Module 1: Assessment and Decision-Making

Objectives

• Describe sound investigative and assessment procedures.
• Explain how assessment affects decision-making.

Gather & Document Information: Current and Prior Intakes

- If prior s w/ findings, staff w/supervisor
- Existing case files
- Prior unfounded intakes
- Current/prior intakes
- F.S. 39.301(1)
- Service providers reports
Slide 4

Gather & Document Information: Criminal History

- State & federal records checks
- Local law enforcement, including call outs to the home
- Dept. of Juvenile Justice
- Dept. of Corrections
- Domestic Violence Injunction Registry

F.S. 39.301(10)(a)3 and F.S. 39.306

Slide 5

Gather & Document Information: Interviewing

- F.S. 39.301(7)(10)(14)
- Reporter (if known)
- Face-to-face
  - Child, siblings (alone)
  - Parents, caregivers (separately)
  - All household members
  - Note or photograph: conditions, appearance, development FAC 65C-29-003(3)(c)

Slide 6

Gather & Document Information: Interviewing

- Who else would you want to talk to
  - Reporter (if appropriate)
  - Collaterals (e.g. neighbors, relatives, teachers)
  - Alleged perpetrator (when appropriate)
**Slide 7**

**Gather & Document Information:**
**Other Documentation**

What other collateral contacts would you make, and for what purpose

- CPT reports, photographs, interviews F.S. 39.304(1)
- School records
- Health department records
- Other medical records
- Emergency room/medical reports
- Demographics/corrections in address, dob, etc.

**Slide 8**

**Observe & Document the Home Environment**

What must you observe in the home environment

- Living conditions (inside & out)
- Food, shelter, clothing adequate to meet child’s needs
- Safety of physical environment
- Child’s bedroom
- Place and cause of maltreatment

**Slide 9**

**Gather & Document Family Assessment Factors**

- Attitude regarding intervention
- Culture and family background
- Parent/caregiver history of abuse
- Child characteristics that might increase risk
- Family relationships/family dynamics/interactions, attitude towards child
Slide 10

Gather & Document Family Assessment Factors

- Child’s age/development
- Parent’s age
- Community & family supports
- Discipline & parenting techniques
- Stressors
- Substance abuse/domestic violence
- Ability to meet children’s needs & keep them safe

Examine/Analyze Information to Determine Plausibility

- Review indicators & evidence
- Compare injury type to child’s age/development
- Can anyone corroborate parents’ explanation
- Look for inconsistencies

Safety Assessment & Decision-Making

- Analyze & synthesize all information
- Follow statutes, policies and procedures
- Determine immediate & long-term risk to child
Slide 13

Safety Assessment & Decision-Making

Determine Safety Action:

- Remove child
- Leave child in the home

Module 1: Assessment and Decision-Making

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Slide 14

Module 2: Analysis of Assessment Information

Objectives

- Make informed decisions based upon information assessment.
- Analyze a case using the decision-making process.