Child Protection Centers: A Multidisciplinary Approach

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Objectives

- Discuss the multidisciplinary team
- Learn about the referral process to the Child Protection Center (CPC)
- Discuss the Forensic Interview
- Review the medical evaluation
- Examine family advocacy and mental health services
Multidisciplinary Team

- Forensic Interviewer
- Medical Professional (Physician, PA, NP, SANE)
- Family Advocate
- Department of Human Services
- Law Enforcement
How the CPC Works

Department of Human Services
Law Enforcement
Other (Medical Provider)

Referral to CPC

Initial Child Protection Team Meeting
(Law Enforcement, DHS, CPC Medical Provider,
Forensic Interviewer, Family Advocate)

Team Meets with Parent/Guardian

Forensic Interview and/or CPC Medical Exam
Family Advocate Meets with Caregivers

Final Staffing
(DHS, LE, Interviewer, Medical, Advocate)
The Interview

- Interview Room
- Observation Room

Video Recorded (DVD)
Conducted by Expertly Trained Interviewers
DHS and LE Can Observe Behind 2 Way Mirror
The Interview

- Rapport Building
- Credibility Assessment
- Fact Finding
- Safety Education/Closing
Medical Services Offered at CPC

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Neglect
- Failure to thrive
- Witness to Violence
- Drug Exposure/Hair Testing
- Foster Care Exams
- Consultations
Purpose of the Medical Exam

- Obtain history from child and/or guardian
- To determine if child is appropriate candidate for interview
- To identify and document evidence of abuse
- Consider alternative explanations for a concerning sign or symptom
- Diagnose and treat medical conditions resulting from abuse
- To evaluate for other medical, dental, educational and/or psychological needs of the child
- Determine the need for sexually transmitted infection testing or prophylaxis
- Discuss pregnancy prophylaxis
Purpose of the Medical Exam

- To determine the need for and collect a DCI kit
- Assess child’s safety and report to child protective services when needed
- To tell the child their bodies are ok and begin the healing process
- Reassure child and family
  - Virginity, fertility, sexually transmitted diseases, sexuality
The Child Protection Center (CPC) believes all children seen at the CPC should receive a medical examination. When the medical examination is explained to the child and their caregiver, most children do well with the examination. Children are not forced to have an examination. In prepubertal children, the examination is always non-invasive. If STI testing is performed on post-pubertal children, a speculum may be used.
Elements of the Medical Examination

- Complete History
  - Family History
  - Social History
  - Education and Daycare information
  - Past Medical History
  - Diagnosis and Medication
  - Allergies
Elements of the Medical Examination

- Substance Use (Family and Adolescent)
- Menstrual History
- Sexual History
- Behavioral Concerns
Elements of the Medical Examination

- Vitals: Height, weight, head circumference and blood pressure (age appropriate)
- Complete head to toe examination
- Colposcopic examination
- Photo-documentation
Colposcope
Family Advocacy

- Family Advocate is involved throughout the process at the CPC.
- Primary role is to follow up with families after their visit at the CPC.
- Address questions and concerns of the family.
- Meets with families during the interview.
- Discusses teaching body safety and sexual abuse prevention tips with family.
Family Advocacy

- Support the family during the investigative and court process
- Gives the family tools on how to respond to a child’s questions and concerns about the CPC visit and the abuse
- Referral to appropriate counseling services
- Trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy
- Linkage agreements
Questions