

MINUTES

Nevada Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

January 9, 2024

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Members Present:

Name	Organization
LT. Desiree Mattice	Department of Public Safety
Magistrate Michelle Rodriguez	Elko County Family County Magistrate
Christine Sullivan	Washoe County
Massey Mayo	Humboldt County
Janice Wolfe	Legal Aide of Southern Nevada
Rachell Ekross	Nevada HealthRight
Jaime Wong	Division of Child and Family Services
Jane Saint	Boys Town
Salli Kerr	WRCAC
Jessica Goicoechea-Parise	Washoe County HSA
Betsey Crumrine	Division of Child and Family Services
Wonswayla Mackey	Clark County DFS
Chris Goodman	Nye County CAC

Members Absent:

Name	Organization
Britt Young	NV PEP
Cheryl Cooley	Clark County
Racheal Berg	Great Basin CAC (Elko)
Fran Maldonado	Division of Child and Family Services
Jennifer Spencer	Deputy Attorney-General
Judge Margaret Pickard	Clark County
Melanie McCormick	Carson City CASA
Wendy Maddox	Humboldt County
Laurie Jackson	Division of Child and Family Services

Guests:

Name	Organization
Chris Goodman	NOTO
Elyse Monroy-Marsak	
Tammi Williamson	Washoe County HSA
Kristy Mills	NOTO

Staff Support:

Name	Organization
Beverly Brown	Division of Child and Family Services
Bruce Cole (recorder)	Division of Child and Family Services
Dylan Nall	Division of Child and Family Services
Jimesian Sanders	Division of Child and Family Services
April Stahl	Division of Child and Family Services

2. For Information: Roll Call – Salli Kerr, Chair

Dylan Nall called the roll. There was a quorum. Tammi Williamson announced she would be handing over her role to Jessica Goicoehea-Parise.

3. Initial Public Comment (Discussion only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled for action at a later meeting) – Salli Kerr, Chair

There was no comment.

4. For Information: Review CJA Task Force Goals – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall said we will be updating our three-year goals later in the meeting. These are our goals through the end of this fiscal year:

1. support our CPS workers and stakeholders who are front-and specialty- discipline-specific with advanced training; this should be prioritized;
2. support the implementation of our Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Coordinator Response Protocol and provide training and support for the formation of the multidisciplinary teams (MDTs);
3. is to support the establishment of new CACs (the children's advocacy centers), or other multidisciplinary team approaches and improve the capacity of existing CACs to provide a multi-disciplinary response for victims of child sex abuse and exploitation, physical abuse, and child victims with disabilities;
4. is to fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment, and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through the use of the latest technology and support the new and existing training technologies;
5. is to identify new or needed changes to policy regulation and or legislation

to meet the requirements of federal program improvement plans and other federal and state initiatives, and support training and policy needs related to new and revised policy regulation and legislation.

There were no questions or comments.

5. For Possible Action: Approve the last meeting's minutes – Salli Kerr, Chair

Michelle Rodriguez moved that the minutes be approved. Rachell Ekroos seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. For Possible Action: Approve Training Funds for Statewide Training for Nevada's Child Welfare Staff – Salli Kerr, Chair

Dylan Nall said that in the Evaluation subcommittee, which meets a month after our large committee, it was discussed that we use some funding to fund some child welfare organizations. That would be Washoe County, the Rural Region and then Clark County to train their frontline workers. Salli Kerr came up with some ideas about using our funding specifically for this training, using, say, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; or 532 Consulting (led by a retired police officer, Jim Sears, who brings his experience and voice to MDT trainings that might otherwise not be attractive to law enforcement, prosecutors and staff and other officers of the court); or Western Regional CAC, working with teams, facilitators, and leadership to help build cohesive teams. Dylan asked if anyone had any further ideas but added that this motion must pass to figure out how and on whom we would be spending.

Tammi Williamson asked if there was a set amount of money for this. Dylan replied that she hasn't gotten our program instructions for the 2025 fiscal year yet. She assumes they're probably going to be relatively the same. Our NOFO every year is roughly 100,000 dollars. That leaves us some money here and there.

Betsey Crumrine said she would encourage people not to think about the money and rather find a training that you think is going to be super meaningful and then let FPO worry about the money. Some trainers are \$1000 a day, some are \$4000 a day. She added, and know people have heard her say this before, if we're doing statewide training, you have to remember that where one or two trainings might work for Washoe and Clark, the Rurals need about five because people cannot travel, especially if it's an MDT training involving judicial or law enforcement. They don't have the funds, the time, or the people. So that tends to drive up the cost a little bit.

Betsey then asked about Jim Sears and his training. Salli Kerr said she asked for some audio settings and sent Dylan his contact information. He spoke at a conference in Idaho and did a two day training. They were talking in particular about multidisciplinary responses and getting the disciplines together. His trainings do meet POST (Peace Officers Training and Standards) requirements and so

law enforcement are happy if they get credit for attending. It certainly was well received, and he got great comments.

Michelle Rodriguez asked if this was just for DCFS. She thought when we talked about it in the subcommittee, we agreed that it would be multidisciplinary for the stakeholders. Salli Kerr answered that the reason that these trainers came to mind was because we were speaking more broadly than just the division. We really wanted to do some training for our teams to really start building that consensus within teams.

Desiree Mattice said she knew our main point is prosecution, making sure that the children are safe, court systems, law enforcement, that side of things. But she was curious about us expanding, especially to the people who have access to the children every single day. Which would be the education system and potentially providing either the social workers and/or the personnel who are coming in contact with the youth who are potentially at risk with opportunities to also attend the training. Salli Kerr said every community decides whether that educational support is brought into their team. If they're working together in conjunction with the MDT or CAC, they would be considered a stakeholder in her mind. It's probably a whole different training if we were going to talk to just educators. Desiree said she wanted to see if we were also putting them as an included party as opposed to the way that we have it where it says law enforcement, prosecutors, and staff and officers of the court, just as in that first statement that we also put that out there, so that they know that the scope is not limited if they are part of that MDT. As we know, Washoe and Clark do have many, many resources and they do include those parties because those resources are enormous and sometimes in our Rurals they kind of get missed because they're in dual role and not really paying attention on the educational side as opposed to more of the social worker that's out in the community. Her thought is putting the language in to include them as well. Salli Kerr said that is a great idea and that the language came from his bio and so doesn't speak directly to the training we would put out. We are not limited; these are just some examples of training we could bring. She knows the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children works very closely with child welfare, but also has some really good team trainers that we could probably access as well. However, when we put the training out, that's a great point to make it far more broad than what's covered in this bio.

Desiree Mattice also asked if there is a potential training that is within the same realm of Train the Trainer? We would have easier access for those people that are not able to attend instead of having to constantly try to schedule with this individual and so potentially have people who are also easily accessible within their communities. Salli Kerr said the three trainers mentioned would not have this, but this could be asked for when putting out the call for other trainings.

Rachell Ekroos reinforced what Betsy was bringing up about the Rurals. She could speak to that because in 2014 the trainings they provided to support the Rurals was a week going into the rural areas in the south of the state and another week going into the rural areas in the northern part of the state and that was herself, someone from Polaris, and someone from the Battered Women's Justice Project. Each week they made three or four stops in each section of the state just to address the needs of the Rurals. A lot of times we can do a hybrid; it may be hosted by Washoe and they can log in, but it's very different being there in person and having those blunt conversations about the challenges they're having and providing specific solutions for those challenges. Those conversations often do not happen when they're online or they're in a group of much more established or

experienced organizations, such as when they come to Washoe or to Vegas or something like that. As to the last question about Jim Sears' training: typically, when a program brings Jim in, they're doing it for one of two reasons. They're doing it to focus on that law enforcement/prosecutorial side of it, or he's one of the few trainers who could come in and handle that part and then Rachell would come in and connect that to the medical and the clinical, then someone else would come in and connect it to the other disciplines. So that's one thing to also keep in mind when we're looking at the trainers, they may be a very specialized area, but what other expertise can we use to offset that and cover other aspects of the MDT?

Salli Kerr added that there are benefits to bringing teams from near areas together, like anytime that we could get into a rural area. Oftentimes it's really good for them to hear what other teams are doing as opposed to the way they've always done things. When we do this kind of training regionally, we try and bring six or eight teams together. On a smaller scale, even if it's a couple of communities together, say, you know, go into the Great Basin area and pull in three or four counties worth of people. Travel isn't all day and they could come in from an hour away.

Tammi Williamson thought we should throw in the Reed Institute training as an option in here. They provide it across all disciplines. They brought it to Washoe County last year. It was around \$6000 and about 30 people were able to go. It was more cost effective to bring them to the area than it was to send people and so that it was a really, really good training. Salli Kerr asked her to send a link about the Reed Institute.

Massey Mayo asked "a bigger picture question." Do we have any understanding of how many rural communities actually have MDTs in place meeting on a regular basis? Because if that's not a common concept, then perhaps the goal of the training would be to more of how an MDT could benefit your system and how that would look like and who needs to have buy in as opposed to maybe a training where we presume that those systems are already in place. She guessed she knows anecdotally that there are "MDTs" out there. For example, she thinks there's one in her community, but she doesn't know that it operates in the same context that we would want it to in terms of the ultimate goal. She is curious if we have any information about who does have MDTs, who doesn't, and would we be indicating to people why they should have them and if they do have them, maybe why they're not operating in the best practices of MDT?

Salli Kerr said that did come up at the subcommittee level about places that don't really have a well-functioning MDT, and how do we bring something to them that's still valuable for them to learn the benefit of that kind of response. Whomever we would talk about with training, we would want them to be able to cover that information as well, the benefits of that MDT response and how they build it in their community. We would want to also spend some time in research, about where we are sending people and what their functioning level is and what kind of team they have in place, then address some of those that do not have really either high functioning or skilled teams or maybe haven't even started the process yet.

Wonswayla Mackey said that a lot of times when we offer trainings or invite our community partners to the training, one of the first questions we get is are there any CEU's (Continuing Education Units) being offered? That might entice them to say yes. Salli Kerr said we can certainly request the CEU's. Sometimes that's kind of an expensive process, but for us internally in Nevada, it's not super

expensive and because we're doing it statewide, we only have to get one approval. As with POST, it does draw people. The other thing is, we can always encourage people with the proper agendas and content material to be able to use it to apply individually to their ongoing education. Typically, trainers will know what to offer to us to get those approved.

Jane Saint moved that we move forward with approval for using the state funds for the training of statewide child welfare staff. Desiree Mattice seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Salli Kerr asked if, procedurally, do we want the evaluation subcommittee to be the committee for this or do we want to maintain this in the large group as we're considering cost and trainers? Dylan Nall said there would have to be motion, so she will put that on the agenda for April. Dylan also asked if anyone has any training recommendations, please send them to her and then in the April meeting, she will put a PowerPoint together and we can decide then what we're going to do.

Jane Saint asked, do we want to establish an ad hoc committee to work on this? Dylan said that would have to be an agenda item. Jane asked if that would be an April agenda item. Salli Kerr said that would be included in April. One of the things we'll do is approve a subcommittee and Dylan can collect everything between now and then, and then we can go over as a large group and then establish a subcommittee to do the detailed work and bring back to the large group.

7. For Possible Action: Approve 2024 Annual Citizen's Review Panel (CRP) recommendations to DCFS – Rachell Ekroos, Subcommittee chair

Rachell Ekroos said the Subcommittee met to review and make edits and bring back recommendations to this meeting. They met in November, and spent quite a bit of time on this last year really wordsmithing it and making sure it was inclusive and appropriate language. So due to all the work that was done on that last year it was actually much more straightforward this year. One of the primary changes was making sure that it was family and interpersonal violence as opposed to limiting it to the more the more limited scope of intimate partner violence, and so that way we don't get narrowed on the focus and end up not being inclusive on how these recommendations are being applied and can be interpreted.

So, recommendation #1 reads that the Children's Justice Act Task Force recommends the division of Child and Family Services continue to prioritize training for all child welfare staff and stakeholders in the state of Nevada to improve the investigation and handling of child abuse, neglect or cases involving both particularly child abuse and exploitation. This training recommendation includes, but is not limited to child protection, assessment and system of care models, family and interpersonal violence, mandatory reporting, medical, forensic interventions, trauma, informed practices, and cultural responsiveness.

Recommendation #2: the Children's Justice Act Task Force recommends the Division of Child and Family Services support efforts to translate best practices and support community specific needs to coordinate the multidisciplinary response to child abuse, neglect or cases involving both particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. The multidisciplinary team MDT support recommendation includes introducing, maintaining, and establishing children's advocacy centers in conjunction with

Nevada State CAC chapter as appropriate.

The conjunction with the chapter as appropriate was also that we learned a lesson from other states that have rural and frontier communities so that we don't run into silos developing.

Jane Saint moved the approval of the recommendations. Desiree Mattice seconded. Approved unanimously.

8. For Possible Action: Approve updated 3-year Task Force Assessment Goals – Salli Kerr, Chair

Dylan Nall put up a slide showing goals, with changes in red (bold in minutes).

Everything in goal #1 is the same except for adding **interpersonal** violence. Goal #2 is unchanged. Goal #3 added **witnesses to interpersonal violence**. Goal #4 is unchanged. Goal #5 reflects language found from California which they liked. It reads: **This task force will monitor policy, regulation and/or legislation regarding child abuse and neglect trends and when appropriate collaborate with other parties and/or entities to support new and/or revised policy, regulation, and legislation.**

Rachell Ekroos asked how the task force was going to monitor. Dylan answered that on the next agenda item, Beverly Brown would be going over legislation from the legislative session. Jane Saint said the Court Improvement Project has a subcommittee dedicated to legislation. Should CJA consider doing the same? Dylan said that could be an agenda item. She suggested forming in, say, October 2024 and meeting throughout the next year's session. Jane Saint said the CIP group gets to work even before the session starts. We could get some feedback on how they operate. Dylan said this will be an April agenda item.

Salli Kerr added that often when we approach the legislative session we try and coordinate the things like the child who's coming to the child's day, things like that. The subcommittee can also be helpful for not just monitoring and having input, but just even to coordinate efforts to be there and to get some of our members actually into the halls of the legislative process.

Rachell Ekroos apologized for having to go off line for a few minutes, and reiterated her support for the work of monitoring legislation. Jane Saint and Rachell both volunteered for the new subcommittee.

Jane Saint moved for approval of the new 3-year goals. Rachell Ekroos seconded. Approved unanimously.

9. For Information: A presentation regarding new legislation from Nevada's 82nd legislative session – Beverly Brown, DCFS

Beverly Brown started with AB 148. This bill added sections into NRS 432B outlining procedures for a court to determine whether or not to assign Guardian ad litem to a parent or other person responsible for the for the welfare of a child in certain situations. That's when the parent or the person responsible for the welfare of the child is less than 18 years old and not emancipated. The court can also hold a hearing to determine if a parent or other person is incapacitated. The bill also touches on qualified residential treatment programs, which are called also called QTP's. It's a non-foster care resource family home setting that's intended for children and youth with behavioral health challenges, and it meets the federal definition of a childcare institution. NRS 432B now has procedures for the child welfare agency and the courts to follow when a child is placed in a QTP and then this bill also added sections to NRS 432B describing procedures for the child welfare agency, courts and facilities to follow when a child who is in the custody of the child welfare agency has either an emergency admission or a non-emergency admission to a mental health facility.

AB 183 B183 is a bill that was passed that requires child welfare and certain entities in the juvenile justice system and child welfare to screen children for commercial sexual exploitation. If the juvenile justice entity screens the child, and the result indicates that they are a victim of CSE, they have to report it to the child welfare agency and then child welfare is also required to screen all children in the custody of the agency. The caveat to that is that the tool must be reliable and valid, and currently there are no tools available for children under the age of 10 years old. So it's only children 10 years and older being screened that are in the custody of the agency.

We also have AB444. This establishes a law in Nevada, similar to that of the Indian Child Welfare Act. There was a Supreme Court ruling last year that upheld ICWA, but for a while, while that hearing was pending, there was concern about ICWA being overturned. This bill also includes provisions governing court proceedings, adoption or protection of Indian children, or the termination of parental rights. It also requires DCFS to adopt regulations and do additional reporting. If anyone would like to know more about this bill, I would encourage that you read AB444 or contact Fran Maldonado, who is on our task force, and is also the DCFS tribal liaison. She's in charge of implementation for that.

The last bill is SB389, requiring multiple entities to submit trafficking data to the Center for Analysis of Crime Statistics at UNLV. Some of these entities include the DCFS SCEC coalition, DCFS Human Trafficking Coalition, the Nevada Policy Council of Human Trafficking, local Human Trafficking task forces, and each law enforcement agency. There's a new requirement that these entities submit data to this crime center and then they have to develop a report which will go back to the legislature.

10. For Information: To Review the Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY 2025 (NOFO) timeframes - Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall confirmed that our NOFO was posted on Friday, January 5, on our website and on the Grants Management Unit website. The deadline for this submission is February 16th, 2024. The evaluation period, which is March 2024 through April 2024, and that's next on our agenda

list, is to talk about the subcommittee and then our announcements of the awards will be in June of 2024. The program start date will be July 1st and the program end date will be June 30th, 2025. Every year we do our notice of funding opportunity and award roughly around \$100,000.

11. For Information: NOFO Subcommittee Reminder – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr and Dylan Nall reminded the meeting the people are needed to serve on the subcommittee, and anyone wishing to should contact Dylan. Dylan also said she would be sending out a Doodle Poll for the best meeting time.

12. For Information: To Review and Discuss Out-of-the-Shadows Index Document – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr wanted to bring this to the committee so that people are aware that it is out there. The Out-of-the-Shadows Index was a joint effort between states to do a pilot project that that looked at basically the child friendliness and trauma informed systems within a state, and Nevada was one of the pilot states that that was completed in. So, in the backup documentation you will see that Dylan included that report. Salli thought it would be a really good place for this committee to be aware of that information having been created in Nevada. We can look to this report for how we're scoring either against other states or frankly within our own state and places where within this report, this committee may want to look at as a focus. It may give us ideas of where as a committee we're working on things like the training or the evaluation or other things like where we could bring in the places where we're lacking in the state or shore things up in places that we see in this report.

Desiree Mattice says the report rated Nevada "0" for "training of relevant authorities," so she is glad we discussed training so much in this meeting.

Salli said matters in this report will recur as future agenda items.

13. For Information: Grantee Updates for FY 2024 – Salli Kerr, Chair

Great Basin CAC was not present.

For Washoe County, Tammi Williamson said they have pretty much exhausted all of their grants. The last thing is the staff that are going to attend the Child Welfare League conference in Washington, DC in April. They look forward to applying again.

Betsey Crumrine asked about the technology Washoe had purchased. Tammi said it was mostly at the CAC. They were able to get some updated devices for each of the CAC workers. Now, for forensic or law enforcement interviews, they are able to take a disk and they can review it in the privacy of their own office. There were some larger monitors. They were also able to get a better copier, it could print out bruises and different things better for their medical unit at the CAC.

For Clark County, Wonswayla Mackey thought that Cheryl Cooley had already updated about remodeling of the CAC. One of the great outcomes that they had this quarter is with law enforcement. They have worked with law enforcement and their At Risk Youth Team with Formula One and the Super Bowl coming in, to be available to screen any children who were suspected as sexually exploited, so that they were right there on the on the spot. They were able to locate fourte runaway youth from the child welfare system.

No one from NVIFN was present.

Kristy Mills form NOTO said they were excited to have hired a new Advocate supervisor so that she can step down and be a child advocate again. His name is Chris Goodman, and he's on this call as well. He will be coming to the CJA Task Force meeting from now on. They are also working with Joyce at Western Regional to start our MDT again. They have had one meeting with our entire MDT to kind of give them an understanding of what they are looking for and then they are also sending 13 of the MDT members to the Chadwick International Conference in San Diego.

Jane Saint wanted to express for the record some concern for the grantees who have not submitted a written report and or were not on the call to give a verbal report today. That was one of the things that they were addressing during the last OFO committee, that they wanted to hear from people and or see their report.

14. For Information: Announcements – Salli Kerr, Chair

No announcements.

15. Final Public Comment (Discussion only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled for action at a later meeting) – Salli Kerr, Chair

No comments.

16. Adjournment – Salli Kerr, Chair

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM.

DRAFT