

**GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AT RISK
STRATEGIC PLAN
2003-2006**

Idaho's Children at Risk Task Force continues to comprehensively review and evaluate State investigative, administrative, and both civil and criminal handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. The Task Force also considers issues involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions.

The following report outlines strategic planning goals through the year 2006. The plan emphasizes the need for continued efforts to integrate the child protection surveillance and response systems in each community in Idaho through the development of multi-disciplinary response teams. Many of the goals outlined in this plan are designed to support the development, training, enhancement, and technical assistance of local multi-disciplinary teams. These strategies reflect the on-going mission of the Children at Risk Task Force, which is "to make the system more sensitive and responsive to child victims".

GOAL 1

Continue development of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) in each county in accordance with Idaho Section 16-1609. Ensure that teams are well trained in risk assessment and interviewing and are able to address both criminal and civil child abuse and neglect cases, particularly sexual abuse.

| STRATEGIES | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| a. Provide annual area MDT training to promote the continued formation of MDTs and enhance existing MDTs. | Oct-03 | Oct-04 | | |
| b. b. Through POST, train newly elected prosecutors at their academy regarding their responsibility to develop MDTs according to Idaho 16-1609. | | Jan-04 | Jan-05 | |
| c. Encourage MDT formation and functioning at the prosecutor's seminars which meet semi-annually. Prepare handouts at the prosecutor's meetings with information to promote initiating MDTs or enhancing their current function. | Feb-03 | Feb-04 | Feb-05 | |
| d. Submit or encourage the inclusion of articles promoting the use of MDTs in each issue of the quarterly publication of the Peace Officer Standard and Training Newsletter, Protocol. Examples of articles include effective methods of reviewing child protection referrals and/or cases at the MDT meetings. | Jan-03 Jun-03, Dec-03 | Mar- 04, Aug-04 Nov-04 | Mar-05 | |

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| GOAL 2 | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Support development of training core competences for professionals involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. Encourage professional organizations in medicine, judiciary, social work, law enforcement, family support personnel, etc. to mandate training to specific standards of competences. | | | | |
| STRATEGIES | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| a. Examine the methods and trainings that are utilized by IDHW involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect in interviewing families and children. | Apr-03 | Apr-04, May-04 | | |
| b. Review and give input into the formation of Children and Family Services new "how to" practice manual which will be developed in 2003-2004. | Apr-03 | | | |
| c. Encourage the presence of child protection training component at specialized trainings held by educators, medical personnel, prosecutors, law enforcement and child welfare workers who do not work directly with child protection teams. Distribute newly printed brochures regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect. Upon request, provide training regarding child abuse and neglect and mandatory reporting as defined in the CPA, Idaho Code 16-1619 to those agencies or systems who do not work directly with child protection teams. | continuously throughout 2003 | continuously throughout 2004 | | |
| d. Encourage mandatory child protection reporting information be included in all licensure renewal letters to be sent to all licensed counselors, educators and medical personnel at a minimum of every two years. | | | | |

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| GOAL 3 | | | | |
|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Encourage the formation or inclusion of local MDT protocols that address the safety and well-being of children who are exposed to illegal drugs. | | | | |
| STRATEGIES | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| a. Survey counties to see how many counties have existing protocols regarding positive tox infants and children exposed to the manufacturing of illegal drugs. | | May-04, Sep-04 | | |
| b. Collect and distribute model protocols to local MDTs. | | | | |
| c. Encourage additional training and collaboration of services between MDTs in circumstances involving children who are neglected as a result of alcohol or other drug use. | | | | |

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| GOAL 4 | | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Review, evaluate and promote the strength of existing child welfare statutory protections for victims of child abuse and neglect, particularly sexual abuse. | | | | |
| STRATEGIES | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| a. Continue on-going review and evaluation of proposed legislation effecting child abuse and neglect. | | Feb-04, Apr-04, Nov-04 | | |
| b. After reviewing proposed legislation, make recommendations regarding legislation the Task Force deems pertinent to the safety and well-being of children. | | Feb-04 Oct-04 | | |

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| GOAL 5 | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Promote the establishment of a consistent, knowledgeable prosecution work force for effective civil and criminal handling of child abuse | | | | |
| STRATEGIES | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| a. Examine the role of deputy attorney generals in collaborating with the prosecuting attorney's office in cases of child abuse and neglect. | | | | |
| b. Present an annual award to promote the profession of a child protection prosecutor as being a valued position within Idaho's legal system. | | | Feb-05 | |
| c. Using CJD funds, continue to provide funding resources that are available for training prosecutors. | | | | |

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| GOAL 6 | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Support the Statewide Child Mortality Review Team. | | | | |
| STRATEGIES | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| a. Invite a member of the State Child Mortality Review Team to address the team's needs including: Provision for Statewide Child Mortality Review Team in state statute rather than an executive order that is dependent on continual renewal; Immunity for CMRT member's records to be used for discovery and subpoenas power for records to make better informed recommendations. | | | | |
| b. Make recommendations to enhance the CMRT. | | Feb-04 | | |
| c. Support the establishment of state statutes to meet the needs of the Statewide Child Mortality review Team. | | | | |

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| GOAL 7 | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Encourage practices which reduce the trauma associated with participating in the legal process for child abuse victims. | | | | |
| STRATEGIES | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| a. Receive the report from the Supreme Court Committee to Reduce Delays for Children in Foster Care to identify and monitor practices within the legal process that may contribute to the trauma of the child victim. | | Oct-04 | | |
| b. Review local protocols regarding the handling of children who are present when a meth lab is seized to minimize the associated trauma for children. | | Sep-04 | | |
| c. Access what other states are doing to allow an alternate method for child testimony in court. | | | | |
| d. Review the practice of a child testifying in criminal proceedings in "open court." | Apr-03 | | | |

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| GOAL 8 | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reduce the re-occurrence of child maltreatment in Idaho. | | | | |
| STRATEGIES | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| a. Review Idaho's Statewide Self Assessment regarding repeat maltreatment and the re-entry of children in foster care. | | May-04 | | |
| b. Assist in analyzing the issue of re-occurrence of child maltreatment and re-entry into the foster care system. | | | | |
| c. Assist in making recommendations for Idaho's PIP in reducing child maltreatment and re-entry into the foster care system. | Jan-03 | | | |

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| GOAL 9 | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Facilitate the investigation and remediation of educational neglect. | | | | |
| STRATEGIES | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| a. Assess current efforts that are being made to address the issues of children who are not being schooled. | | Feb-04 | | |
| b. Gather data to evaluate the scope of educational neglect. Review innovative models such as attendance courts for reducing educational neglect. | | Jun-04, Sep-04 | Mar-05 | |
| c. Consider and make recommendations to ensure that children in Idaho have an opportunity for education. | | | | |