

Notes: ISAC Provider oversight Subcommittee-12/13/2021 2-4 PM

Attendees: Dee Coccia, Carol Ferenz, Mark Davis, Mayme Carter, Sharon Harper-Young, Sherri Landis, Sally Gould-Taylor, Will Stennett, Marisol Ramos, Nancy Murray, Oscar Drummond, Francine Hogan, Richard Edley

Welcome and introductions- Kristin Ahrens & Dee Coccia

Kristin and Dee welcomed everyone. Kristin shared a follow up on the inquiry to investigate to see if there are characteristics or skills to help individuals self-report abuse. It was decided that it was not possible because of the need to interview individuals which creates the potential for retraumatizing. We will not be pursuing this inquiry any further.

We will make the sanctions and enforcement actions that are currently in place part of our regular meeting.

Enforcement Action Summary- Kristin Ahrens & Ron Melusky

Ron reviewed how to read the Sanctions and Enforcement Actions and explained how to understand the provisional licenses and how rare it is to issue a 3rd or 4th provisional license unless in an extraordinary situation.

Sally Gould-Taylor questioned how long an appeal can take in revocation or if we have any data on the typical length of time for an appeal to be processed. Ron replied that the length of time for the appeal to be heard is not something that ODP controls and that take months, even years. ODP can however issue corresponding programmatic sanctions against a provider pending appeal. Providers are able to appeal an issuance of a provisional license and revert back to a regular license.

Nancy Murray inquired why some providers are listed under different sanctions and if there were issues that got them into the multiple sanctions.

Ron responded that it is common to see multiple areas of noncompliance that lead to issuance of licensure revocation and that corresponding Chapter 6100 violations will trigger the sanctions.

Kristin also added that there are some providers that hold many licenses. If there is a problem in one region ODP will do unannounced inspections in the other areas as well.

Dee Coccia asked if there is anything that keeps ODP from letting families and self-advocates know that the providers are under sanctions.

Ron mentioned that he needs to look more at the regulatory requirements and prepare to answer this question at a later date.

Kristin added that the info is publicly available, and that DHS is procuring a new enterprise licensing system that should make it easier for individuals and families to find the information.

Dee Coccia expressed concern and reflected to the issue with Blossom and how most of the families were unable to find this information and that we must take into consideration that not everyone has a capacity to look for the information easily.

Kristin advised that ODP will look at what is or what isn't prohibited for notification to families and individuals. This will be added to the next meeting.

Sexual Abuse- Demographics & Outcomes/Reporting Patterns- Ron Melusky & Bill Posavec

Ron presented the information and Bill discussed how the system reporting changes will make reporting better.

Dee asked if the info was just for ODP population and had some concerns about rape victims. She also expressed concern that the numbers being reported seemed low.

Ron responded that it is just for ODPs population, but only specific to individuals in community homes and responded about rape victims in a later slide.

Kristin mentioned that when the follow up actions are discussed, we will see more, but we do not have a level of detail. We can talk about changes in the system to help us and see what actions we should take for appropriate follow up.

Ron explained how family members are notified about sexual abuse and the group had a lengthy conversation as some had questions and concerns.

Some of those questions and concerns were:

- How and when SCs are having discussions with the individual about who to share info with
- Making sure that the SC are trained to have private meetings with the individuals away from the caregivers and family members to build confidence and trust
- Concerns with the staff shortage/turnover the "seasonal" SCO staff should be having these conversations with the individuals and not the new SCOs.
- Concerns from the self-advocates about anonymous reporting and how are they able to know the outcome and afraid of retribution
- Are perpetrators allowed to work in another home while there is a pending investigation
- When will the new reporting system goes into place

In response, Lauren House advised that when there is an incident of this nature, something personal and traumatic, supports coordination is trained on how to respond and what information to give them all the while balancing respect for that person's wishes. Supports coordination is encouraged to know what is available and make sure that the people are making the most informed decision to get support and to get through the traumatic event.

Mayme Carter added that in addition, supports coordinators are trained to have private meetings away from family members and caregivers to build confidence and trust. In past, conversations were happening with them present, and they could be the perpetrator. The supports coordinators are seasoned.

Kristin advised that ODP always investigates anonymous complaints and action is always taken. An anonymous reporter has checked back in the past to see what action was taken and we can provide the information at that point, but we cannot report back to an anonymous reporter who did not provide contact information.

Bill reminded the committee that SCs have annual meetings to let individuals know how to report abuse and that part of the training on the myodp website has a monitoring tool that provides guidance on how often to advise. Providers are also supposed to work with and have a policy in place where they are informing and educating individuals and notifying families.

Mayme Carter informed the committee that when someone lives in a 6400 licensed home, if staff are accused, they are suspended, and individuals remain in their own home and are not relocated. The threat is eliminated while the investigation is being conducted.

Bill replied that the protective services law precludes them from working anywhere else while the investigation is being conducted.

Kristin mentioned that a number of meetings have started with Erin Raub who works for Chairman Farry regarding the registry. It would help to close the gap because the system has gaps in terms of this issue.

Bill mentioned that the most recent bulletin that went out explained that the changes went into effect July 2021.

Dee Coccia mentioned that one thing that seems relevant is that we do massive trainings to self-advocates to help them understand their rights around sexual abuse and sexuality.

Kristin reminded the committee that it was discussed prior about doing a connection with the Department of Education to start the process of making sure that once people became adults, there is a nice partnership that is infused in secondary education.

Francine Hogan added that Ned Whitehead was going to be the conduit between education and PFAN. This is included in the workshop that is done regularly regarding sexuality and what can be included in IEPs to address it.

Kristin ended the meeting with a note that:

- *we will look at the notes from the ISAC Sexual Abuse Prevention Action Plan meeting and to follow up with Ned Whitehead and the Department for Special Education, Carol Clancy.*
- *We will come prepared for the next meeting to talk about notifications to individuals and families with whether it is prohibited or expected in statute.*

Dee Coccia added that it is very important to see if we are able to bring charges to someone who commits rape, and it would be good to pursue a massive educational training for self-advocates to help keep them protected.

Kristin mentioned that SAU1 has a great solid curriculum that is very well thought out and executed but there are limitations, and the concern is how can we reach more adults in this curriculum. We have to figure out how to do this training in a greater scale.

Sharon Harper-Young mentioned that there were barriers where providers were not sure that they wanted to take the trainings.

Kristin wants to discuss the barriers and training levels. *The action plans would be a good place to start and will follow up with the larger ISAC.*

A conversation is needed around a comprehensive plan for all stakeholders; what is our comprehensive training plan and be sure every age has the appropriate training material.

Sherri Landis added that her chapters are doing these now for a broader age range and is happy to help so Sherri and Kristin will work together to see what is available for the analysis.

Marisol Ramos and Sally Gould-Taylor expressed concerns about getting the information and training out to everyone in the community.

Next mtg February 7, 2022 – 2:00 to 4:00 PM