
VAW SERVICE SYSTEM EXCELLENCE

CHILD WITNESS PROGRAM EFFECTIVE PRACTICES PROJECT – CENTRAL WEST REGION

Violence against Women (VAW) transfer payment agencies in Central West Region have initiated a joint planning process to develop strategies to strengthen the VAW service system. Three Implementation Teams have been established in Central West Region. The teams are in the process of undertaking several tasks that will assist to achieve specific strategic goals identified through the strategic planning process. The VAW Service System Excellence Implementation Team specifically has identified effective practices in the Child Witness Program as the initial topic area to explore. As an initial step, the team decided to approach Child Witness service providers in both Central West and South West Regions and ask them to share their experience as well as any lessons learned in a number of areas related to the delivery of the Child Witness program. The information obtained will be collated and a report will be shared with all Child Witness service providers who participate in this process. Recommendations with regard to next steps will be made based upon the findings and available resources.

As a Child Witness service provider, we would greatly appreciate if you can help us by answering the following questions. Please ensure that you provide as much detail as possible and share lessons learned from your experience to date.

1. Please identify the top 3 barriers that may impact access to your agency's Child Witness Program and describe what strategies or practices have been successfully implemented to minimize or remove those barriers.
2. Please list and explain your agency's specific criteria for participation (e.g., can clients participate in the program more than once).
3. How do you structure your children's groups (e.g., by age, gender, language, timeliness, max/min number of participants per group, other)? Please explain. What are the drivers/limitations regarding your approach?

4. What are the length, frequency and duration of each group cycle? Other than group services, what other supports would families be receiving? (length, frequency, duration). In your experience, is this optimal? Why or why not? What do you feel would be the most effective approach?
5. What strategies have worked to promote regular attendance?
6. What does your agency view as parental consent issues?
7. Do you work with or have any contact with the abuser? If so, describe.
8. What factors contribute to choosing the location to have group/meet child?
9. What are the safety issues/concerns re: staff/participants?
10. How do you attract participants to the program?
11. What do you think is the greatest strength of the Child Witness program?
12. How do you measure success of the Child Witness program and what do you do with the results?
13. In your experience, what are the three most important attributes of an effective Child Witness facilitator?
14. If training were to be made available, what topics would you be interested in?
15. Would you be interested in attending a networking session with other Child Witness providers to share and discuss the findings from this questionnaire?
16. Do you have any customized agency guidelines for the delivery of the Child Witness program? What process was used to develop and what do you do to ensure they continue to respond effectively to the needs of your clients? Could a copy be made available?
17. Is there any other relevant information regarding effective practices in the Child Witness program that you would like to share?

Please provide contact information if follow-up or clarification is required

Please return the completed questionnaire to _____, by email at _____ or fax at 905-567-3215 by _____. Thank you!