

AGENDA
Public Hearing
May 2, 2012 9:30a.m.
Hearing Room 1 of the North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA

AGENDA

9:30 - 10:30

Richard J. Gelles, Ph.D.

Dean

Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare and Family Violence School of Social Policy & Practice
University of Pennsylvania

Note: Dean Gelles will address "Gates and decision making regarding children suspected as victims of child maltreatment."

10:30- 11:15

Debra Schilling Wolfe

Executive Director

THE FIELD CENTER for Children's Policy, Practice & Research University of Pennsylvania

Note: THE FIELD CENTER is a collaboration among the Penn School of Social Policy & Practice, the Penn School of Law, the Penn School of Medicine, the Penn School of Nursing and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Director Shilling will present the recommendations of this interdisciplinary team as to amendments the Child Protective Services Law as well as highlighting strengths of the statutes of other states.

11:15- 12:30pm

Legal Panel:

Robert Schwartz ESQ

Executive Director

Juvenile Law Center

Note: Mr. Schwartz, one of the founders of the Juvenile Law Center which provides advocacy for children who come in contact with the child welfare or justice system in the state, will speak to the history of the development of the existing statutory scheme for the protection of children from abuse and neglect in Pennsylvania and offer observations and recommendations with regard to potential amendments to relevant statutes.

Leslie Gomez ESQ

Ballard Spahr LLP

Of Counsel

Former senior prosecutor for child abuse litigation and former Chief of Juvenile Court Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.

Note: Ms. Gomez will address several areas pertaining to the intersection of the Child Protective Services System and law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, as well as the reporting requirements as to incidents which occur in educational institutions.

Gina Maisto Smith ESQ

Partner

Ballard Spahr LLP

Former senior prosecutor for sex crimes and child abuse in Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, with expertise in training prosecutors, investigators and police in such investigations. Ms Smith will address the necessity of coordination in the child welfare and law enforcement systems pertaining to the tracking of cases and training of staff.

12:30 - 1:15pm

Joan L. Benso

President and CEO

PA Partnerships for Children

Ms. Benso will give an overview of the core components of differential response.

1:15 PM LUNCH, followed by working session for deliberations by Task Force Members