.

Assisting the Reporting Process

- Make sure there is no repercussion if a staff chooses to make a report without informing a supervisor.
- Have forms/information readily available.
- Offer to sit with them when they are making the report.
- Fill out the ss_8572 prior to making the call.
- Practice appropriate verbiage if confronted.
- Licensing

What Happens After a Report?

- CWS uses several criteria when determining next steps
- Reports are investigated either by the local law enforcement agency and/or by the county child welfare services
- Interviews the child and family to evaluate the situation
 - The CWS worker's goal is to protect children and enable families to stay together whenever possible
- CWS offers services and resources to help manage the problems of the family and child
 - Counseling, referrals to self-help groups, assistance in obtaining medical care, emergency shelter, transportation

How do we support the child?

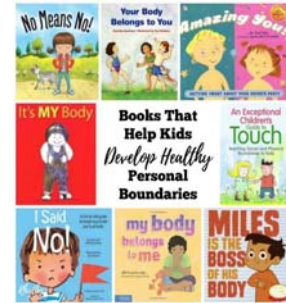
- Prevention
 - Talk and listen to children
- During the reporting process
 - Maintain confidentiality
 - Ensure the child feels comfortable and safe
 - Refrain from asking leading questions
- After the reporting process
 - Provide consistency and stability for the child
 - Provide increased opportunities for positive experiences

How do we support families?

- Prevention
 - Provide families with access to information, education, services and resources in advance
- During the reporting process
 - Maintain confidentiality
- After the reporting process
 - Access to Parenting Classes (parenting is not always instinctive)
 - Counseling

Resources

- Books
 - Teaching boundaries and tolerance
- YMCA CRS – www.ymca.org/crs
- Rady Children's C3- www.rchsd.org/c3
- Healthy Development Services-First 5 - <http://first5sandiego.org/healthy-development-services/>
- Darkness to Light- www.d2l.org
- 211



Questions?