

June 22, 2006 – SLO Meeting

Discussion Guide: Roles and Responsibilities of State Liaison Officers

Background

In 2005, the NRC for Child Protective Services conducted an SLO needs assessment. One of the findings was that many SLOs felt that the Children's Bureau had not clearly explained the purpose or expectations of the SLO. CB staff want to be responsive to this identified communication gap, and therefore are using this opportunity today to begin the dialogue on how the SLO's expertise is relied upon by the Children's Bureau.

History and Overview

- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act enacted into law in 1974
- National Resource Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) requested states to designate a lead agency to administer the federal funds awarded under the state grant program, and
- To identify a contact person or a State Liaison Officer for Child Abuse and Neglect
- NCCAN hosted national SLO meetings twice a year until after the CAPTA reauthorization of 1996
- In 1997, the decision to delegate authority for approval of CAPTA Basic State Grant applications to the ACF Regional Offices was approved
- The Regions were then expected to host their SLOs once per year, and the CB would convene the entire group once per year
- Provided SLOs with an opportunity to meet together to discuss issues and share information on a nationwide basis

Some questions for discussion

What do you see as the role of the SLO?

What other responsibilities do SLOs here today have?

How much communication do you have with your Regional Office?

Those of you who are new SLOs, where did you go to get the information about your role as an SLO? (Do you have any idea now?)

Should there be a Handbook or some type of orientation materials for new SLOs? And if so, what type of information should be contained in the Handbook? What information would have been or would be helpful to you?