





Child Protection Teams in Indian Country



Development of Child Protection Teams

- Procedures based on 1986 CPT in Indian Country published (66 BIAM, Ch.10)
 - Established by May 1987; beginning of local CPTs
 - Purpose: Increases in public awareness in child abuse and neglect led to increases in abuse/neglect reports
 - Purpose: Improve multidisciplinary response to child abuse and neglect
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Child Protection Teams

- 1987 DOI Memorandum mandates:
 - ▶ Provide oversight
 - ▶ Facilitate provision of services
 - ▶ Provide technical assistance(Not a funded mandate)





CPT Duties

- Prevention
- Reporting
- Confidentiality
- Intake
- Referral
- Investigation
- Case assessment
- Case review
- Protective action procedure
- Case plan development
- Case plan implementation
- Monitoring
- Evaluation of ongoing cases
- Case closure





CPT Roles

- Protection of children
 - Case management
 - Case follow-up; tracking cases
 - Sponsoring activities
 - Recommendation to court
 - Coordination of cases
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CPT Roles

- Support for team members
 - Education
 - Advocacy
 - Discussion/problem solving
 - Data collection
 - Multidisciplinary input
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Developing a CPT

- Decide a CPT is needed
- Identify purpose/role of the team
- Develop clear/explicit goals; mission statement
- Team membership
- Core group
- Provide orientation to new members
- Establish consistently scheduled meeting times



CPT Core Membership

- Medical (physician, nurse, CHR)
- Behavioral Health (psychologist, psychiatrist)
- Child Welfare (CPS, ICW)
- Court Personnel (prosecutor, guardian ad litem)
- Law enforcement (criminal investigators, FBI, tribal police)
- Victim advocate



CPT Ancillary Members

- Substance abuse counselors
- Domestic violence program staff
- Parenting program staff
- Housing program staff
- Community representative
- Spiritual leader, clergy
- Tribal council member





Key Factors in Developing a CPT

- Keep meeting times to a minimum
- Keep meeting positive and focused
- Maintain confidentiality – “need to know basis”
- Always have an agenda
- Prioritize cases
- Attendance sheet – affirmation of confidentiality
- Tracking system for cases





6 Potential Functions of a CPT

1. Development of policies and procedures for handling child abuse and neglect
 2. Identification, coordination and management of these situations
 3. Developing and implementing protocols and screening instruments in clinics where high risk families can be identified
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6 Potential Functions of a CPT

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4. Development of necessary protocols/procedures for gathering and recording information for reporting, legal, clinical, and monitoring purposes
 5. Developing and coordinating child abuse/neglect training for the CPT members and the general community
 6. Identification and prevention activities in the schools with staff and children



CPT Barriers

- Team members with unresolved issues
- Overworked team members
- Territoriality – “turf issues” (multiple jurisdictions)
- Political concerns
- Lack of authority
- Denial of child abuse
- Lack of consistent representation
- Confidentiality issues