

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

Children's Justice Act Task Force

Division of Child and Family Services- Family Programs Office

Dylan Nall

July 8, 2025



Department of Health and Human Services

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Welcome

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Roll call / Introductions**



Initial Public Comment

3. 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.)

- To provide public comment telephonically, dial 775-321-6111. When prompted to provide the conference ID, enter 924252538#. If providing public comment during the Teams Meeting, unmute your microphone prior to speaking. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name.*



For Information

4. For Information- Review of the Children's Justice Act Task Force Goals-*Dylan Nall, Division of Child and Family Services*



CJA 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, child protection model assessments, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), sexual abuse, interpersonal violence, forensic interviewing, mandatory reporting, trauma-informed practices, substance use, and co-occurring mental health disorders and training needs identified in collaboration with Court Improvement Program. (ABC)
- **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. (ABC)
- **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, witness to interpersonal violence, physical abuse, and child victims with disabilities. (AB)
- **Goal 4:** Fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through the through use of latest technology and to support the use of new and existing training technologies. (B)
- **Goal 5:** 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. (C)
- **Key: Required categories for use of CJA funds:**
 1. A: Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.
 2. B: Experimental, model and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches.
 3. C: Reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures



For Possible Action

5. For Possible Action– *Salli Kerr, Chair*

- Consideration and Approval Of April 8,2025, meeting minutes



For Possible Action

6. Possible Vote Action— *Dylan Nall, Division of Child and Family Services*

- Consideration, Discussion and Possible Approval of Future Meeting Dates January 6, 2026, April 7, 2026, July 7, 2026 and October 6, 2026



For Information

7. For Possible Action– *Salli Kerr, Chair*

- Consideration, Discussion and Approval of Changing the October 2025 meeting date to October 14, 2025



For Information

8. For Information: Presentation and Discussion of the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)- Dylan Nall, Division of Child and Family Services



Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)

- The Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) is a five-year plan that outlines the goals and objectives that the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) will carry out in administering programs and services to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families. It provides the DCFS with the opportunity to implement a system of coordinated, intergraded, culturally relevant, and family-focused services in keeping with the service principles reflected in 45 CFR 1355.25.
- A primary purpose of the plan is to facilitate DCFS's integration of the federally funded programs that serve children and families along the child welfare continuum. The following programs are coordinated by the submission of the 2025-2029 CFSP.
 - The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program (title IV-B, subpart 1);
 - Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF, Title IV-B Subpart 2);
 - Monthly Caseworker Visits Funds;
 - Chafee Program and Training Voucher Program (ETV).
 - Adoption Incentive Funds;
 - The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) as it relates to the activities funded by CAPTA in supporting achievement of the goals and objectives of the CFSP.



Goal 1

- Goal 1: Enhance Nevada's capacity to address the needs of children, youth and families to prevent maltreat.
 - Strategy 1: Develop a Prevention Data Dashboard for planning primary and secondary prevention.
 - Primary prevention connects families to needed resources and supports within their community. Secondary prevention provides families with services to address family needs and prevent child abuse and neglect.
 - Strategy 2: Collaborate with existing prevention program.
 - Staff who oversee the programs will utilize the data dashboard while collaborating with community partners to guide funding activities aimed at providing primary and secondary prevention to Nevada's children.
 - Strategy 3: Increase Differential Response Services throughout Nevada.
 - DCFS will develop a Differential Response Policy and access and reviewing funding sources to increase Differential Response Services throughout Nevada.
 - Strategy 4: Enhance Nevada's Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) program.
 - DCFS will update the CSEC state plan and by-laws and explore funding for receiving Centers in Nevada.



Goal 2

- Goal 2: Enhance Permanency Services to address the needs of Child, Youth and Families.
 - Strategy 1: Implementation of Extended Young Adults Support Services Program (EYASSP).
 - Implement EYASSP beginning July 1, 2025 and develop a and participate in a continuous improvement (CQI) activities.
 - Strategy 2: Maximize the use of the Kinship Navigator program across Nevada and increase Nevada's access to and use the KinGAP.
 - Kinship Navigator: Increase programmatic understanding of the federal funding streams for Kinship Navigator, including the use of Title IV-E and Title IV-B funding, as well as usage allowability through FFPSA to support families that get involved with child welfare and families that do not. Engage parents and caregivers who receive Kinship Navigator programming, or who are navigating child welfare services for their family, or have a child placed in their home to gain lived experience perspective and to inform improvement efforts.
 - KinGAP: Conduct an analysis of the use of KinGAP by the three child welfare agencies and develop and implement an action plan based on assessment of the utilization of KinGAP.
 - Strategy 3: Increase pre and post adoptive services throughout Nevada.
 - Understand current pre- and post-adoption services offered in Nevada, including the use of adoption incentive funding and other funding sources that may be available to support families.



Goal 3

- Goal 3: Enhance relationships between child welfare agencies and court partners resulting in improved court processes and increased timelessness to permanency.
 - Strategy 1: Collaborate with Court Improvement Program (CIP).
 - Collaborate with the CIP to determine common goals and better understand the intersection of the child welfare system with the dependency court system.
 - Increase communication and engagement between DCFS FPO, child welfare agencies, the CIP, judicial and legal partners, and CASA.
 - Understand the needs of both the child welfare agencies and the dependency courts.
 - Assess existing data collection efforts and identify opportunities to improve. Determine what monitoring and evaluative activities can be developed.
 - DCFS FPO will continue participation on CIP's JCAMP project.
 - CIP will continue participation on various child welfare workgroups and on the SQIC



Goal 4

- Goal 4: Healthy Workforce.

- Strategy 1: Nevada will have developed a plan to improve the recruitment and retention of its child welfare workforce.
 - Coach NV
 - Assess impact of CoachNV implementation through refinement of fidelity tool.
 - WIT Team
 - Assess current training policy periodically to determine when updates are needed.
 - Supervisor Training
 - Work with Nevada Partnership Training (NPT) to develop a supervisor training.
 - Workforce Data:
 - Partner with HR programs across the state to identify demographic data that can be shared. This data will be utilized to determine how well Nevada's child welfare workforce reflects the communities we serve.
 - Determine if exit survey data can be shared and analyzed.
 - Develop a communication plan for disseminating workforce data.



Goal 5

- Goal 5: Continuous Quality Improvement.
 - Strategy 1: Enhance existing CQI System
 - Develop a CQI action Plan, enhance policy development, formalize statewide activities and policies, refine Nevada's quarterly case review process in preparation for out CFSR round 4 which starts in October 2025.
 - Strategy 2: Create a community of collaboration with agency, community and system partners
 - In preparation of the statewide assessment and the CFSR Round 4, DCFS FPO will lead the effort to bring the voices of individuals with lived experience and the voices of those historically underserved and overrepresented in the child welfare system to the table.
 - Nevada will solicit participants for various workgroups, focus groups, surveys, or interviews that are cross-representational of the state's population.
 - The state will work collaboratively with child welfare agencies, legal and judicial partners, the CIP, as well as other systems that intersect with the child welfare system.



For Information

9. For Information- *Dylan Nall, Division of Child and Family Services*

- Presentation and Discussion of the Citizen's Review Panel Recommendations Response from DCFS –
See attachment



For Information

10. For Information: Updates to the Task Force on activities and spending of Children's Justice Act Funds by current grantees (Please see supporting materials)- Salli Kerr, Chair

- i. Clark County Family Services*
- ii. Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing*
- iii. Nye County*
- iv. Washoe County Human Services Agency*



For Information

11. For Information: Task Force Member
Announcements Regarding Their Agencies-Salli
Kerr,Chair



Final Public Comment

12. 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.)

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Adjournment

13. Adjournment- *Salli Kerr-Chair*

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

MINUTES

Nevada Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

April 8, 2025

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Salli Kerr, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 AM.

Members Present:

Name	Organization
Britt Young	Nevada PEP
Cheryl Cooley	Clark County
Christine Sullivan	Division of Child and Family Services
Desiree Mattice	Department of Public Safety
Fabian Kovac-Lembcke	Children's Cabinet
Isaac Rowe	Deputy Attorney General
Jamie Wong	Division of Child and Family Services
Laurie Jackson	Division of Child and Family Services
Michelle Rodriguez	Family Court Master
Rachelle Ekroos	Nevada Health Right
Salli Kerr, Chair	Western Regional CAC
Wendy Maddox	Humboldt County
Tammi Williamson	Washoe County
Xavier Planta	Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Members Absent:

Name	Organization
Jane Saint	Boys Town
Margaret Pickard	8 th Judicial District
Wonswayla Mackey	Division of Child and Family Services

Guests:

Name	Organization
Cindy Milligan	Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing
Cory Jueke	Nye County
Emily Smith	Nye County
Jailene Stanton	Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing
Kristy Mills	Nevada Outreach Training Organization
Rachael Berg	Great Basin Child Advocacy Center

Staff Support:

Name	Organization
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

There was no comment.

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

Dylan Nall said it was really important to go over the goals quickly, especially since we are finalizing our Notice of Funding grantees.

Goal 1: Provide child protection workers and stakeholders “front end” specialty discipline specific and advanced training. Training should be prioritized, but not limited to child protection model assessments, Indian Child Welfare (ICWA), sexual abuse, interpersonal violence, forensic interviewing, mandatory reporting, trauma informed practices, substance use, and co-occurring mental health disorders in training identified in collaboration with the 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 Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) and Task Forces.

Goal 3: Support the establishment of new Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) or other multidisciplinary team approaches and improve the capacity of existing CACs to provide a multidisciplinary response for victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation, witness to interpersonal violence, physical abuse, and victims with disabilities.

Goal 4: Fund technology requests to improve the investigation, assessment, and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through the use of the latest technology and to support the use of new and existing training technologies.

Goal 5: This task force will monitor policy regulation and/or legislation regarding child abuse and neglect trends and when appropriate collaborate with other parties and entities to support new and/or revised policy, regulation, and legislation.

There were no comments.

5. For Possible Action: Consideration and Approval of February 7, 2025, meeting minutes – Salli Kerr, Chair

Michelle Rodriguez moved approval of the minutes as written. Isaac Rowe seconded. Approved unanimously.

6. For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and the CJA approval of the 2025 Annual Citizen's Review Panel (CRP) recommendations to move forward to DCFS for consideration - Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall said the CRP met in March. Our task force wanted to redo the CRP recommendations in a more eye-friendly format that was easier to read and was more specific. These are the recommendations that they are setting forth:

1. The Children's Justice Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) continue to prioritize training for all child welfare staff and community partners in the State of Nevada to improve the investigation and handling of child abuse, neglect, or cases involving both, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This training recommendation includes, but is not limited to:
 - Further enhance family and interpersonal violence training to include screening and safety assessment;
 - Initial and advanced forensic interview training based on evidence-based protocols;
 - Continued quality improvement of child protection assessment and system of care models;
 - Mandatory reporting awareness and responsibilities;
 - Evidence-based and research-informed medical forensic interventions;
 - Integrating trauma-informed interventions;
 - And cultural awareness and responsiveness.

2. The Children's Justice Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) support Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) efforts:
 - To translate best practices and support community-based needs to coordinate the multidisciplinary response to child abuse, neglect, or cases involving both, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation;
 - To ensure child victims have access to the constellation of services offered within the Child Advocacy Centers (CACs);
 - To establish and maintain access to CACs in conjunction with the Nevada State CAC Chapter as appropriate.

Rachell Ekross, who chairs the CRP Recommendations subcommittee, said the core of the recommendations still remains the same. Judge Margaret Pickard gave amazing input to really call out what those examples would look like or at least provide some examples and be a little more specific on our recommendations and that resulted in the bullets for recommendation one and recommendation two which Dylan just reviewed.

There were no questions. Salli Kerr thanked Rochelle and the subcommittee for doing the work on this. The clarity around these and the surrounding recommendations that came out of them were, she said, the best work we've ever sent.

Wendy Maddox moved to approve the recommendations. Desiree Maddox seconded. Approved unanimously.

**7. For Possible Action: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Subcommittee recommendations for subawards for funding for state fiscal year 2026 to move forward to DCFS for consideration
- Salli Kerr, Chair**

Dylan Nall reviewed the funding recommendations from the subcommittee for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.

Carson City District Attorney's Office submitted an application for \$19,126. This department will contract with the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children to provide training. The National DEC has provided expert training, technical assistant programs, resources and support to thousands of professionals, partners, organization, parents and caregivers nationally every year since 2003. National DEC believes that the best way to address the needs of drug endangered children is a coordinated approach that puts the children's needs first, as they have historically been the first impacted and often the last identified. DEC defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm because of legal and/or illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivating, cultivation or distribution and/or children whose caretaker's legal or

illegal substance misuse interferes with the care ability to parent and provide. The NOFO suggested funding \$16,326.

Clark County Family Services requested \$40,000 for forensic interview training through the National Children's Advocacy Center Forensic Interview Protocol. The National Children's Advocacy Center Forensic Interview Protocol provides a structured approach that prioritizes rapport building, ensuring that children feel safe and understood. The process begins with general discussion about the child's life before transitioning to topics related to the alleged incident. Children are encouraged to seek clarification when needed and are guided to speak only about real and truthful events. It would be up to 60 participants; two classes total with the cap of 30 people per class and the Notice of Funding subcommittee suggests \$33,000.

No To Abuse requested \$27,990 to attend the San Diego International Conference and send 14 MDT members. The Nye County Children's Advocacy Center intends to send 14 people from the MDT to the San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment in January 2026. This would include two staff from each discipline, including child advocacy, forensic interviewers, law enforcement, prosecution, medical, mental health and child protective services. The training provides specific training for all disciplines in the MDT focusing on multidisciplinary responses for victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation, physical abuse and child victims with disabilities and the prosecution of these cases. The Notice of funding subcommittee suggests \$27,675.

Nevada Institute for Forensic Nursing is requesting to add another Cortexflo machine so they would have two instead of one. They are requesting \$30,000 to enhance forensic imaging capabilities for child survivors of sexual abuse and assault by acquiring a second Cortexflo machine and the necessary technology to support it. \$25,000 will fund the purchase of the second Cortexflo machine, an advanced forensic imaging system designed for high resolution photographic evidence collection in forensic exams. This trauma informed technology improves documentation accuracy while ensuring the comfort and well-being of young survivors. The remaining \$5000 will cover the computer technology required for secure operation, including cloud-based storage that integrates with Nevada Institute for Forensic Nursing's first Cortexflo machine, maintaining full HIPPA compliance while ensuring forensic images are protected and easily accessible for medical and legal use. The Notice of Funding subcommittee recommends \$30,000.

Washoe County Human Services Agency is requesting training and technology updates. Three staff will attend a remote one-week forensic interview training that will then qualify them for additional CSEC specific training at no cost. Washoe County and the vendor will enter into a contract with a defined scope of work. The vendor will invoice for all costs as outlined in the contract. Attendance will be collected for this training program. Program staff will be in charge of coordinating the training and monitoring the staff that will attend, and fiscal staff will monitor the contract, invoicing, and payment to vendor. Also, they request photographic and related technology and equipment for documentation purposes to support the medical units and improve investigation and assessment, investigation and prosecution of these cases. They requested \$24,100 and the NOFO subcommittee suggests \$24,100.

Wendy Maddox noticed on some of them they didn't receive the full funding, and she wondered why things were taken out or how that was decided.

Salli Kerr said sometimes they were taken out because we don't do funding for direct services. Also, travel: some of them were reduced just a little bit based on government rates. All of the things that were reduced in these were based on things that were not allowed. There wasn't anything reduced for any other reason.

Salli Kerr added that something that did come out of the subcommittee going forward is that the committee is going to ask to do a meeting with the applicants and the subcommittee to be able to ask questions about their applications and do kind of an orientation.

Desiree Mattice said one of the things also discussed was how to do the grants, because they did identify in the NOFO meeting that there were some things that were missing. There were things that were definitely glaring that we were requesting that we didn't receive, which kind of made some confusion and a lot of discussion, so that applicants understand what we're looking for, the reasons why we're looking for it and why it's so important and imperative for them to provide that information because it does make the process a little bit smoother that everybody's providing the same information and we're not trying to piece meal each individual grant, which does create some confusion. It doesn't feel very fair if we're not providing funding when there is an absolute need but we don't have enough detail, so being available is key. Being aware of the importance of filling it out fully and entirely is just as vital.

Salli Kerr said the idea of a pre-meeting, prior to application, where we could go over this was also discussed.

Rochelle Ekroos moved the funding recommendations be approved. Desiree Mattice seconded. Approved unanimously.

Rochelle Ekroos and Salli Kerr both expressed their thanks to the NOFO subcommittee for their work.

8. For Information: Update to the Task Force on activities and spending of Children's Justice Act funds by current grantees (please see supporting materials) – Salli Kerr, Chair

Cheryl Cooley from Clark County said they had finished their forensic interview training for this year. They had a lot of staff turnover, which is why they had the need to do multiple trainings for forensic interviews. It has been really good, though, to see children being able to be interviewed and trying to find the best way for them to tell their experience, to tell their story to the interviewers and to seek justice for kids. As an outgrowth of that, they do have a support group for kids who were interviewed and continue to seek justice for them, making sure that they're safe at home, but they in turn want to give back. And so last year they sold pinwheel pins during April and they raised over \$1000. This group, preteen to high schoolers, then gave that money to the kids at Child Haven, which was just so heartwarming. Then this year, they're doing resource fairs. So, they will open up the gym. They have a survival quilt, it ties in with Denim Day, which is sex abuse awareness during the month of April. They will have people do their own affirmations on pockets of jeans and add that to the quilt. It's just exciting to see things come full circle. Cheryl thanked the committee for all that they've done to really give to them so that they can continue the work in Southern Nevada.

Wendy Maddox wanted to say she was really excited about all these applications. They're very aligned with our goals and the recommendations that we approved. As a chief deputy DA she sees several areas from Human Services and her counterparts in this field where she can reach out to them and learn through them about the trainings and get PowerPoints and all kinds of great stuff. She does share a lot, especially Carson, Clark, and Washoe and is excited that she will be educated in turn as well.

Salli Kerr said she appreciated hearing that really positive feedback. With this group Cheryl Cooley's lead from years ago was to develop Nevada as a support across the state for one another. It has been important to this movement from the very beginning and that really has shown itself to be true across the state and she always appreciates watching and hearing about the collaboration that goes on so that everybody can work better.

Cindy Milligan and Jalaine Stanton from the Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing spoke next. Cindy Milligan said getting their first Cortexflo machine has really helped during exams, getting good videos or photos for use in court. As it's mobile they can take it to the CAC or put it in their RV to see kids in Pershing and Humboldt counties. Jalaine Stanton said this ties into this the new funding opportunity as they are really working to get telehealth going because Nevada is lacking so many same certified nurses. Their hope is that to can get all of the different Cortexflo machines connected throughout the state, so that if a same certified nurse is not available in a different county or community, and they can't make it in time, that they would be able to help those other counties as well by our state nurses being able to connect right up to another Cortexflo machine. They also received funding this year from a private donor for a second medical mobile van, so that will be another place that they will be able to add in a Coretextflo machine. So, if they have a new nurse who doesn't necessarily have all of the training quite yet, their director of nursing and education can actually be located in Elko County, connect to that machine and conduct the exam from there. So, they're thinking big. They appreciate NOFO so much. This grant has really done wonders for their organization.

Rachelle Ekroos said what they're modeling with using forensic nurses within the state as the experts to provide this overcomes a huge barrier that other states are encountering to moving forward with investigation and prosecution, so she applauds them on that effort.

Desiree Mattice asked if they could share the communities they've already supported and how they plan to expand? Jalaine Stanton said so far they are with Eureka County, White Pine County, Pershing County, Humboldt County and are looking into Churchill, Tonopah, and Carson. The ultimate goal is to get this going statewide just because it's a huge statewide issue. They are pretty much established throughout Northern Nevada and definitely working on connections throughout Southern Nevada, obviously a little bit of a barrier there is getting the Cortexflo machines, which again is why this is such a huge step for them to add a second.

Rachell Ekroos shared that Nevada Health Right provides 24/7 consultation across all of Southern Nevada. They provide that to all the emergency departments as well as any of the advocacy organizations and the community medical providers. They call and consult, screen, connect them to services and ensure wrap around. Jalaine said that is amazing and they should connect.

Desiree Mattice wanted to say thank you. In law enforcement one of the biggest barriers and concerns was trying to get some of our rural victims out to a place where they could actually be seen and sometimes they just couldn't get them there and exams were never done, so being able to have something that's mobile that can get to the kiddos is vital.

Rachell Ekroos said they probably should at some point offline talk about Esmeralda County too, because that's another one that's falling in the middle that's challenged on where to go. Jalaine Stanton said they would love to.

Kristy Mills then spoke for Nye County. At the last meeting she was asked to bring a couple of the MDT members to this meeting to talk about their experience, so she had one their forensic interviewers, Emily Smith, and also one of their deputy district attorneys, Cory Juelke, on the line. They're able to talk about their experience and Nye is super excited to be able to send additional team members this year to the San Diego conference.

Cory Juelke said the conference was a lifesaver. Essentially, he is a department of one in terms of juvenile dependency cases in a county like Nye. You could say good training is hard to come by; it's non-existent absent him going to something like this. It's great to get updated on what best practices are, in just connecting to people that are also in the work as well. It's a good way to feel less isolated. He would love to go to it again.

Emily Smith said she been honored with the offer to go to San Diego a few times now. It is really important to go learn the updated stuff and learn what's changing in the field. But on top of that, it's really good for a small group or very small community to be able to get away from the intense work that they do and be able to collaborate and work together in a setting where they're not just pounding cases, and throw ideas off of each other and figure out different ways that they can do things and change things and make their practices better. The members of the MDT that were able to go were able to collaborate a lot and have a lot of time together that was not just in training.

Kristy Mille said she wanted to piggyback off what Emily said. They were able to send five with the funding from the CJA Task force and an additional three was funded by the District Attorney's Office, so eight in total at the San Diego Conference. She has been in this position for the last six years and this is the first time that she's truly been able to say that they have a team dedicated to the MDT approach and at this conference they were able to learn a lot about what that truly looked like. She had two deputy district attorneys, a forensic interviewer, somebody from the mental health field, one of the law enforcement officers, a detective, and they also had a systems advocate now for the first time, who was able to attend as well, and they spent a lot of time talking about how to change what they're doing in Nye County for the better. She is super excited to be able to go forward and do this again with a much larger part of their team.

Tammi Williamson spoke for Washoe County. Since the last meeting, they were able to send two of the staff to the Alabama Symposium on Child Abuse. They learned several best practices, and it was definitely a different approach and not better but different than the Dallas Conference. This one provided a lot more learning opportunities to bring back to the team. Additionally, the biggest thing they're looking forward to is Cornerstone. They are bringing Cornerstone to Washoe County to do a

specific child interview training and they actually will learn hands-on techniques of how to best interview children in situations like we deal with on a daily basis and they're able by bringing them to Washoe County it is much more cost effective. They are able to have thirty staff members that will attend that interview protocol training. That is in May.

9. For Information: Task Force Member Announcements Regarding Their Agencies – Salli Kerr, Chair

Rachell Ekroos said she had more of just a quick note about current legislation that's trying to move through committees and move forward for votes. One of those will directly affect the programs, such as any of the programs that are providing the medical forensic exams and how they are reimbursed. A very well-intended Bill was presented with edits with some unforeseen unintended consequences that we were able to intervene with. Hopefully, if this moves forward as hoped, then it will expand the availability of reimbursement for services across the state, particularly for counties outside of Washoe and Clark, that currently are limited by reimbursement from the States and their local law enforcement agencies. Even though the child advocacy centers are a little bit of a different model, there still has to be reimbursement for exams and they are trying to ensure that this moves forward and expands services and doesn't unintentionally disrupt existing services.

Desiree Mattice said she is retiring next month, so will no longer be with the committee, but am in the works of finding a replacement. That way, there is still that law enforcement component with the state and ensuring that the work continues from that side to assist in anything that we need, because it is kind of a different perspective dealing with different types of crimes and stuff like that. She is super excited for herself, but very devastated at the same time because she has enjoyed being part of the CJA task force and committee for years and some of the things that she's been lucky enough to be involved in creating legislation to benefit all of our kiddos that are in our state is huge and kind of warms her heart to know that she was part of that, so she will miss you all. She did talk to the subcommittee about this and had discussed potentially maintaining her membership. However, her nomination did come from our director back when she started with the team, so being that it is a DPS nomination, I cannot be with the program anymore.

Salli Kerr said she was grateful and thankful for everything that Desiree brought to this group. She was there before Salli and her dedication has been renowned over the decades. She will be missed.

10. 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) – Salli Kerr, Chair

No comments.

11. Adjournment: – Salli Kerr, Chair

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Marla McDade
Williams, MPA
Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2025

TO: The Children's Justice Act Task Force - Statewide Citizen Review Panel (CRP)

FROM: Marla McDade Williams, MPA, Administrator

SUBJECT: Response to The Children's Justice Act Task Force - Citizens Review Panels 2024 Recommendations

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) has the following responses to the recommendations made by the Citizens Review Panels for Calendar Year 2024.

Recommendation 1: The Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Health and Human Services, continues to prioritize training for all child welfare staff and community partners in the State of Nevada to improve the investigation and handling of child abuse, neglect, or cases involving both, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This training recommendation includes but is not limited to:

- Further enhance family and interpersonal violence training to include screening and safety assessment;
- Initial and advanced forensic interviewing training based on evidence-based protocols;
- Continuous quality improvement of child protection assessment and system of care models;
- Mandatory reporting awareness and responsibilities;
- Evidence-based and research-informed medical forensic interventions; and
- Integrating trauma-informed interventions; And cultural awareness and responsiveness.

DCFS Response: The Division accepts this recommendation. The Division will take this information to Nevada's child welfare training academies and Workforce Invitation Team (WIT), which is a statewide team that is comprised of training and continuous quality improvement (CQI) staff for further discussion regarding family and interpersonal violence training to include screening and safety assessment, continuous quality improvement of child protection assessment and system of care models and integrating trauma-informed interventions as well as cultural awareness and responsiveness. The Division encourages the Children's Justice Act Task Force to continue prioritizing funding for training aimed at improving the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases in Nevada.

Recommendation 2: The Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA) recommends DCFS support Multidisciplinary Team 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;
- To ensure child victims have access to the constellation of services offered within the Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs); and
- To establish and maintain access to CACs in conjunction with the Nevada State CAC Chapter as appropriate.

DCFS Response: The Division accepts this recommendation. The Division encourages CACs in Nevada to apply for CJA funding. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) becomes available to the public to apply for funding in January 2026. The Division will continue to evaluate ways in which it can support efforts to translate best practices and support community-specific needs to coordinate the multidisciplinary response to child maltreatment.

Thank you to members of the Task Force and the panels for your work on these initiatives that are so important to the well-being of children and families in Nevada.

CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

As a CJA Grant funds recipient, it is mandatory that a thorough and complete report be provided to the CJA coordinator each quarter during the grant fund year. Failure to provide these reports may result in a withdrawal of grant funds. If you have any questions about the reporting requirements, please contact the CJA Coordinator.

Grantee Information

Name: Cheryl Cooley	Date: 6/2/2025
Agency: Southern Nevada Children's Advocacy Center	
FFY2026 Grant Funds Received: \$33,000	
Funds expended: \$0	

Activities Funded and Evaluation Work

Describe the activity funded: Forensic Interview Training

We are hosting two in-person Forensic Interview Training sessions in Las Vegas. A training space has been reserved, and our first session has reached full capacity with 30 registrants. We are currently maintaining a waitlist. These sessions are designed to better equip law enforcement detectives and child protective services staff to effectively communicate with children and gather critical information related to abuse or neglect disclosures.

The first training will take place July 28 – August 1, 2025.
The second session is scheduled for February 2026.

Describe any evaluation work related to this activity including evaluation methods, outputs, and outcomes of the activity. (Please include or attach supporting data, statistics or other relevant documentation when available):

The in-person trainings are evaluated through both the trainer's assessment and the Forensic Interview team's observation of each participant as they conduct a mock interview with a child using the approved protocol. At the conclusion of the training, participants also complete an evaluation survey provided by NCAC. Survey results will be submitted to Dylan.

Following the training, all participants are invited to schedule peer review sessions with the Forensic Interviewers at the SNCAC. These sessions may include conducting a live interview on-site with observation and feedback from an FI, or bringing a recorded (DVD or audio) interview they have conducted elsewhere to receive professional feedback.

CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

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Grantee Information

Name: Cora Carroll	Date: 6/11/2025
Agency: Washoe County Human Services Agency	
FFY2025/26 Grant Funds Received: \$24,100	
Funds expended to date: \$24,100	

Part One: Activities Funded and Evaluation Work

Per Grant Application, funded activities:

1. WCHSA aims to train 40 child welfare professionals in investigative interviewing techniques. These advanced techniques will improve the agency's ability to assess child safety more effectively during critical first responses. The training will cover essential skills such as creating discrepancies in testimony, utilizing positive persuasion techniques, and creating comprehensive timelines. These methods are crucial in determining the validity of abuse or neglect reports and gathering detailed information in a time-sensitive manner. By equipping investigators with these tools, the agency will increase the reliability and depth of its findings, which are fundamental to ensuring child safety.

Describe all work related to the funded activities above. This includes objectives, activities completed, results of the activities and any barriers your agency incurred during this quarter:

Objective

To improve the quality and effectiveness of child interviews conducted in the field by:

- Increasing the use of forensically sound, non-leading interviewing techniques.
- Enhancing the ability of staff to gather detailed and reliable information from children in cases of alleged abuse or neglect.

Training Overview

- A two-day training was developed and delivered to equip staff with interview techniques modeled after formal forensic interviews, with specific emphasis on:
 - Field-based application (as opposed to controlled settings).
 - Differentiating approaches for neglect versus abuse.

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- Eliciting detailed narratives without leading questions.
- The training curriculum was designed and facilitated by **Cornerhouse**, a recognized expert in forensic interviewing.

Planned Activities

- Develop a customized two-day training focused on non-leading, field-appropriate child interviewing techniques.
- Target assessment staff and supervisors for participation.

Training will consist of the following topics:

1. Best practice for building rapport
2. Skills to guide a child/youth through the details of a disclosure
3. Understanding, recognizing and addressing Coaching or Contamination in an interview
4. Use of Invitation and Inquiry to invite a narrative from a child/youth
5. Blocks and Barriers within interviews with children/youth
6. Identifying and addressing multiple acts or episodes of neglect or exposure and how to differentiate those within an interview

Training will address the following incidents of neglect:

- Witnessing domestic violence or other crimes
- Substance abuse
- Discipline injuries (very surface level injuries like singular or small bruises)
- General neglect
- Lack of supervision
- Exposure to sex trafficking
- Other/additional incidents of neglect or exposure that may fall within statute

Activities Completed

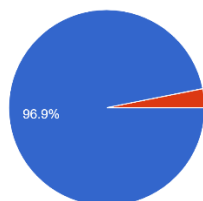
- **Training Dates:** May 28–29
- **Attendance:** 44 participants, including all assessment workers and supervisors who had not already completed the full forensic interview training.
- **Curriculum Development:** CornerHouse designed and delivered the training, which has now been added to their official library of training offerings.
- **Training Format:** A hybrid model combining elements of Mandated Reporter Training with the full forensic interview training course.

Results:

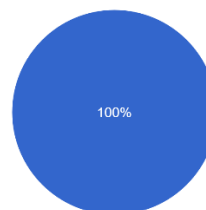
A survey was conducted to measure the effectiveness and applicability of training, the results of which were:

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This training was applicable to my job
32 responses

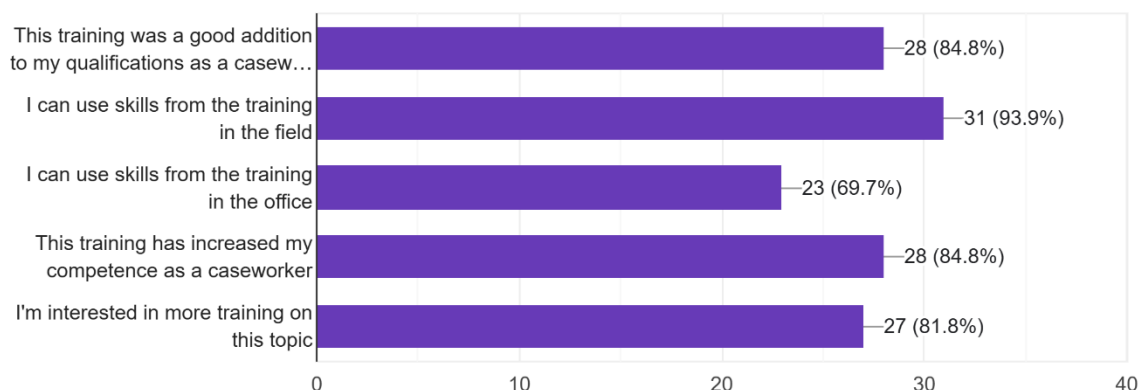


I can start using the learning in this training immediately in my day to day work
33 responses



Please select all that apply:

33 responses



Barriers

WCHSA discovered that coverage of report responses was a difficulty of providing this training. Additionally, there were many agency employees who were not able to attend that expressed interest. To overcome these barriers, WCHSA leveraged staff who had completed the full 5 day forensic interview training to respond to reports and prioritized those responding to abuse and neglect reports before other requested attendees.

Additional Activities

In addition to the large, in-person training, WCHSA was able to enroll 3 supervisors and 5 caseworkers in the Safe and Together Institute's CORE training for staff and supervisors. This training is a skills-oriented informed practice for domestic violence that overviews assessment, interviewing, documentation, and case planning as well as supervisor skills related to worker safety, supporting case planning, and decision-making guidance. This specific training would not be recommended to other agencies due to the time commitment required for completion. This program offers some quality information and resources; however, it also requires a significantly greater dedication of time than outlined in the program description. Overall, this program is

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higher in price and time commitment relative to the value of skill-development acquired through the program.

Lastly, with the final remaining budget, WCHSA was able to purchase the last two reMarkable tablets, for the total planned 6, to improve the efficiency of staff time dedicated to documentation and accessibility of forms in the field. The reMarkable tablets continue to be instrumental in enhancing case management strategies, movement toward paperless files, and increasing efficiencies through access to digital notes, collecting electronic documents in the field, and ease and timeliness of case file management.

PART TWO: NARRATIVE

Please provide complete answers to the following questions.

1. If any materials were produced with grant funds, please provide a copy (copies) electronically with this report.
2. Please provide a brief success story with the use of this CJA funding during the current quarter.

Staff were asked to implement learned skills in training on casework immediately. We had several staff make adjustments to their interview style, one specifically who was able to break through parental coaching during an interview using the skills learned. This occurred the week after wherein they believed there was coaching from parents prior to the interview but using invitation and inquiry was able to break through the resistance and obtain the most accurate information from the child's lens.

If assistance is needed regarding your grant, please email, **Dylan Nall**, dnall@dcfs.nv.gov.

The Quarterly Updates are due to the CJA Coordinator, Dylan Nall, **3 weeks** before the quarterly CJA Meeting. If your agency does not have any current updates, please email Dylan Nall stating, "No quarterly update."

2025/2026 Meeting Dates. (PENDING):

October 14, 2025

January 6, 2026;

April 7, 2026;

July 7, 2026