

PROBLEMATIC SEXUAL BEHAVIOR COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

PURPOSE

The following protocol outlines the response to referrals in which a child under the age of twelve is alleged to be acting-out in a sexually inappropriate manner. The objectives of this protocol are to establish a comprehensive and coordinated effort in the investigation, intervention, and prevention of further sexually acting- out behavior, and to establish a system-wide, consistent approach to these referrals.

PARTICIPATION

This protocol has been adopted by the Washington County Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), and applies to all participating members of the MDT. All agencies included in this protocol will encourage parents/guardians and/or complainants to report alleged incidents to police or the Department of Human Services (DHS).

REFERRAL PROCEDURE

Pursuant to ORS 419B.015, when a report is received by a police agency (LEA), they will notify DHS; and, when a report is received by DHS, they will notify the appropriate LEA. The DHS Intake Supervisor will screen all referrals. If the case does not meet the DHS Threat of Harm Screening Guidelines, the DHS Supervisor will refer the case to the Problematic Sexual Behavior Committee (PSBC) by notifying and forwarding reports to the MDT Coordinator. Those complaints involving children 10 years of age or older will be directed to a Deputy District Attorney (DDA) assigned to the Juvenile Court. A DDA assigned to the Juvenile Court will review referrals for prosecutorial merit. If declined, the DDA will refer reports to PSBC.

PSBC REVIEW

The Problematic Sexual Behavior Committee will meet monthly to review all referred cases. The PSBC meeting will be facilitated by the Child Abuse MDT Coordinator and comprised of representatives from the following agencies:

- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Washington County Juvenile Department
- Washington County District Attorney's Office
- Washington County Law Enforcement Agencies
- Washington County Public Schools Representatives
- Washington County Mental Health
- CARES Northwest
- Washington County Juvenile Department

An attendance roster, including a confidentiality statement, will be maintained by the MDT Coordinator.

PSBC Protocol continued

The MDT Coordinator will screen each referral received and will complete a PSBC Screening Sheet. This will be attached to the reports received from DHS and/or LEA and will be provided to the committee members for review prior to the monthly PSBC meeting. PSBC members will review their records for information related to the case to share at the PSBC meeting.

The PSBC will determine the response, based on a review of, but not limited to, the following:

- Police and DHS reports,
- CARES NW or mental health evaluations
- The age of the children involved and the severity of the alleged conduct
- Any other relevant risk factors

The PSBC will determine the appropriate response from one or more of the following:

- Close the case (as it is already being appropriately handled)
- Table for further review or to collect more information
- Send a letter to and /or call the parent/guardian of the child/children to provide appropriate referrals to community resources (primarily specialized mental health counseling resources and the CARES NW Family Support Team)
- Refer the case to the Juvenile Department for follow-up
- Refer to other agency for follow-up

The MDT Coordinator is primarily responsible for family outreach (including an explanation of the PSBC process) and for family resource referrals (via letter and/or phone). Other PSBC members may do family outreach as appropriate. The MDT Coordinator may also refer cases to other agencies as needed and will maintain a record of each case reviewed, including PSBC recommendations and outcomes.

The MDT Coordinator is responsible for maintaining PSBC records and summarizing PSBC activity showing the number of cases reviewed, the nature of the allegations and the number of referrals. This report will be shared with the MDT.

This protocol will be reviewed as needed and may be amended by the PSBC upon approval of the MDT.

