

Project PONY Evaluation Plan

The effectiveness of Project PONY in nurturing protection and support of the abused child in the non-offending parents who participate will be determined through a questionnaire analysis. Historically, the average participants in voluntary educational programs in the Choctaw community have consisted of individuals who would be considered in the higher income, higher educational levels of the society. This factor was considered in the initial plan to conduct a retrospective post-tests exam to be administered to the participants; however the socio-economic and educational demographics of actual participants are at the extremes. A survey questionnaire was selected after review of various instruments on the CB-CAP website. The Family Support Programs Outcome Survey has been approved by the Department's internal evaluator to evaluate the client's participation in the program. The information gleaned from this survey will give insight to the effectiveness of the interventions in providing support and education to the participants so they may better equipped to prevent subsequent victimization of the abused child. Additionally, suggestions for program improvement and for individual motivation to participate are also questioned. Although this questionnaire has not been piloted to assess the instrument's clarity and ease of translation, an unbiased surveyor who is fluent in Choctaw and English will be sought to administer the survey. A copy of the questionnaire will be submitted to the Choctaw language program with a request for possible translations that is generally accepted by the various dialects of the Choctaw language in use in the tribal communities.

Because of the small numbers of parents participating it is difficult to administer a comprehensive post test as planned which can be generalized and used as a determinate of program interventions. The participant's subjective explanation of the program's impact upon themselves or their family will be a reliable indicator of the program's effectiveness in meeting

the goal to foster protectiveness which will prevent first time abuse of siblings, and re-victimization of an abused child.

A case tracking system will be initiated between partner agencies and the multidisciplinary team through case reviews with other programs. The CCAC conducts a screening assessment of participants at program entry to identify other services that may benefit the family. These referral sources include Behavioral Health, Victim's Advocacy, Family and Children's Services, Legal Aid, and Medical services. Two areas to measure in program delivery that are sought through case reviews are; 1) effective access to services and follow up on barriers to access if any and 2) track any new events of victimization of children in household of program participants that are reported and/or followed up. These outcomes and the value to program efficacy is explained to the parents upon entry into the program and appropriate consents secured. Then contact is made with the partner programs that receive information on family violence and victimizations during the periods of active program participation, and at 3, 6, and 12 months status post participation. The numbers of referrals received from Law enforcement, mental health, and medical and child protection are then recorded through a pen and paper system and evaluated for occurrences.

Other data that are to be tracked for program delivery include participant attendance (to evaluate correlation between exposure to program interventions and the occurrences of re-victimization), service need identified through family screening, the numbers of referrals for other services and the number of parents who access services after referrals are made.

Two major changes in service delivery that have been made to the program since onset has been for participant solicitation and child care needs. The population of non-offending caregivers has not been addressed previously for specific services. It is reported by the few who

have participated to present in Project PONY that they have been treated as offenders also. This compounds the stigma of child abuse that is prevailing in the Choctaw society today. The combined effects enhances this populations resistance to services during the critical period of investigation when they too, could benefit from support and education about their child's abuse event. Program solicitation has warranted a face to face interaction with parents and the Director to make sure a solid foundation of understanding the goals of the programs exists. It is taking upon average, three to four home visits before actual contact is made or a phone call is received concerning participation. These home visits are tracked in addition to the visits that are made to follow up missed sessions to ensure information is delivered.