

Running Sheet for Multi-Disciplinary Responses Session

Multi-Disciplinary Responses to Child Abuse – Pre-Conference Workshop		
<p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse the structural, legislative, and philosophical differences between primary international multi-agency models (e.g., Barnahus, CAC, CYAC, and evolving Australian frameworks). • Evaluate how different national systems balance the evidentiary requirements of the criminal justice system with the therapeutic rights and healing needs of the child. • Identify concrete, scalable mechanisms used internationally to collect, measure, and action feedback directly from children about their experiences within multi-agency systems. • Formulate targeted strategies to overcome common implementation barriers—such as inter-agency friction, data sharing limitations, and policy silos—within their home jurisdictions. 		
<p>Overview and Scene Setting on Multi-agency Models (15 Minutes)</p>	<p>James Herbert (AU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Multi-Agency Responses? • What is the difference between CACs, CYAC, Barnahus, and other types of approaches? • How are they expected to improve outcomes for children and families? • How does this differ from responses in Australia?
<p>Barnahus European Evaluation Framework Project (25 minutes)</p>	<p>James Herbert (AU) & Rachael Tindal (AU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting on the initial findings of an international research project to develop a common evaluation framework across the European Barnahus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child Outcomes Review – What children indicate are important to measure in abuse responses. ○ Collaboration Quality Review – How to define collaboration quality in the context of a multi-agency responses, and findings of a review of measures. ○ Variations Review – Findings of a comparison of four Barnahus approaches in Northern and Central Europe – What this suggests about outputs/outcomes across Barnahus. ○ Project Elements still to come: What Matters to Us Child Consultation Study, framework development and consultation, and pilot implementation.

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<p>Cross-Country Comparison: Balancing Justice, Child Rights, and Recovery from Abuse (2 mins)</p>	<p>James Herbert (AU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the comparison, and introduction to the panellists.
<p>Cross-Country Comparison: Finland (10 Minutes)</p>	<p>Sini Stolt (THL) Miia Ståhlberg (THL)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology Units in Finland • Summary of recent developments in the implementation of Barnahus (Suggested Topics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objectives of the Finnish Barnahus Project ○ Adoption of new legislation to strengthen multi-professional cooperation ○ Expansion of scope of the response, and expansion of support for children
<p>Cross-Country Comparison: United States (10 Minutes)</p>	<p>Jane Silovsky (UO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of CACs in the United States, chapter structure, VOCA and diversity in models. • Summary of recent developments in US CACs (Suggested Topics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NCA PSB Best Practices Toolkit ○ HSB Environmental Safety (Standard 9). ○ Trauma symptom tracking under an updated Standard 5. ○ Tele-Forensic Interviewing and Virtual MDTs (Standards 2 & 6).
<p>Cross-Country Comparison: Canada (10 Minutes)</p>	<p>Jennifer McAlpine (Kindex) Tyler Kruger (Kindex) Janine Elenko (Kindex)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of CYACs in Canada, how CYACs fit into provincial healthcare systems and rural and remote delivery. • Summary of recent developments (Suggested Topics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CYACC and Kindex ○ First Nations Centres and alignment with Aboriginal Child Welfare Governance. ○ Flexible service delivery, including virtual models. ○ Remote court suites in CYACs.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Victim services responder role – Single continuous point of contact person.
Cross-Country Comparison: Australia (15 Minutes)	Caroline Whitehouse (North CASA - Vic) Kim Brooklyn (Parkerville - WA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of multi-agency responses in Australia, and the state-based systems. ● Overview of the CASAs and MDCs (Vic) (Suggested Topics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How CASAs work. ○ First 72 hours research – Reflections on fragmented services even within a multi-disciplinary model. ○ Reflections on the gap between existing Australian responses and the Barnabus. ● Overview of the Multi-agency Investigation & Support Team (WA) (Suggested Topics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How MIST works. ○ Co-location with police, child and family advocate role, integration of family therapy into response. ○ How MIST creates a child friendly environment.
Panel Session: International Approaches to transforming approaches to safety and healing in multi-disciplinary responses (30 minutes)	All	<p>Suggested Panel Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conflicting Mandates: Even in highly integrated models, different agencies often have conflicting mandates—for instance, law enforcement is focused on a prosecutable offense, while therapists are focused on psychological stabilisation. How does your model structurally manage or resolve friction when these agencies disagree on the best path forward for a case? ● HSB and Other Target Groups: Traditional multi-agency models were originally designed around a clear 'innocent victim and external adult perpetrator' dynamic. As we see a rise in complex cases involving peer-to-peer abuse or youth-initiated harmful sexual behaviour (HSB), how is the architecture or physical space of your model adapting to manage both community safety and child rehabilitation? ● Forensic Priorities v Therapeutic Stabilisation: Caroline’s research vividly illustrates how vulnerable and 'lost in time' families feel during the immediate

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		<p>72 hours post-disclosure. For the international panelists: How do your respective models ensure that the intense, urgent pressure to gather forensic evidence during this acute phase does not inadvertently derail or delay immediate therapeutic stabilisation for the child and non-offending caregivers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural and Regional Responses: The classic co-located model relies heavily on a central, physical 'hub' or brick-and-mortar building. For Canada and Australia, geography is a massive hurdle. How do we ensure equity of access to these integrated, trauma-informed responses for families living in rural, remote, or regional areas where a physical center isn't viable? What do virtual or mobile multi-agency responses look like in your jurisdictions?• Open Questions from the Audience
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