Establishing a Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force

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Over the past few years it has become clear that child-on-child sexual abuse is a growing problem and widespread among children in our communities and foster care. In response to this growing trend, and to augment existing practices related to sexually reactive children, leaders in North Florida developed the Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (COCSAP) Task Force which has been identified as an innovative approach to preventing child sexual abuse. In a State of Florida Department of Children and Families report, “The Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force . . . is a best practice which should be replicated in other counties . . . and has been effective in reducing the prevalence of child on child sexual abuse in the areas served.”

The Task Force has been regarded as a framework and model to assist with prevention efforts and has already been successfully replicated in several circuits in Florida. The Task Force is made up of a variety of stakeholders/agencies including local mental health providers, the Department of Children and Families, Department of Juvenile Justice, Offices of the Juvenile State Attorney, Public Defender’s Office, Children’s Legal Services, Child Advocacy Center, Guardian Ad Litem, local Judges and Magistrates, school officials, Partnership for Strong Families (Community-Based Care Agency) and other child advocacy related programs.

The benefits of developing other or similar Task Forces will be presented in a continued effort to help reduce the prevalence of child-on-child sexual abuse through community prevention, training and intervention. Also, a number of policies and procedures developed by the Task Force which have proven to be effective in reducing the number of child-on-child sexual incidents in foster care will be discussed. The Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force is considered an innovative approach and framework to promote change and as noted previously, has been regarded as a Best Practice in the state of Florida in helping reduce the prevalence of sexual abuse. This workshop is intended for all audiences included clinicians, administrators, social service staff and community leaders.

Learning Goals and Objectives:

- Identify the history, purpose, mission and goals of the Child on Child Sexual Abuse and Prevention Task Force that was established in Florida.
- Understand the need as well as process and steps towards developing other Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse and Prevention Task Forces.
- Learn how a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach can improve coordination of supports and services to children with sexual abuse and/or sexual behavior problems (SBP).