

Role Play Scenario Kelly and Jen

PD: I just found out that the state cut the truancy program funds at the end of June. Since it is March, we have some time to begin thinking about alternative sources of funding, since the Attendance Advocate, Cindy's position, is split between our grant and the state grant.

PC: The Sheriff sent an email this afternoon saying he might have some county funds to put toward this position, but he also suggested that the Attendance Advocate does not seem to be making a difference and that now might be the perfect time to find a different person.

PD: Oh..... I think I might know what is going on. Since neither of us worked in this community when the grant was written, we do not have some of the background – but the grant writer previously shared with me that when the team was writing the grant, the sheriff indicated his displeasure with Cindy's performance even then, and was concerned about having her in this position. However, the information I have seen from her work indicates that she has done what was asked of her. I cannot get any clarification from the Sheriff about specific concerns with Cindy's performance. I suspect his concern may somehow be connected to the conflict between the Sheriff and the Chief of Police. Did you know that Cindy is the Police Chief's daughter?

PC: Yes, I recently learned that, and you could be right. The tension between them has been getting more noticeable at the meetings and it is beginning to distract the rest of the partners. I also wondered if some of the conflicts arise from some imbalances of power of the female Sheriff and male Police Chief.

PD: It is difficult to speculate. But you have a point... the superintendent even said something to me after the last meeting when the Police Chief rolled his eyes and made rude noises as the Sheriff was talking about the gang problem on the north side. I was just hoping they would resolve their issues.

PC: Yes, but I doubt that their issues will just go away. I have been wondering when there would be more focus on some of the issues the Chief is having with gangs. I heard the Police Chief speaking with the juvenile probation officer last week. The Chief mentioned that the gang activity is becoming increasingly more violent, and he thinks it might be related to the influx of new families moving into that area.

PD: It sounds like we have our work cut out for us, to begin dealing with some of these issues before they become obstacles to our SS/HS work.

THEN KELLY AND JENNIFER WILL BRAINSTORM FOR PLANNING A CMT MEETING.
Could consider – who might attend the meeting that has alliance with both Sheriff and Chief, ways to focus the meetings on one issue at a time, work on intersection and integration of law enforcement, etc.