Governor’s Task Force on the Protection of Children

Joint Child Maltreatment Screening

Presented by:
St. Cloud Police Department
Stearns County Human Services

January 30, 2015
St. Cloud is the largest population center in the state's central region. Though mostly in Stearns County, St. Cloud also extends into Benton and Sherburne counties.

Stearns County Population: 152,063
City of St. Cloud Population: 66,219
  Stearns County: 52,978
  Sherburne County: 6,849
  Benton County: 6,392
SCPD DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

As of 26 Nov 2013

DEPARTMENT TOTAL: 147+13
Sworn 97
Non-Sworn 50
FT 23
PT 24
Attachments: 13

ADMIN TOTAL: 2
Sworn 1
Non-Sworn 1

SUPPORT TOTAL: 57
Sworn 9
Non-Sworn 48
FT 21
PT 27
Attachments: 0

OPERATIONS TOTAL: 88+13
Sworn 87
Non-Sworn 1
Attachments: 13
STEARNS COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

GEORGE RINDELAUB, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

STEARNS COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
Mark J. Sizer, Human Services Administrator

Community Supports Division
Janet Reigstad

Community Corrections Division
Becky Bales Cramlet

Family & Children Services Division
Brenda Mahoney

Finance & Technology Division
Dona Pederson

Gateway Services Division
Janet Goligowski

Public Health Division
Renee Frauendienst

Service Entry Assessments
Greg Knoll

Child Protection Unit A
Sandy Foy

Child Protection Unit B
Michael Heinen

Adolescent & Permanency Services
Allison Hendrickson

Licensing/Adoption
Paul Weinmann

HS Department Total Employees: 360
Family & Children’s Division: 58
Human Services Intake Process:

- Service Entry Unit
  - Staffed by social workers trained in intake and interviewing
  - Reports of child/adult maltreatment
  - Requests for services
- Reports alleging imminent risk
  - Screened immediately
  - Law enforcement notified
- All other reports assigned to coverage supervisor for screening
Cross–Reporting with Law Enforcement:

- All intakes alleging child maltreatment are considered “reports”
- All reports cross–reported to law enforcement per MN Statute 626.556
- Average number of reports received per year: 1950
- Approximately 950 (50%) reports cross reported to SCPD
Child Maltreatment Screening Process:

Child Maltreatment Screen Team: Meets at 8:30 a.m. Monday–Friday, Friday afternoons, and as needed

Screening Team Composition
- HS Supervisor II and/or Division Director
- SEU and/or Child Protection Assessment Social Workers

Team Decisions by consensus

Decision based on:
- Minnesota Statute 626.556
- Associated Criminal Statutes
- State Child Maltreatment Screening Guidelines
- Consideration of past county and state history of services
Joint Screening Process with Law Enforcement:

• SCPD present during review of reports
• Sharing of information as allowed under MN Statute 626.556
• Opportunity to discuss additional information
  • Law Enforcement data
  • Follow up by law enforcement if applicable
  • Criminal information
  • Past history of involvement
• Independent determination of action by each department
Benefits of Joint Screening:

- Increased safety of children and social workers
- Improved information sharing resulting in improved screening decisions
- Immediate assignment of Police Officer
- Increased efficiency and decrease in redundancy
- Improved coordination in joint assessments
- Improved understanding of roles
- Improved relationships between law enforcement and human services
Why it works:

- Volume of child maltreatment reports
- High concentration of reports in one law enforcement jurisdiction
- Geographical vicinity of departments (2 blocks away)
- Size of departments
- Established screening process
- History of collaboration
- Respect for individual determinations by each department
Considerations for Applicability to other Jurisdictions:

- Geographical locations of departments
- Number of law enforcement departments within the county
- Size of departments and number of child maltreatment reports received
- Available staff resources
Contact Information:

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