

# Child Protective Services Task Force Hearing

**Assistant Commissioner Daron Korte, J.D.**  
**Minnesota Department of Education**

# Agenda

- **Early Childhood**
  - **Child Abuse and Prevention Act (CAPTA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
- **Student Maltreatment**
- **Students in Foster Care**

# IDEA and CAPTA

- **Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C**
  - Federal law that serves infants and toddlers with developmental delays, diagnosed medical conditions, or who are at risk of developing delays due to a diagnosed medical condition.
- **Child Abuse and Prevention Act (CAPTA)**
  - a federal law that requires any child under the age of three who is the victim of a substantiated case of abuse or neglect be referred to Part C intervention.
- **Traditional Investigation vs. Family Assessment**

# Expanded CAPTA Policy

- **MDE and DHS expanded policy to ensure that more children who have experienced abuse and neglect, either directly or observed, get rapid and ongoing developmental monitoring and screening.**
- **If a child under 3 has substantiated case, a record of Part C referral in DHS' Social Services Information System (SSIS) is required before a case can be closed.**
  - **Ensures no children eligible for referral slip through.**

## **Expanded CAPTA policy (cont.)**

- **If there is a substantiated case on a child over the age of 3 but there is a child under the age of three in the home, it is strongly recommended that the child under the age of three be referred to infant and toddler intervention.**
- **Wellbeing of the child is paramount**
  - **Parents must be made aware of the referral for Part C service but consent is not required.**
  - **However, any further action after referral requires consent of the parent or guardian.**

# **Additional Early Childhood Interagency Efforts with DHS**

- **Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)**
- **Interagency Early Intervention Committees (IEICs)**
  - **Representatives of county human services**
  - **Charged with making concerted efforts to reach out to hard to serve populations.**
- **Participation by MDE ECSE staff on other DHS Initiatives.**

# Student Maltreatment Program

- **1999 – Legislature amended MN Stat. 626.556 to give Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) authority to investigate reports of alleged maltreatment of students in Minnesota public schools**

Minn. Stat. 626.556 Subd. 3b.

# Impact of 2015 Legislative Amendments on Student Maltreatment Program

## Current Impact

- **Emphasis on the overall health and safety of children in school settings.**
- **An increase in collaboration with law enforcement due to the clarification of cross reporting requirements.**

## Projected Impact

- **An increase in assigned investigations due to changes in statutory definitions related to physical abuse.**
- **Over the past two fiscal years our program has experienced a 45% increase in maltreatment reports. We anticipate that the changes in legislation will lead to an even greater rate of increase in intake reports.**

# **Additional Child Protection Relationships Between DHS and MDE**

- **MDE cross reports allegations of child maltreatment that are outside MDE's jurisdiction to DHS and local county welfare agencies and visa versa.**
- **MDE participates on the Seven Metro County Child Protection Screeners Committee.**
- **MDE participates on the DHS Child Mortality Review Panel**
- **MDE has hosted student maltreatment stakeholder meetings in which DHS has participated.**

# Students in Foster Care

- **Children in foster care can be found in all areas of education**
  - general education, special education, alternative programs, gifted programs, etc.
- **Services need to be tailored to the individual needs of the student.**
- **Much of the work with children in foster care and school placement occurs at the local/regional level.**
  - **Communication is key**

# Continued Enrollment for Students Placed In Foster Care

- “[A] pupil who has been enrolled in a district who is placed in foster care in another district may continue to enroll in the prior district without the approval of the board of the prior district.”
  - Minn. Stat. 2015 §124D.08 Subd. 2b

# Foster Care and Special Education

- **Initiatives that support children who are in special education and who may be in foster care:**
  - **Interagency Coordination**
  - **Mental Health Initiatives in schools**
  - **Targeted efforts to support school success**

# Foster Care and Special Education

## Interagency Coordination

- **Minnesota State Interagency Committee (MnSIC)**
  - State agencies, schools, counties, parents, and others
  - Goal is to support coordination and eliminate silos
- **Local Collaboratives**
  - Community Interagency Transition Committees
  - Mental Health and Family Services Collaborative
  - Individualized Educational Program (IEP) Teams

# Foster Care and Special Education

## Mental Health Initiatives in schools

- School Linked Mental Health Grants
- Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS)

## Keeping Students in the Classroom

- Alternatives to Suspension Grants
- Reintegration Protocol
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

## Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services (ADSIS)

# **Other Child Wellbeing Partnerships With DHS and Other Agencies**

- **Minnesota System of Interagency Coordination**
- **Minnesota's Olmstead Plan**
  - **Goals include interagency coordination between MDE and DHS, DEED, and DOC.**
- **Children's Cabinet**
  - **Commissioners of DHS, MDH, MDE**

# Questions?

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