

**2013-2014
MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT)
INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT**

This agreement is entered into between the Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence (Commission), the Arkansas Department of Human Services (Department) and the Arkansas State Police (ASP).

I. Purpose

Pursuant to state law, the Director of the Department of Human Services “shall implement a coordinated multidisciplinary team approach to intervention in reports involving severe maltreatment and all reports requested by a prosecuting attorney pertaining to a law enforcement or prosecuting attorney’s investigation by initiating formal cooperative agreements with: (1) Law enforcement agencies; (2) Prosecuting attorneys; and (3) Other appropriate agencies and individuals.” Ark. Code Ann. § 12-18-106(a).

The parties to this agreement are committed to a cooperative, multidisciplinary team approach to severe child maltreatment investigations.

II. Duration

This agreement shall take effect January 1, 2013, and shall end December 31, 2013, however by mutual agreement of the parties, this agreement may be extended for two years, not to exceed December 31, 2015. This agreement shall be binding upon any successors to the Director of the Department, the Director of the Commission, and the Director of the ASP.

III. Severability

The parties agree to be bound by any change in federal laws or regulations, or state laws and regulations, or state plan amendments pertaining to the programs affected by this agreement and in the event this agreement is irreconcilably inconsistent with such laws, regulations or plans, this agreement shall be subordinate thereto. The provisions of this agreement are severable such that invalidity of one (1) provision shall not affect the validity of any other provision.

IV. Confidentiality

All parties agree to abide by the confidentiality restrictions as contained in federal and state law. The Commission shall require all Multidisciplinary Team members to sign a Confidentiality Agreement before any team member is allowed to participate in a MDT meeting.

V. Program Responsibilities

1. The Commission shall establish and coordinate Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) throughout the state of Arkansas. The goal of each MDT shall be to increase effective communication among professionals involved in all Priority I child maltreatment investigations and Priority II sexual abuse child maltreatment investigations by providing a mechanism for multi-disciplinary discussion of the investigation; to coordinate intervention so as to reduce potential trauma to children and families; to improve services and outcomes for children and families while preserving and respecting the rights and obligations of each agency to pursue their respective mandates.
2. The Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator shall be supervised by the Commission. The Commission shall specify the duties of the Coordinator and shall monitor to ensure the specified duties are performed by the Coordinator. The MDT Coordinator duties shall be subject to review and approval by the Department and ASP.
3. The Commission shall develop an MDT State Model Protocol subject to review and approval by the Department and ASP.
4. Each Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator shall sign a copy of the MDT Local Protocol, UAMS employment contract, and the Confidentiality Agreement.
5. Each MDT Core member shall sign the MDT Local Protocol and the Confidentiality Agreement at the required core team meetings.
6. Multidisciplinary Team members who participate in a MDT meeting shall sign a Confidentiality Agreement for that meeting, or if participating by conference call, the members shall orally agree to abide by the Confidentiality Agreement.
7. No team member shall be permitted to participate in any MDT meeting unless the team member has signed the Confidentiality Agreement or has orally agreed to abide by the terms of the Confidentiality Agreement.
8. The Commission shall provide written notice to the Department and ASP identifying all Multidisciplinary Teams established by the Commission. The notice shall include the name of the MDT Coordinator and the geographic region covered by the MDT.
9. The Commission shall designate each Multidisciplinary Team established by the Commission as a properly constituted authority which means the MDT is entitled to receive and share confidential information among the Team members.
10. The Department and ASP agree to share confidential information about pending, true, and unsubstantiated child maltreatment investigations involving all Priority I child maltreatment investigations and Priority II sexual abuse child maltreatment investigations with the Multidisciplinary Team members.

11. Within 72 hours of a hotline report, ASP and the Department shall provide the MDT Coordinator with information on all hotline calls that meet the protocol for review by the multidisciplinary team.

12. Prior to the MDT meeting, the Department and ASP shall provide the MDT Coordinator with information on all child maltreatment investigations to be reviewed by the MDT even if the investigation has been completed.

13. The Department and ASP agree to participate in MDT meetings for all Multidisciplinary Teams established by the Commission as a properly constituted authority.

14. The MDT shall make recommendations for services on each investigation reviewed at the MDT meeting. The MDT Coordinator shall provide the written Recommendation for Services form to the Department Core Team Representative and the case-specific representative that participates in the MDT meeting. The Department shall receive this form either at the MDT meeting or immediately thereafter.

VI. Monitoring and Dispute Resolution

The Department, ASP and the Commission shall meet as needed to discuss specific cases, operations, protocol compliance and other issues. The Department, ASP and the Commission agree to work together in good faith and in the spirit of cooperation.

VI. Amendment of Agreement

The Agreement shall not be approved, amended or assigned without the consent of each of the parties.

This agreement was signed by the following:



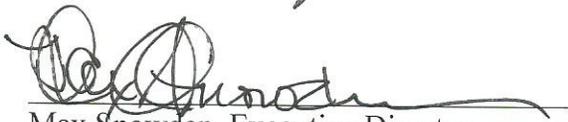
Stan Witt, Director
Arkansas State Police

Date: 3/4/13



John Selig, Director
Arkansas Department of Human Services

Date: 5/8/13



Max Snowden, Executive Director
Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape
and Domestic Violence

Date: 6-17-13