

Steve Sisolak
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

CJA Task Force Meeting Division of Child and Family Services

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6/15/2022

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Welcome

Call to order

Roll call





Initial Public Comment

Discussion Only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.



Review CJA Goals

- For information: to review and discuss CJA Task Force Goals

CJA Task Force Goals

- **Goal 1:** Provide child protection workers and stakeholders “front end” specialty, discipline specific and advanced training. Training should be prioritized, but not limited to, training requirements of CARA and JVT Program Improvement Plans, child protection model assessments, ICWA, sexual abuse, domestic violence, forensic interviewing, trauma-informed practices, substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders and training needs identified in collaboration with Court Improvement Program.
- **Goal 2:** Support the implementation of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) Model Coordinated Response Protocol and provide training and support for the formation of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) and Task Forces.
- **Goal 3:** Support the establishment of new Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) or other multidisciplinary team approaches and improve the capacity of existing CACs to provide a multidisciplinary response for victims of child sex abuse and exploitation, physical abuse, and child victims with disabilities. Activities may include the development of a strategic action plan for project implementation, identification of rural health care providers, investigation of funding opportunities for infrastructure and operating costs, and the use of telehealth and telemedicine statewide.
- **Goal 4:** Fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through use of latest technology and to support use of new and existing training technologies.
- **Goal 5:** Identify new or needed changes to policy, regulation and/or legislation to meet requirements of federal program improvements plans and other federal and state initiatives. Support training and policy needs related to new or revised policy, regulation, and legislation.



Review CJA Task Force key provision of by-laws

- **For information:** Review and discuss key provisions of CJA By-Laws, including CJA mission statement, purpose, proxies, term, quorum, non-disclosure of sensitive information





CJA By-Laws

- **4.2 Advisory Role.** The Task Force shall make policy and training recommendations to organizations, offices, or entities on the issues of child maltreatment as needed.
- **6.3 Member Diversity.** So far as may be possible, the Task Force should strive to attain members who bring diverse perspectives and reflect varied ethnicities and genders, as well as the various geographic communities located in Nevada. The Task Force should also strive to include members who are broadly representative of the community, including members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.
- **6.4 Member Recruitment and Selection.** Potential new members shall be identified by the Chair, Task Force members, and/or DCFS staff. Candidates shall be vetted by the CJA Task Force Coordinator or Chair, and then officially recommended by the Chair or DCFS Task Force Coordinator to the DCFS Administrator, who makes the final appointment of new members.
 - This process applies to all membership categories except for individuals representing child protective service agencies and the Deputy Attorney General (DAG) assigned to DCFS. Child protective service agencies from the three child welfare jurisdictions shall determine which representatives participate on the Task Force and assign staff accordingly. Likewise, the Attorney General (AG)'s Office shall determine which DAG is assigned to DCFS, and this representative shall fill the prosecuting attorney position.



CJA By-Laws Continued

- **6.6 Vacancies.** Vacancies in membership shall be filled as soon as practical if necessary to maintain statutorily required representation as set out in Section 7.1 using the nominating process described in Section 7.5. The same procedures will be followed for other vacancies, as determined necessary by the Membership Committee.
- **9.5 Quorum.** The presence of a simple majority of voting Task Force members shall constitute a quorum as defined in NRS 241.015. Voting shall occur only when a quorum is present. A majority vote of the members present is required to carry a motion or take action.
- **9.7 Attendance.** Meeting attendance is required for each member of the Task Force for at least 50% of the meetings scheduled within a calendar year. If any member or designee does not attend three (3) consecutive, regularly scheduled meetings of the Task Force, without good cause shown, the unexcused absences may constitute ground for removal from membership. The Task Force may then fill the resulting vacancy.



Meeting Minutes

For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to Approve April 05, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve
- Motion to 2nd
- Vote



Evaluation Subcommittee

For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to Approve a possible evaluation subcommittee.

- Motion to approve
- Motion to 2nd
- Vote



CIP Presentation

- Information Only: Zaide Martinez will present on CIP's new 5-year strategic plan and their current efforts.



National CRP Conference Presentation

- Information Only: Monica Cypher & Jane Saint to present on information that was learned at the National Citizen's Review Panel Conference which was held, in-person, in May 2022.



Vacancy In Task Force

For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to address the current vacancy in our task force, Adult Survivor. We need to recruit someone to fill this position.

- Motion to approve
- Motion to 2nd
- Vote

DCFS' Response to CJA's CRP Recommendations.

- For information: to review and discuss DCFS' response to the CJA task Force regarding their CRP recommendation.



CJA's Recommendation

- **Recommendation 1:** It is recommended that the DCFS continue to prioritize training for all child welfare staff and/or stakeholders in the State of Nevada to improve the investigative process and handling cases of child abuse and/or neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This training recommendation includes, but is not limited to, child protection model assessments, domestic violence, mandatory reporting, and trauma-informed practices.



DCFS' Response

- **Response:** *DCFS accepts this recommendation. The Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force continues to prioritize funding for various trainings. The CJA recently provided funding for child welfare staff and stakeholders to attend the following trainings:*
 - *the Child Welfare League of America Conference;*
 - *Child Abuse and Family Summit;*
 - *Forensic Interview training provided by the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC); and*
 - *Domestic violence training that will address the risk and protective factors for families.*
- *Additionally, the Division of Child and Family Services recently contracted with Health Management Associates (HMA) to provide Nevada's child welfare frontline case workers with training to specially address our work in intimate partner violence and domestic violence. This will allow our frontline staff to gain an understanding of the model protocols for identifying and responding to high lethality risk domestic violence situations for child welfare staff*



Grantee Updates for FY 2022

- For information: to review and discuss updates from the grantees. (Please see supporting materials)



Announcements

Information Only: Tasks members to discuss any important announcements regarding their agencies.



Final Public Comment

Discussion Only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.



Adjournment

Thank you for your time and commitment to improving services for children and youth in Nevada.

THANK YOU!