

Child Advocacy Center 4-23-2012

<p>Schedules the interview within the time frame given by DCS in order to meet statutory obligations. Failure to do so could jeopardize the contract.</p> <p>Q: Does this “time frame given by DCS” take into account CAC best practices, interviewer availability and what is in the best interest of the child? For instance, if DCS would need a child interviewed at 3a.m. but this is not in the child’s best interest because of lack of focus or fatigue (for the child or the interviewer), will discretion fall on the side of what is best for that child and will the totality of the circumstances still be considered?</p>	<p>The best interest of a child is always paramount. The collaborative efforts of DCS, CAC and LEA should be engaged to determine the promptness for facilitating an interview of the child, keeping in mind all statutory requirements.</p> <p>If DCS and/or LEA believe an interview must occur to assess the immediate safety of a child or their siblings’ then CAC facilities should be made available to accommodate necessary assessments to determine child safety.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Advocacy Center shall be available to DCS on a 24/7 basis. <p>Q: Does this mean that the center (i.e. facility, rooms, recording equipment) be available or the center and its staff be available? If it is CAC center and staff, then can something be added to this standard that permits a MDT discussion to occur to determine what is best for the child or can after-hours interviews be defined as true emergency cases only where immediate protection of the child is at issue or if a perpetrator needs to be identified and the child is the only one that can provide information (i.e. public safety issue exists)? In Marion County, we exceed 1700 interviews a year and if we were open 24/7 we would need to double our staff to accommodate around the clock availability and we need to plan for that in our grant application.</p>	<p>No, CAC staff do not need to be available on a 24/7 basis.</p> <p>Yes, all centers (i.e. facilities, rooms, recording equipment) need to be available to DCS on a 24/7 basis. True emergencies will be determined by State Law and DCS Policies. DCS requires access to the facility and use of the CAC equipment.</p> <p>The CAC should be made available to DCS on a 24/7 basis. DCS facilitates forensic interviews on a 24/7 basis and therefore, CAC facilities should be made accessible to DCS staff on a 24/7 basis. This could look many different ways and should be arranged at the county or regional level to meet the needs and staffing capacity of all parties involved.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting shall include at minimum DCS, LEA and Prosecutor. <p>Q: In Marion County because of the volume, we do not meet on every case. However, we do a monthly review session of selected severe abuse cases to discuss case strategy successes and</p>	<p>Given a prohibitive volume, a county does not have to meet on every case, but CAC Multi-Disciplinary Teams shall always extend an invitation to DCS, LEA and the Prosecutor’s office to all meetings involving child interviews. No member of the Multi-Disciplinary team shall be</p>

<p>failures. In smaller counties, a MDT meets on every case. Will we be required to change anything in Marion County to meet this standard? If so, can the grant fund prosecutor positions? Right now, LEA and prosecutors do not have enough manpower to be present on every interview.</p>	<p>excluded from the process of evaluating interviews and reviewing cases.</p>
<p>• DCS will decide who will interview their clients. Q: Does this mean that DCS can select which FCI will interview the client? Does this mean that LEA and/or prosecutors must seek approval/permission from DCS before any contact is made with the alleged child victim/non-offending caregiver and/or perpetrator? This standard is not exactly clear about when this applies. If a CAC is run by a prosecutor's office, does this standard still apply once a case has been filed?</p>	<p>Yes – If DCS is assessing whether to file a CHINS case, DCS can determine who will interview a client. DCS will determine whether to file a CHINS, and DCS' trained FCMs are qualified to facilitate forensic interviews. and If DCS has reason to believe that individuals are not working in the best interest of the child and are using the CAC as leverage to gain power and control over the child safety assessment then DCS reserves the right to speak definitively on who will interview the child.</p> <p>Irrespective of who runs the CAC, DCS controls decisions on CHINS assessments. Prosecutors control decisions regarding the filing of criminal cases. If no CHINS has been filed, DCS will not be part of the approval/permission for child interviews. If a CHINS has been filed and prosecutors seek an interview with a child, DCS will handle such request in accordance with its policies on consent.</p> <p>DCS reserves the right to have trained FCM facilitate forensic interviews.</p>
<p>• Any contact between the victim and the perpetrator shall be driven by LEA or DCS. Q: Does this mean that if a Prosecutor's office whose CAC is DCS grant funded wants to file and argue for a No Contact Order to remain in effect on a filed criminal case, DCS can use this standard to argue in court to argue that the No Contact Order should be lifted/removed because of DCS' desire for reunification or continued contact between the perp and victim, thus preventing the prosecutor's office (whose CAC is DCS grant</p>	<p>The number one goal, at DCS, is child safety. The second goal, at DCS, is permanency. If the child's safety and permanency can be met through reunification then DCS will pursue that end.</p> <p>Neither CAC nor DCS make final decisions for contact, reunification, termination or conviction orders; the courts make these decisions. DCS will argue for whatever it considers to be in the best interest of the child consistent with the child's case plan. As above, prosecutors control decisions</p>

<p>funded) from taking an opposing position because it could impact its CAC funding? Circumstances when a criminal investigation has started and/or if charges are filed cause us to have concerns that this standard needs clarification. For instance, can this standard be revised to say that each agency, as part of the MDT, should make every effort to coordinate and work towards what is in the best interest of the child (relating to contact between the victim and perp) and the MDT should work together, when possible, to coordinate the decision of allowing/facilitating contact between the vic and perp and to discuss what, if any, affect that contact may have on the investigation and/or pending case?</p>	<p>related to criminal cases.</p>
<p>Q: If the current CAC operation manual does not have wording that fits some of the standards listed above and DCS does not want to sign off on it or the interagency agreement until revisions are made, can we submit the attachments without DCS' signature and continue to work toward agreeable language in the upcoming weeks/months that reflect the service delivery standards listed in this email? Will we be penalized in any way in our application for doing this?</p>	<p>Yes, you can continue to work on the interagency agreements. You do not need to submit without DCS signature. Please mention in your service narrative that you are working on your interagency agreement and will submit when available. State Staff are responsible for scoring the proposals, they will be aware of the non-agreement or any challenges that hinder the process.</p>
<p>Is there a minimum or maximum unit rate?</p>	<p>The new contracts will be paid by payment points not by a unit rate.</p>
<p>Do we survey the parent or the child?</p>	<p>Parent</p>
<p>Under Attachment J, is there only a quarterly template?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Where is the monthly report template?</p>	<p>Thank you for identifying this issue. The form will be uploaded to the DCS website with the other CAC documents; it will be under "Attachment J1"</p>

	and will be labeled "CAC Interview Report".
Attachment G - Page 22 - #35 – Progress reports are oral reports – contradicts page 10 of the RFP instructions 5.1 Reports where it states two report templates have been developed, we cannot find the Monthly Progress Report template.	The sample contract has standard language in it the final contract may have minor adjustments.
Is there just one signature needed on the Assurances?	Yes
In Attachment A page 4, Goal #4 – under 3) – this sentence is not complete.	You are correct, please disregard that objective.