

MINUTES

Nevada Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

July 11, 2023

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Salli Kerr, Chair

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

Members Present:

Name	Organization
Barbara Scofield	Washoe County Human Services Agency
Betsey Crumrine	Division of Child and Family Services
Cheryl Cooley	Clark County Department of Family Services- CAC
Christine Sullivan	Washoe County Public Defender
Denise Tyre	Washoe County CAC
Desiree Mattice	Lieutenant – Dept. of Public Safety
Jamie Wong	Division of Child and Family Services
Jane Saint, Vice-Chair	Boys Town Nevada
Jennifer Spencer	Deputy Attorney-General
Jude Oliver	Nevada PEP
Margaret Pickard	District Court Judge, Department 5
Massey Mayo	Children's Attorney, Humboldt County
Michelle Rodriguez	Family Court Magistrate
Rachell Ekroos	Health Professional
Salli Kerr, Chair	Western Regional CAC
Wonswayla Mackey	Division of Child and Family Services

Members Absent:

Name	Organization
Anglina Blare	Adult Survivor
Cory Martin	Great Basin CAC (Elko)
Fran Maldonado	Division of Child and Family Services
Janice Wolfe	Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Lisa Ruggerio	Western Regional CAC
Wendy Maddox	Family Court Magistrate

Guests:

Name	Organization
Kristy Mills	Great Basin CAC

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

2. For Information: Roll Call – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall called the roll. There was a quorum.

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

Jennifer Spencer with the AG's office wanted to bring up a quick update regarding the open meeting law requirements for this year that are in effect July 1st for the initial public comment. It is now law that the chair must provide information for folks who want to call in for public comment. We must make sure we provide very clear instruction on how folks can either call in or unmute their computer so they can participate, and that the agenda itself has the call-in number as well as the passcode. So, for future meetings before the initial public comment, it's now required to verbally say this information for folks that will need to call in.

Dylan Nall pulled up a slide showing this information.

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

Dylan Nall noted we go over these goals at each meeting. Every three years, the state goes through and make sure these goals are still something that we want to continue doing.

Our five CJA task force goals:

1. Is to support our CPS workers and stakeholders that are front-and-specialty- discipline-specific with advanced training; this should be prioritized.
2. Is to 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. Activities may include the development of strategic action plans for project implementation, identification of rural healthcare providers, investigation of funding opportunities for infrastructure and operating costs, and the use of telehealth and telemedicine statewide.
4. Is to fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment, and prosecution of child abuse and neglect using 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.

Dylan added that Program Instructions come from The Children's Bureau next February or March. She and Beverly Brown will review and come to the whole CJA task force probably at the April 2024 meeting. Salli Kerr asked that we consider including interpersonal and family violence and children's exposure to domestic violence and family violence in Goal 3 connected to CAC's.

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

Jane Saint moved the minutes of the April 4, 2023, meeting be approved. Rachell Ekross seconded. Desiree Mattice, Jude Oliver, and Denise Tyre abstained. Other attendees approved, and the minutes passed.

6. For Possible Action: Approve next year's CJA Task Force Meetings – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr said we are looking now on January 9th, April 2nd, July 2nd, and October 1st as the quarterly meetings for calendar year 2024 for the task force. A motion is needed on approval of those proposed dates. Jane Saint moved to approve; Christine Sullivan seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. For Possible Action: To change the October 3, 2023, CJA Task Force Meeting – Salli Kerr, Chair

Dylan Nall will be on vacation on the originally scheduled date. Michelle Rodriguez moved that the meeting be moved to October 10. Jennifer Spencer seconded. Approved unanimously.

8. For Information: A presentation regarding the CJA conference – Fran Maldonado, DCFS & Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jane Saint asked, since Fran was not able to join us today and she attended better sessions than Jane was in, if we could table this event until the next meeting so that Fran can be part of it and make her presentations as well. We'll make sure that Fran is available because she had some good notes and things to bring back to the group. Jennifer Spencer confirmed this item can be tabled.

9. For Information: To review DCFS' response to CJA's annual CRP recommendations - Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall noted that, as a citizen review panel, the CJA task force must give some recommendations to the Division of Child and Family Services. There are six months to respond back to the recommendations.

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

The response from the Division of Child and Family Services is that it accepts this recommendation. The Children's Justice Act Task Force continues to prioritize funding for various trainings. CJA recently provided funding for the child welfare staff and stakeholders to attend these following trainings:

The Child Welfare League of America Conference; the Crimes against Children Conference; the forensic interview training provided by the National Children's Advocacy Center; Handle with Care Conference; and an ongoing domestic violence training that will address the risk and protective factors for families.

Recommendation #2 is that 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. This includes introducing and establishing Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), as appropriate.

DCFS accepts this recommendation. Recently, the CJA task force funded and supported 3 CACs in Nevada. The CJA task force has also supported the Nevada Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Coalition

These efforts include the Great Basin Child Advocacy Center being able to purchase training, supplies and materials for their new building which was projected to be open in June of 2023. Clark County Department of Family Services furnished their conference room in March 2023 at the Southern Nevada Advocacy Center, which will be used for the collaboration of all disciplines involving a child's case. Washoe County enhanced their technology that included five laptops and six external CD/ DVD players.

The Task Force has collaborated with CSEC exploitation of Children coordinator to support a CSEC protocol implementation in Nevada. These efforts include the development of the statewide database that will track victims across multiple agencies and establish a baseline database of this population in training for stakeholders to identify CSEC victims.

The CSEC coalition made recommendations for the new legislation for the following:

To mandate juvenile justice agencies to formally assess youth who are at risk or may be victims of sex trafficking. This recommendation was successful and AB183 was passed during Nevada's 2023 legislative session that mandates juvenile justice agencies to screen the youth who are at risk.

Further training for staff, CPS workers, teachers, district attorneys, law enforcement, juvenile justice, etcetera, who may encounter CSEC victims. The recommendation was not successful in the legislature. DCFS will explore how to work towards this recommendation.

Establishment of MDTS and a CSEC Executive Committee. This recommendation was also not successful and DCFS will explore how to work towards this recommendation.

Salli Kerr reminded people that these recommendations were the first that had been done by the work of a subcommittee and not in the place of asking Dylan and Beverly and DCFS staff to make recommendations to DCFS and then respond to them.

Cheryl Cooley asked if everyone knew that mandated reporting laws have changed, that you are not only mandated to report child abuse but also your suspicion of CSEC is also supposed to be reported as well? Is a statewide training available that has incorporated that as part of the reporting requirements we know?

Betsey Crumrine said there is a statewide mandatory reporting training that is online. She thinks it was recently posted back to the DHS website, and recently updated so would assume that the CSEC stuff is in there. Beverly Brown put the link up, and Salli Kerr confirmed that it includes the CSEC material.

Dylan Nall said she and Beverly were the ones who started on this. It's called mandated reporter training.com/Nevada and it is free as of right now, training for anyone who needs to take a training for mandated reporter training. They spent roughly around 2 1/2 years finalizing this and making sure and getting all three jurisdictions on board to add, subtract, redo things. It does include CSEC as well. It's something Beverly and she are very proud of.

Salli Kerr said Beverly will send a flyer for that training out to the task force to follow up. She added that in the 2023 standards for children's advocacy centers that were recently updated, it is now required by those standards that staff also participate in mandated reporter training.

10. For Information: Bylaw subcommittee – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr said we attempted to open a subcommittee last spring and didn't get very much response from people who wanted to join in this, but we are at the point where our bylaws have not been reviewed for three years. So, it is time to really spend a little bit of time having a look at those. There are a couple of options if we wanted to create a subcommittee. We just need to fill it with people who want to volunteer to be on that subcommittee, or the task force could take the bylaw section by section and walk through them. She didn't know if that is a great use of task force time, but we need to get them reviewed in some way.

Rachell Ekross asked if a member of the committee independently took it upon themselves to review this and then submitted recommendations back to the committee, is that an option for discussion and consideration?

Jennifer Spencer said she believed it was. For example, if Rachell and Salli both wanted to just look at those, or if one person did and then have it put on to the agenda as an agenda item and submit that information to Dylan beforehand, then it could be provided as an exhibit or as supporting documents and done that way.

Rachell Ekross said this was something she was open to doing when she joined the task force as a member because this is kind of in her wheelhouse. She will visit Jane Saint because they have so much free time and love bylaws and just have a good discussion and then reach out to Dylan when to put something on the agenda in the future. Jennifer Spencer said she could join this effort, and Dylan Nall said Salli Kerr could occasionally join. It was agreed the four will meet as a subcommittee and follow all the rules.

11. For Information: Evaluation Subcommittee update – Salli Kerr, Chair

This update was tabled until the next meeting.

12. For Information: Grantee Updates for FY 2022 – Salli Kerr, Chair

There was no one from the Great Basin CAC to present, at first. However, Salli Kerr was able to give some information because she was part of the training team that worked with Great Basin to get Secondary Trauma Stress (STS) training. Funding is going to be used to give team leaders desktop toolkits with things that they can use for secondary traumatic stress and then team leaders receive the annual subscription for one year to attend Academy to be able to locate and help with some good strategies for secondary traumatic stress and how to manage it both with your staff and your teams. She will reach out to Cheryl Cooley so that her group gets connected into that as well because they want her

teams to receive those same gift benefits as everyone else does in the state. Then, as part of the work with Great Basin, Salli will be continuing a two or three session cohort of the team leaders to start walking them through some of the conversations about what are the best tools to be working with our teams. They did make the deadline for training by the skin of their teeth and got an extension for 30 days to finish doing the purchase of the desktop and subscription materials.

Cheryl Cooley said the Clark County has a forensic interview training set up for the last week in July and are appreciative of their conference room being furnished and people aren't sitting in chairs that are broken and have things sticking up out of them. They went to the National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference for CACs in June. She is part of the Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force. The task force has gotten monies to start doing billboards and posters that say, hey, you know, prostitution is not, you know, legal in Las Vegas. She surprised at how many people come thinking that it is. Las Vegas is one of the top 13 cities for child exploitation, so they really are striving to get the word out right now to try to prevent some of that happening as folks come in for these testosterone laden kind of events that tend to make a spike up in the trafficking circles. This is their year for Southern Nevada reaccreditation with the National Children's Alliance. So, they have been working on accreditation stuff and one of the one of the updates for the 2023 accreditation standards is to have a formalized orientation. Rachelle Ekross will be coming in to do training with law enforcement. Cheryl has been up to Mesquite and been able to do the training with them, set something up with Henderson police and with the CPS staff, so they've been doing this orientation and just letting people know about the beauty of the CAC movement and that one stop shop kind of concept and how all of us are coming together, offering the better part of ourselves for the lives of children and families.

They are looking into how to expand the CAC because they are growing and stretching out of their little 7500 square foot building and so the nonprofit that is associated with the Southern Nevada CHC did a fundraiser in April at the Aviator Stadium. They charged "way overpriced" tickets to come on the party deck and to help donate to the cause, and there was an anonymous donor who donated \$3 million towards the expansion efforts for the CAC. One huge thing is being able to make inroads with the Moapa tribe. A couple years ago their whole Police Department quit. They have been rebuilding their police force so that the chief of police for the Moapa tribe met with Cheryl. They have an advocate who started getting more out there in the community. They had an awareness event that Clark was able to go up to and meet people and start building those partnerships.

Denise Tyre of Washoe County gave an update. They hit 100% spending for their grant. They realized they had some overage that they wanted to spend in the arena of training and so were able to find some good online trainings and distributed those to several people who are working frontlines with CAC and CPS. One of the most successful things that they utilized was CJA grant money for the Reid technique training. A contractor came to Washoe County at the end of May and provided training to 30 of their MDT members and the variety of different roles on the MDT that attended was good. They had even some mental health providers from the community, which created an additional resource for victims. They also had several people come in from the Rurals in Carson City. Washoe partners with them when they utilize their CAC on Wednesdays and so consider them a part of the team.

They sent four people to the child welfare conference this year in DC. They also sent five people to the DCCC conference, then eight people attended the Dallas Conference; seven of the eight had never attended before. Technology: able to obtain CD disc drives. Whenever they're not able to attend a

forensic interview in person, they can watch the interview. Also, now able to upgrade all assessment workers cell phones because they document injuries through their work cell phone camera.

At the end of June, they were able to find quite a few trainings that were online through the Crisis in Trauma Resource Institute, which really focused on trauma informed care, trauma informed leadership, really looking at how to take care of staff who do this very hard job hopefully to potentially reduce burnout. When they completed the training, the certificate automatically populated, so she did not have to bug people about training certificates.

Kristy Mills from Great Basin joined in at this point and said the funding is going to send fourteen of their MDT members to the Child and Family Maltreatment conference in San Diego in January. She is excited to have all the members go and be able to send a couple extra more than they did before. This will represent all the disciplines. Salli Kerr said we'll be excited to hear a report back after that conference - that Chadwick International Conference is always good.

13. For Information: Announcements – Salli Kerr, Chair

Rachell Ekross announced that she was selected to join the International Council of Nursing Global Leadership Institute Program, which is a year long. She is one of approximately 31 or 32 nurses from across the globe who are considered senior nurse leaders with policy, representing over 20 different countries. It feeds right into what we're just talking about with growth in the state and everything like that and the collaboration because what she brought to the table was her focus on the healthcare and clinical, but also the multidisciplinary responses to violence, whether that's family violence, interpersonal, individual violence, and collective violence as well to bring in the global aspect of it. So, they will have a World Health policy project, but she also pitched to them that she is not going to just do a national project, but a state project, so she will be looking at some of our responses to the sexual violence side of things in the state. She will be reporting back to everyone as that starts taking shape.

She goes to Geneva in October. It's very much an immersion experience and they will be at the World Health Organization. They claim that they like diversity and she thought she will truly test that because some of her cohort members are at the Minister of Health level. She is coming in with a completely different background and experience.

Jane Saint said there will be a job posting for the Nevada Executive Director for CASA. So, if anyone is interested or you know of anyone, please forward that information along. She added they're just looking for someone who's close to walking on water and doesn't like to work a lot of hours for not a lot of money.

14. 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 comment.

15. Adjournment – Salli Kerr, Chair

Adjourned at 10:14.