



DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILDREN WORKGROUP

Meeting. The Drug-Endangered Children (DEC) Workgroup met on Thursday, November 17, 2016, in Room 102 at the Iowa State Capitol.

Department of Human Services Recommendations. Janee Harvey, Chief of the Bureau of Child Welfare and Community Services of the Department of Human Services (DHS), reviewed DHS recommendations for the Drug-Endangered Child Workgroup. The DHS wishes to implement the following changes:

- Create a standardized list of criteria to reassign cases from Family Assessment to Child Abuse Assessment. The DHS will also include criteria for high-risk marijuana-related cases to be reassigned by type (e.g., concentrates, edibles, or marijuana-growing).
- Issue a formal set of policy guidelines relating to workers' ability to use Confidential Access interviews (e.g., interviewing a child while at school) during a Family Assessment.
- Track and evaluate enhanced DHS data measures regarding Differential Response, as discussed during the [September 22, 2016, DEC Workgroup meeting](#), and additional data measures recommended by Blank Children's Hospital.
- Report these enhanced DHS data measures in an annual Differential Response report.
- Create a formalized method by which the DHS can engage with community stakeholders (judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, medical and mental health providers, etc.) on an annual or biannual basis to review child abuse data, examine trends in child abuse reporting, and make policy and practice recommendations.
- Enact changes to sections [232.2\(p\)](#) and [232.68\(2\)\(a\)\(7\)](#) of the Iowa Code to include methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and synthetic drug allegations as criteria for children of any age to be assigned the Child Abuse Assessment pathway.

The Workgroup approved Code changes to [232.2\(p\)](#) and [232.68\(2\)\(a\)\(7\)](#).

Next Meeting. The DEC Workgroup may extend the discussion to a review of mandatory reporting requirements for health care providers in Iowa.

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