

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

The Children's Justice Act Task Force

Division of Child and Family Services- Family Programs Office

Dylan Nall

July 11, 2023



Department of Health and Human Services

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Welcome

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



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.



Goals of the CJA Task Force

4. Goals of the CJA Task Force

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 JVTA 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. (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, 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. (AB)

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. (AB)

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. (C)



Meeting Minutes

5. Approve the last meeting's minutes

- For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to Approve April 4, 2023, Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve
- Motion to 2nd
- Vote



Next Year's Meeting Dates

6. Review and/or Approve 2024 CJA's meeting dates

- Consideration, discussion and possible action to review and/or approve 2024 CJA meeting dates:
- Proposed dates:
 1. January 9, 2024- 9:00 to Adjournment
 2. April 2, 2024- 9:00 to Adjournment
 3. July 2, 2024- 9:00 to Adjournment
 4. October 1, 2024- 9:00 to Adjournment
- Motion to approve
- Motion to 2nd
- Vote



Next Meeting Date

7. Review and/or Approve 2023 CJA October meeting date

- Consideration, discussion and possible action to change October 4, 2023 CJA Task Force meeting to October 10, 2023.

8. Motion to approve

9. Motion to 2nd

10. Vote



Presentation on CJA Conference

8. Presentation regarding the CJA Conference May 2023

- For information: Presentation regarding the annual CJA conference which was in Baltimore, Maryland in May 2023.



Review DCFS' response

9. Review DCFS' response to CJA's annual CRP Recommendations

- For information: Review and discuss DCFS' response to the CJA task force regarding their CRP recommendation



Recommendation#1

- Recommendation 1: The Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) continues 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 sexual 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.



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;
 - Crimes Against Children's Conference;
 - Forensic Interview training provided by the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC);
 - Handle With Care Conference; and
 - Ongoing Domestic violence training that will address the risk and protective factors for families.



Recommendation #2

- Recommendation 2: The Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) 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 Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) support recommendation includes introducing and establishing Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), as appropriate.



Response

Response: DCFS accepts this recommendation. CJA Task Force continues to fund and support local CACs throughout Nevada. Recently, the CJA Task Force funded and supported three (3) CACs in Nevada. The CJA Task Force has also supported Nevada's CSEC coalition. These efforts include:

- Great Basin Children's Advocacy Center (GBCAC) was able to purchase training supplies and materials for their new building which will be open June 2023.
- Clark County Department of Family Services furnished a conference room in March 2023 at the Southern Nevada Child Advocacy Center (SNCAC) which will be used for the collaboration of all disciplines involved in a child's case.
- Washoe County Children's Advocacy Center (WCCAC) Enhanced their technology that included 5 laptop computers and 6 external CD/DVD players.

The CJA Task Force has collaborated with Nevada Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Coordinator to support a CSEC protocol implementation in Nevada. Efforts include the development of a statewide database that will track CSEC victims across multiple agencies and to establish a baseline dataset of this population and training for stakeholders to identify CSEC victims.

- The CSEC coalition made recommendations for 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 youth who are at risk or may be victims of sex trafficking.
 - Further training for staff who may encounter CSEC victims (CPS, teachers, district attorney, law enforcement, juvenile justice, etc.). This recommendation was not successful during Nevada's 2023 legislation session. DCFS will explore what efforts can be made to continue the work towards this recommendation made by the CSEC Coalition.
 - Establishment of MDTs and a CSEC executive committee. This recommendation was not successful during Nevada's 2023 legislation session. DCFS will explore what efforts can be made to continue the work towards this recommendation made by the CSEC Coalition.



Bylaw Subcommittee

- 10.** For information: Remind the Task Force of the importance of joining the bylaw subcommittee. To review and update the current bylaws. They were last approved in 2020.



Evaluation Subcommittee Update

11. Evaluation Subcommittee Update

- For information: The spokesperson to provide an update on the June 2023 subcommittee meeting.



Grantee Updates for FY 2022

12. Grantee Update

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



Announcements

13. Announcements

- Information Only: Member announcements



Final Public Comment

14. 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

15. Adjournment

- 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 4, 2023

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jane Saint called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Members Present:

| Name | Organization |
|------------------------|---|
| Betsey Crumrine | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Char Frost | |
| Cheryl Cooley | Clark County Department of Family Services- CAC |
| Christine Sullivan | |
| Cory Martin | Great Basin CAC (Elko) |
| Jamie Wong | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Jane Saint, Vice-Chair | State Director, Nevada CASA |
| Janice Wolfe | Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada |
| Jennifer Spencer | Deputy Attorney-General |
| Margaret Pickard | |
| Rachell Ekroos | |
| Wendy Maddox | |
| Wonswayla Mackey | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Tammi Williamson | Washoe County CAC |

Members Absent:

| Name | Organization |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Anglina Blare | Adult Survivor |
| Desiree Mattice | Sergeant – Dept. of Public Safety |
| Fran Maldonado | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Michelle Rodriguez | Family Court Master |
| Salli Kerr, Chair | Western Regional CAC |

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. As Salli Kerr was absent, Vice-Chair Jane Saint conducted the meeting.

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) – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

No comments.

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

Dylan Nall said that since we have some new people, this is a refresher since we only meet four times a year. 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 support the implementation of our Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (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 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.

5. For Possible Action: Review and/or Approve 2023 CJA's NOFO Subcommittee Grantee recommendations – Jane Saint, Subcommittee Chair

Jane Saint moved into the review of the NOFO applications notice of funding. This year we had five applications. First, she thanked the subcommittee that stepped forward to help review all these applications that came in, score them, and then have lively discussions about how we were going to fund the various requests. She thanked Michelle Rodriguez, Jennifer Spencer, Sally Kerr, Desiree Mattice and Laurie Jackson for stepping up and serving on this subcommittee.

The first application was Clark County Children's Advocacy Center. They had requested this year \$48,500. That was an increase over last year's request of just under \$3000. It covers goals 3 and 4. They were wanting this money to train up to 90 CAC and community professional partner professionals in forensic interviewing, and then they also were requesting funding to purchase a high-speed copier for Law Enforcement.

Great Basin Children's Advocacy Center requested \$6300, a decrease from last year's request of 14 and half thousand dollars. What they are looking for is funding for two forensic interviewers seeking Advanced Child Forensic Interviewing (AF): Beyond the Basics, through the National Child Advocacy Center. This request covers goals 1 and 3.

The next group was a new request to our organization, from the Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing (NVIFN). They are requesting \$14, 362 to aid in the cost of training for their contracted nurses who work with the children under their care. The award would also provide funding for the new technology VALT Cloud system to be used in the soft exam room and mobile unit, allowing for remote interviewing by law enforcement and attorneys. This is admissible in court. This covers goals 3 and 5.

Next was the Nevada Outreach Training Organization. They requested \$19,849 to send 14 people from the Nye County area to San Diego for a training in January of 2024. This covers goals 1 and 3. This is two people from each disciplinary area of child advocacy, forensic interviewers, law enforcement, prosecution, medical, mental health, and Child Protective Services. We will ask them to make a presentation in probably a year from now about that training.

The last group was the Washoe County Health and Human Services. They too are a current grantee. The goals covered were 1, 3, and 4. They are asking for \$40,684 and what they would like to do is again provide training for the child advocacy centers teams to enhance their best practices. The training specifics are for forensic interviewing for five CAC child protection workers, CSEC advocacy course for 10 child welfare staff, Child Welfare League annual conference for five assessment staff, Shared Hope Juvenile Sex Trafficking annual conference for three assessment staff, and then Trauma Informed leadership training for four MDT membership. Additionally, they would like to purchase 2 multifunction printers needed in their medical unit office and the assessment workers office.

The amounts that we have recommended are full funding, but that amount does overstep the \$100,000 that we originally had. Fortunately, Beverly Brown and Dylan Nall announced when we were having our subcommittee meeting that there was some extra money in the budget that was

not being taking anything away from other projects or services and that we had the ability to offer full funding for all the programs. So, with that said, we were very excited to make recommendations for full funding for all the programs who requested. We were very impressed with the quality of the applications this year. It is the recommendation of this committee unless there are any questions, comments, or concerns that we move to fund 100% of the five applications.

Char Frost moved to fund 100% of the applications. Wendy Maddox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. For Possible Action: Approve the last meeting's minutes – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jennifer Spencer moved the minutes be approved as written. Betsey Crumrine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. For Information: CJA 101 Video – Dylan Nall, DCFS

After some technical difficulties, Char Frost was able to pull up the video ("The Children's Justice Act Quarterly Call", dated September 22, 2022) and share it. Lauren Fishman, federal project officer for the Children's Justice Act grant program, was the presenter on the video. This is a program overview and refresher. The idea for this call really came from the CJA grantee leadership team members, who thought that it might be helpful to really take a minute to step back and go into a little bit more of the CJA background for those that either might need a bit of a refresher or for those that just might not have had the opportunity to learn about the program, legislation, the requirements, etc. People could type questions as the chat proceeded. Polls were conducted at the time the video was live to see the roles in CJA attendees had, how long they had been involved in CJA, and related questions.

Ms. Fishman is with The Children's Bureau. The Children's Bureau is the agency that administers the CJA state grant program. They partner with federal, state, tribal and local agencies to improve the overall health and well-being of our nation's children and families. They have an overall budget of approximately \$9.8 billion and provide support and guidance to programs focusing on family strengthening and child abuse prevention, child protection and ensuring that children and youth have permanent family or family connection. The CJA state grant program is located in Section 107 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, or CAPTA. CAPTA was most recently reauthorized in 2010. Since Fiscal Year 2000, \$17,000,000 in CJA funds have been made available for distribution to the states and territories. This funding amount of the 17 million is set in statute. While we hear from folks fairly often about why have we not seen increases in the CJA grant amount in 22 years, it is something that needs to be changed in statute.

The funding for CJA actually comes from the Crime Victims Fund, which collects fines and fees charged to persons convicted of federal crime, and the fund itself is administered by the Department of Justice within the Office for Victims of Crime. The funds for the CJA state grant program then come to The Children's Bureau. How grantees are designated and how funds are distributed for CJA: the CJA grant recipient agency is designated by the Governor of each respective state. Funds are allocated based on a formula. There is a base amount of \$50,000 awarded to each

state or territory, and then an additional amount is awarded based on the number of children under the age of 18.

There is a 15% set aside reserved by the Attorney General for the CJA Partnership for Indian Communities program. So, the overall CJ program is 20 million dollars, three million of that are the 15% awarded to this Partnership for Indian Communities Program. Grantees that are awarded through the Indian Communities Program are in several states.

Who are the CJA grantees in this state program? As said, the governor in each state designates so there is a bit of a variety. While the majority (39 out of 52) are either a child welfare or human services agency, there are seven that are either a Department of Justice or related agency, three that are within a governor's office and another three that are a nonprofit or other entity. The full list of grantees is available on the Child Welfare Information Gateway with contact information that has been provided by each grantee for the main point of contact.

Program purpose: in accordance with Section 107 in CAPTA, CJA grants are awarded to be used to develop, establish, and operate programs that are designed to improve overall assessment, investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, including cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation. There is a particular focus on limiting additional trauma to the child and the child's family. Overall, you can see that there really is a focus on the front end of the child welfare system. There is a bit of a gray area sometimes as to where those phases end and the appropriateness of different funded activities based on the focus on that front end. That's really an ongoing conversation that she is happy to have as folks are looking at different programs to fund through CJA.

Use of Funds as broken down in the legislation, referred to here as the A, B, and C categories. This provides guidance on how CJA funds can be used: A is activities to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse and exploitation, and there is the inclusion of reducing additional trauma to the child's victim and the victim's family. B is the support of experimental model and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques to improve the prompt and successful resolution of Civil and Criminal Court proceedings to enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases. C is for the reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children.

Activities authorized for CJA funds are training development and dissemination; the creation or revision of protocols and tools; the support of child fatality reviews and/or citizen review panels; development and enhancement of child advocacy centers; collaboration efforts both at the local and state levels; and support for ongoing activities of the task force. Again, this is by no means exhaustive, but just a few examples of activities that can be funded through CJA. One other note is that supporting child abuse prevention programs or treatment services is not an appropriate use of CJA funds. This is because of the focus on the front end. The prevention piece is not allowable nor are direct services.

CJA is a formula grant program that the Children's Bureau administers every year. They put out a new program instruction that outlines the requirements the assessment needs, the application submission or due dates and tentative funding amount. They typically release each year's program

instruction in late February or early March, and each year's submission is generally due the last business day in May. Grantees must submit an annual report and an annual application in response to the program instructions that the Children's Bureau puts out to receive the next year's fund. On top of the requirement to submit the annual report and application, grantees must also meet certain eligibility requirements, which include the state receipt of the CAPTA basic state grant, and the establishment and maintenance of the multidisciplinary CJA Task force, as outlined in the legislation.

About the CJA task force. This legislatively required task force is critical to the CJA program. It drives the work of the program through the initial and ongoing assessment process and the resulting recommendations that come out of that assessment process. While there is not specifically required meeting frequency, The Children's Bureau does recommend that task forces meet at least quarterly. The task force structure varies from grantee to grantee. Again, there is no specific outline provided within the Statute about what the task force must look like other than the required membership categories. But the structure really can vary from grantee to grantee, and there's typically a chairperson. There might be co-chairs, some grantees have implemented bylaws which might include term limits for members. Some task forces include governor's appointment. Several task forces use subcommittees that might meet in between the larger task force meetings and that have a particular focus. There are 14 required membership categories. Several grantees choose to add some additional membership categories, whether that's an individual representing the education field, or it might be someone representing a child advocacy center, etcetera.

Ms. Fishman put up a slide with the 14 membership categories that are included in the CJA legislation. She didn't read through all of them but noted that it includes an adult former victim of child abuse and neglect. This is the language that is included within the CJA statute, but you do not need to use that specific language. They know that that is not in many cases the appropriate or appreciated way to refer to an individual with lived experience as a survivor.

The Children's Bureau has implemented a real focus on the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion, ensuring that folks with lived experience are included in all our work. As part of that, a number of task forces have started looking at ensuring that there is appropriate representation and inclusion within the task force.

She then moved on to task force member responsibility. The responsibilities of task force members might vary from grantee to grantee according to bylaws, but overall, there is regular attendance, bringing up to date knowledge and expertise from their respective areas of experience to those task force discussions and activities, actively engaging in ongoing assessment processes. There is also the CJA task force coordinator. This individual is engaging in regular and ongoing communication with The Children's Bureau and generally responsible for completing the timely submission of all required reporting and documentation, annual reports, and applications, and attending the required federal meeting, ensuring that funds are expended in alignment with the CJA requirements and allowable categories, coordinating and tracking task force maintenance and function, and other duties specific to the state needs.

At this point, Ms. Fishman introduced Karla Tye, who is CJA coordinator for Mississippi's Children's Advocacy Centers. Ms. Tye said she had been with the task force off and on in one capacity or

another since about 2004. The CJA for the state falls under the management of the Children's Advocacy Centers. About six years ago the grant was transferred from Child Welfare Agency to the Children's Advocacy Centers. They completed a strategic planning session to help hit the reset button and reevaluate the focus of the task force and then also give some time to revise their bylaws. This was separate from anything that they did with their three-year plan. They did bring in a consultant to work with them and had surveys beforehand to from their task force members to figure out where they needed to strengthen the areas of their work. They wanted to make sure to have those written out so that it was very clear for task force members what was expected. They also outlined the CJA coordinator's role. This includes coordinating and providing support to the task force, providing support to the committees and other working groups, coordinate the three-year plan, provide updates to the task force on grant activities project and then act as the primary contact with any grantees or prospective grantees.

Their membership is comprised of all the 14 categories that they must have numbers. and they are such a valued part of the task force. However, based on the feedback they got over the years they decided to go ahead and add in what they believe are really valuable permanent representatives. Those include someone from the administration of courts. Many task force members serve on the state child fatality review team. There were gaps in reporting when it came to fatalities or near fatalities. They felt like it was really important to have a representative from this corner on the task force. So that's become one of their permanent members. They also have representation from the Attorney General's Office; that has looked different over the years. They have had someone who was the human trafficking coordinator. They have had someone who's the director of the Children's Division for the Attorney General's office. Then most recently, it is someone who oversees all the training for the prosecutors in the state. You can have up to 30 members. They have the 14 assigned disciplines and then then they can fill in with those three additional permanent slots and then others that may be best based on what the three-year assessment is. They try and have a pretty diverse representation on the board that reflects age, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic areas of the state. The did not see a decrease in attendance, that pretty much remained steady during Covid.

When they have a vacancy, individual task force members can make recommendations. Then the recommendations are voted on by the members, and once they have that approval, they send the recommendations to the Governor's Office for official appointment.

There are three-year term limits but can be renewed so an individual can serve a total of three-year terms for nine years. There is a provision for waiving term limits. They do have officers and that's the Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary and past chair and the past chair serves as a mentor to the current chair as well as parliamentarian. They have an executive committee; they have a public policy and legislative committee that reviews policies or legislation which may impact issues that are under the focus of the task force. They have ad hoc committees.

The orientation to the task force is pretty simple. They have an electronic binder of materials that is put together for each new task force member and then Ms. Tye will meet one-on-one during that transition onto the task force.

She then returned the meeting to Lauren Fishman. Ms. Fishman moved on to the Annual Report and Application Requirement. The Children's Bureau publishes an annual program instruction, and that gets sent out to all the grantees. The program instruction each year outlines the programmatic

requirements for award and operation. It details the reporting requirements, including what materials need to be submitted, and there's also legislative citations and references, information related to financial reporting, due dates, tentative allocations, et cetera.

The annual submission and response to the program instruction contains two parts. The first is the program performance report, which includes tasks, initiatives and work completed using funds in the previous year. The second is an application for proposed activities. This would be tasks, initiatives, and work to be completed in the upcoming year.

The first part of the program performance report should include a focus on the programming outputs and outcomes from CJA activities and projects from the prior year. This would include a statement of the needs which the task force had identified, and projects that were funded to address those identified needs, the results of any evaluation work related to CJA, expenditures over the previous year (to the extent possible), and information on task force maintenance over the course of the year.

The annual application, which is the second part, should provide a description of the activities to be supported with CJA Grant funds over the next year. This would be a description of each project to be funded, including the goals and objectives, a budget for each activity, any evaluation efforts related to the project that will be implemented, the extent to which the activity contributes to the reform of state system handling cases of abuse and neglect. This is where those CJA categories A, B, and C come into play. Then how each funded activity will further the implementation of state task force recommendations.

Additional submission components includes some areas where grantees are encouraged but not required to provide information on the ways in which their completed or proposed work aligns with other related work in the state, including Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) or Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), the Court Improvement Program, Court and Legal Representation Improvement Work, anti-human trafficking efforts, enhanced responses to children and families impacted by domestic violence, and creating an equitable child welfare system.

Some additional requirements are an assurance letter provided each year. This gets signed either by the governor or another authorized official for the grantee agency. There's an anti-lobbying certification which certifies that the grantee has not used funds to lobby the federal government, and then some basic applicant information.

The Annual Grant Award applications are reviewed by the Children's Bureau, and it gets reviewed by Ms. Fishman as well as staff and the Regional Office of The Children's Bureau. Once they review and approve, it goes to the Deputy Commissioner for the administration on Children, Youth and Families. The awards are then made by the ACS Office of Grants Management. These awards are made by September 30th of each year. Notifications of award are provided via e-mail.

Ms. Fishman then touched on the three-year assessment requirement. In its initial application for CJA funding every state submits an assessment documenting a comprehensive review of the state's child welfare work. Review is then done every three years thereafter to ensure that the work of CJA programming is responsive to the state's current respective child welfare needs. Then, based on

findings of that assessment process, a set of recommendations is made by the task force. When the three-year assessment is due, the state must provide documentation when at the same time that the annual report and application is submitted to document this task force did complete this comprehensive review and evaluation, and then made recommendations in each of the categories A, B, and C.

There's a variety of mechanisms that grantees use to complete this comprehensive assessment. This might include conducting surveys, secondary data analysis, taking advantage of other information sources that already exist in your state that might be relevant for your purposes, focus group partner interviews for retreats, and number of grantees find it helpful to bring in third party facilitation to help them complete the process, etcetera. There must be at least one recommendation in each of those AB and C categories, and each activity funded over the next three years has to be in alignment with at least one task force recommendation.

The Children's Bureau Federal Project Officer, which is Ms. Fishman, provides ongoing monitoring and she reviews all annual submissions, all 52. The regional office staff of the Bureau also reviews annual submissions for the states over which they have purview and Grants Management provides financial oversight. They have an annual grantee meeting which in the past have been conducted in person. In the last few years, it's been virtual. They do not know yet for this year's grantee meeting.

The video was ended. Jane Saint thanked Dylan Nall for providing it. It was a great orientation for new members. One of the things they did talk about were subcommittees and ad hoc committees. One that we do have that we need to be working on is our bylaws. Jane and Dylan have talked in the past about looking at ways to increase the membership to get a broader range of opinions and thoughts, so that might be something that we can also look at going forward.

Beverly Brown agreed this is for good for new members. They do the CJA 101 call every year, and she thought what we can do is just put the link in our welcome letter and start providing that to new members as they come on.

Jane Saint said she thought one of the best things that we could do as a task force is to be more engaged as members of the task force, and take some of the burden off Dylan Nall, who does so much for us, so we're not just showing up for a quarterly meeting and listening that we can actually engage in conversations.

Jane said that last week she was on a call with national CASA, a webinar on some legislative issues and it was brought up that one of the reasons VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding is going down in the next go around is because they're just has not been as much money being put into VOCA. Is less money going in, does it mean there's less crime? Doesn't seem like it here in this state.

No one commented.

8. For Information: Grantee Updates for FY 2022 – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jane Saint said we asked the grantees to make a presentation, and since Cheryl Cooley popped up, would she please update us on what's happening in Clark County.

Cheryl Cooley said April is Child Abuse Prevention month. They are really excited about some of the awareness work they are doing. They have some PSA's that are coming up to just pepper in their social media, their nonprofit has paid for some video PSAs, and they finished their last class for the fiscal year with forensic interviewing. They have had have a lot of staff turnover between CPS and law enforcement, and so constantly having to teach and train. She thanked for the furniture. They actually can move in and it's not clunky and falling everywhere and falling apart.

Jane thanked Cheryl for the opportunity visit the CAC in Clark County.

There was no one from either Washoe County or Great Basin to give a report.

The Great Basin people had to leave the meeting earlier. Cheryl Cooley was able to say that Great Basin is still building that new building. So, they're really excited about that. She also said that that Christie was on from Nevada Outreach Training Organization (NOTO) and had to get off. They just hired a new child and family advocate though and are getting that person on boarded and getting the multi-disciplinary (MDT) going.

9. For Information: Announcements – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

There were no announcements.

10. 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) – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

There were no comments.

11. Adjournment – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jane Saint reminded the Task Force that the next meeting is July 11. Dylan noted that she has not had much interest expressed about the By-Laws subcommittee. She would like to have at least five members. Jane Saint agreed to serve, and Rachelle Ekroos agreed to chair it.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 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.



Cindy Pitlock, DNP
Administrator

Date: June 22, 2023

To: The Children Justice Act (CJA)- Statewide Citizen Review Panel (CRP)

From: Cindy Pitlock, DNP, Administrator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Cindy Pitlock, the Administrator.

Re: Response to The Children Justice Act (CJA)- Citizens Review Panel(s) 2022 Recommendations

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) has the following responses to the recommendations made by the Citizens Review Panel(s) for Calendar Year 2022.

Recommendation 1: The Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) continues 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 sexual 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.

- 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;
 - Crimes Against Children's Conference;
 - Forensic Interview training provided by the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC);
 - Handle With Care Conference; and
 - Ongoing Domestic violence training that will address the risk and protective factors for families.

Recommendation 2: The Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) 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 Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) support recommendation includes introducing and establishing Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), as appropriate.

- Response: DCFS accepts this recommendation. CJA Task Force continues to fund and support local CACs throughout Nevada. Recently, the CJA Task Force funded and supported three (3) CACs in Nevada. The CJA Task Force has also supported Nevada's CSEC coalition. These efforts include:
 - Great Basin Children's Advocacy Center (GBCAC) was able to purchase training supplies and materials for their new building which will be open June 2023.
 - Clark County Department of Family Services furnished a conference room in March 2023 at the Southern Nevada Child Advocacy Center (SNCAC) which will be used for the collaboration of all disciplines involved in a child's case.
 - Washoe County Children's Advocacy Center (WCCAC) Enhanced their technology that included 5 laptop computers and 6 external CD/DVD players.

- *The CJA Task Force has collaborated with Nevada Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Coordinator to support a CSEC protocol implementation in Nevada. Efforts include the development of a statewide database that will track CSEC victims across multiple agencies and to establish a baseline dataset of this population and training for stakeholders to identify CSEC victims.*
- *The CSEC coalition made recommendations for 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 youth who are at risk or may be victims of sex trafficking.*
 - *Further training for staff who may encounter CSEC victims (CPS, teachers, district attorney, law enforcement, juvenile justice, etc.). This recommendation was not successful during Nevada's 2023 legislative session. DCFS will explore what efforts can be made to continue the work towards this recommendation made by the CSEC Coalition.*
 - *Establishment of MDTs and a CSEC executive committee. This recommendation was not successful during Nevada's 2023 legislative session. DCFS will explore what efforts can be made to continue the work towards this recommendation made by the CSEC Coalition.*



State of Nevada

Children's Justice Act Task Force

Bylaws

STATE OF NEVADA - CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE
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Article I – Name

- 1.1 Name.** The name of this advisory body shall be the State of Nevada Children’s Justice Act Task Force (hereinafter “Task Force”).

Article II – Authorization

- 2.1 Authorization.** The Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force is authorized by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (hereinafter “CAPTA”) Section 107, 42 USC 5106c.

Article III – Mission Statement

- 3.1 Mission Statement.** The Task Force is a multi-disciplinary body of public and private agencies and individuals, committed to the protection of children to address child abuse and neglect as a statewide and community problem requiring community solutions. Our mission is to provide systems improvement through interdisciplinary and interagency collaboration by reforming state processes for responding to child abuse and neglect.

The Task Force is also responsible for completing a State Study at three-year intervals and developing policy and training recommendations to the State in specific categories outlined in CAPTA Section 107 and in Section 3.1 herein.

Article IV – Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities

- 4.1 Purpose.** The Task Force shall work with the State of Nevada to support policy changes, training and reform regarding abuse and neglect cases as well as direct grant funding to develop, establish, and operate programs designed to improve:
- 4.1.1** The assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases, including cases of suspected child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner which limits additional trauma to the child and the child’s family;
 - 4.1.2** The assessment and investigation of cases of suspected child abuse-related fatalities and suspected child neglect-related fatalities;
 - 4.1.3** The investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation; and
 - 4.1.4** The assessment and investigation of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems who are suspected victims of abuse or neglect.
- 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.

4.3 Task Force Responsibilities. The Task Force's responsibilities are as follows:

- 4.3.1** Participate in the three-year assessment process to comprehensively evaluate the State's investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse, as well as cases involving suspected child-maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions. The Task Force must make policy and training recommendations to improve the child protection system based on its assessment. The development of the three-year assessment will be a strategic process with efforts to include stakeholders, both internal and external to the Task Force. Input from administrators, field workers, and consumers will be sought.
- 4.3.2** Determine the priorities that will guide the subgrant award process as well as inform CJA's purpose.
- 4.3.3** Make recommendations regarding policy issues. The Task force may submit to policy makers proposed improvements consistent with its mission or recommendations, In order to make a recommendation on a policy issue the matter must be presented to and approved by the Task Force.
- 4.3.4** Ensure effective planning. The Task Force must actively participate in periodic planning processes and assist in implementing and monitoring resulting recommendations.
- 4.3.5** Monitor and strengthen programs and services. The Task Force's responsibility is to determine which programs are consistent with Task Force recommendations and monitor the effectiveness of those programs.
- 4.3.6** Build a competent Task Force. The Task Force has a responsibility to articulate prerequisites for candidates, orient new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluate their own performance.
- 4.3.7** Ensure ethical integrity. The Task Force is ultimately responsible for adherence to grant conditions and ethical norms. Task Force members should recognize and disclose conflicts of interest. Task Force members shall not communicate with potential grantees regarding pending applications nor communicate with existing grantees in manners related to grant administration.
- 4.3.8** Enhance the organization's public standing. The Task Force should clearly articulate CJA's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community.
- 4.3.9** Participate in Task Force meetings. All Task Force members must make efforts to regularly attend quarterly Task Force meetings.

4.3.10 Actively contribute skills, expertise, and knowledge to Task Force. Members must serve on committees and working groups as needed. Members should attend professional development programs relevant to the purpose and goals of the Task Force.

4.3.11 Review the annual federal application and other required reports as requested.

4.3.14 Approve CJA funding for sub-grant awards.

4.4 Task Force Serves as a Citizens Review Panel- The CJA Task Force also serves as one of the three required Citizens Review Panels authorized by CAPTA Section 106(c)(4)(A)(i) and NRS 342B.396. CRP's are established to improved child protective services at the state and local levels. CRP's may function as a part of other committees already in existence. Also, Panels have flexibility in determining how to proceed, identifying projects or activities that interest and best support each panel's areas of expertise.

The Panels assists the DCFS and local county agencies to continually assess the services provided to Nevada children and families by:

4.4.1 Examining the policies, procedures and practices of State and local child protection agencies, and

4.4.2 Reviewing specific cases, where appropriate. In addition, consistent with section 106(c)(4)(A)(iii) of CAPTA

4.4.3 Examine other criteria that it considers important to ensure the protection of children, including the extent to which the State and local CPS system is coordinated with the title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance programs of the Social Security Act

4.4.4 This provision also authorizes the panels to review the child fatalities and near fatalities in the State

Article V – Required Areas for Use of CJA Grant Funds

5.1 Recommendation Categories. Children's Justice Act (CJA) grants shall be used to implement Task Force recommendations in the following three categories subject to the limitations in subsection 5.1.4:

5.1.1 Assessment and Investigation of cases of child abuse and neglect. Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as cases involving suspected child-maltreatment-related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as interstate, federal-state, and state-tribal, in a manner which reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family and which also ensures procedural fairness to the accused;

- 5.1.2 Innovative approaches.** Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation cases and cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems, including the enhancement of performance of court-appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem for children, and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused; and
- 5.1.3 Process improvement.** Reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, including sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.
- 5.1.4 Limitations.** Supporting child abuse prevention programs or treatment services is not an appropriate use of CJA funds.

Article VI - Membership

6.1 Mandatory Membership. The Task Force shall be composed of individuals with knowledge and experience relating to the criminal justice system and issues of child physical abuse, child neglect, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child maltreatment related fatalities. In accordance with the federal program instructions, the Task Force shall include members representing the following disciplines:

- 6.1.1** Law Enforcement Community
- 6.1.2** Criminal Court Judge
- 6.1.3** Civil Court Judge
- 6.1.4** Prosecuting Attorney(s)
- 6.1.5** Defense Attorney(s)
- 6.1.6** Child Advocate(s) (Attorneys for Children)
- 6.1.7** Court Appointed Special Advocate Representative(s)
- 6.1.8** Health Professional(s)
- 6.1.9** Mental Health Professional(s)
- 6.1.10** Child Protective Service Agencies
- 6.1.11** Individual(s) experienced in working with children with disabilities
- 6.1.12** Parents and Representative(s) of Parent Groups
- 6.1.13** Adult survivor of child abuse or neglect*; and
- 6.1.14** Individual(s) experienced in working with homeless children and youth (as defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)).

**While the language in CAPTA describes this category of Task Force members as “adult former victims of child abuse and neglect,” the Task Force has consulted with the individual representing this category and determined a designation that provides a more meaningful and empowering way to describe their experience and role on the Task Force, particularly for use in public events or public facing documents.*

6.2 Advisory or Collaborative Membership. The Task Force shall have the discretion to also seek to include non-voting advisory or collaborative members representing the following disciplines:

6.2.1 Children’s Advocacy Centers

6.2.2 Indian Child Welfare

6.2.3 CJA Alumni

6.2.4 Juvenile Services

6.2.5 Education

6.2.6 Court Improvement Program

6.2.7 Court Improvement Councils

6.2.8 Rural Multidisciplinary Teams

6.2.9 Victim Advocates

6.2.10 Other Individuals Deemed Appropriate by Task Force

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.

6.5 Provision for Remote Participation. Task Force members may participate in meetings by teleconference or webinar at the discretion of DCFS, especially when individuals reside in rural areas and cannot feasibly attend an in-person meeting.

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.

6.7 Proxies. A member may designate a proxy from the same membership category for any meeting. If a voting Member is not able to attend a meeting, the Member is strongly encouraged to designate a proxy for that meeting. Advance notice must be given in writing to the Chairs and/or staff for the CJA Task Force. Electronic mail is acceptable. Proxies may not represent CJA Task Force members for more than 50% of meetings held within a calendar year. Proxies may vote on behalf of the CJA Task Force member they represent. A voting Member is not required to use the

same proxy at each meeting.

- 6.8 Non-Discrimination.** The CJA Task Force shall not discriminate in any regard with respect to age, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, parenthood, custody of a minor child, physical disability, or mental disability

Article VII – Officers and Elections

- 7.1 Officers.** Officers of the Task Force shall consist of one (1) Chair and one (1) Vice-Chair.
- 7.2 Duties.** The Duties of the Chair and Vice-chair include the following:
- 7.2.1** Guiding and leading the Task Force toward its goals;
 - 7.2.2** Presiding at Task Force meetings;
 - 7.2.3** Approving the written agenda for meetings of the Task Force.
 - 7.2.4** Appointing committees and committee chairs as provided by these bylaws;
 - 7.2.5** Overseeing federally required assessments.
- 7.3 Vice Chair.** The Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair and perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or be necessary in the absence of the Chair.
- 7.4 Term and Election.** Officers are elected for a three (3) year term of office. Each officer serves until the election of a successor. Elections shall be held at the first regularly scheduled meeting falling on or after October 1 at the end of the current officer's three (3) year term. Election shall be upon majority vote of Task Force members present. Officers may be re-elected.
- 7.5 Qualifications/Limitations.** To the extent possible, officers should represent different disciplines from the mandatory representation (7.1) to ensure Task Force leadership reflects a multidisciplinary perspective. Employees of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) shall not serve as officers to prevent a conflict of interest in the leadership of the Task Force.
- 7.6 Vacancies.** Any vacancies in office during an unexpired term shall be filled by an election of the Task Force and the person elected shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term of office.
- 7.7 Nominating Subcommittee.** A Nominating Subcommittee established by the Task Force may nominate candidates for open office positions, or Task Force members may make nominations from the floor. Each office shall be voted upon separately. If more than two nominees are selected for a single office, the lowest vote recipient shall be eliminated during each round of voting necessary until only two nominees remain. Nominees for offices who receive a majority vote for the office available shall be declared elected to that office, effective within 30 days of the meeting at which the election occurred.

Article VIII- Committees and Subcommittees

- 8.1 General.** The Task Force may establish standing committees and subcommittees if determined to be necessary to meet the duties and responsibilities of the Task Force.

- 8.2 Appointment.** The Chair and Vice-Chair shall designate and appoint committees or subcommittees of the Task Force as deemed necessary. Non-Task Force members may be appointed to any committee or sub-committee at the discretion of the Task Force. Task Force members are expected to serve on committees as needed.
- 8.3 Standing Committees.** The Task Force may maintain standing committees such as an Executive Committee, Membership Committee, and/or Training Committee.
- 8.4 Powers.** Committee or subcommittee members appointed by the Chair shall have power and authority to make decisions only as specifically assigned by a majority of a quorum of the Task Force at any regular or special meeting of the Task Force. Committee or subcommittee chairs and/or support staff shall be responsible for keeping minutes of meetings and reporting on activities to the Task Force as a whole.
- 8.5 Removal.** The committee or subcommittee chair and/or member may be removed at the direction of the Task Force Chair, with agreement by DCFS or by a majority of a quorum of the Task Force at any regular or special meeting of the CJA Task Force.
- 8.6 Term of Office.** Each member of a committee or subcommittee shall serve a term of one year, unless the committee or subcommittee is sooner terminated or unless a member is removed from such committee or subcommittee.
- 8.7 Vacancies.** Vacancies in the membership of any committee or subcommittee may be filled by appointment made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointments.

Article IX- Meetings

- 9.1 Frequency of Meetings.** The Task Force shall schedule at least four (4) meetings a year, with additional meetings called by the Chair, if necessary. A meeting schedule with at least three (3) future meeting dates set shall be established at the beginning of each federal fiscal year. The Chair shall establish meeting dates in consultation with the Task Force. Meetings may be cancelled by DCFS in consultation with the Task Force Chair. Special meetings of the Task Force may be called by any member by notifying the State staff, and such meeting shall be scheduled within 30 days of the request being made.
- 9.2 Open Meetings.** All meetings of the CJA Task Force shall comply with the requirements of the State of Nevada Open Meeting Law, contained in NRS Chapter 241. A Public Comment item shall be included on each agenda to allow members of the public to address the Committee.
- 9.3 Agendas.** Agendas shall be developed by support staff in cooperation with the Chair. Required notification of action items, public comment, and agenda posting shall comply with the requirements of the State of Nevada Open Meeting Law, contained in NRS Chapter 241.
- 9.4 Meeting Records and Minutes.** State staff shall perform the functions of Secretary to the Task Force, including keeping a record of the proceedings of the Task Force (Minutes), keeping the

organization's official membership roll, and maintaining records based upon federal and State record retention requirements.

- 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.
- 9.6 Conflict of Interest.** Members shall abstain from voting on issues that relate to a possible conflict of interest, e.g., funding to a program in which they are a salaried employee or a member of the governing or advisory board. A record of abstentions shall be part of the minutes. Members shall not use their position on the Task Force to influence other members, or the Task Force as a whole, to award funding or give privileges, preferences, exemptions, or advantages to specific agencies or programs with which they are directly employed or affiliated. Members must disclose their employment or affiliation with specific agencies or programs when business related to such agencies or programs is set before the Task Force for deliberation.
- 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.

Article X – Confidentiality

- 10.1** Task Force members shall not disclose sensitive information obtained as a result of the grant award and monitoring process or the content of Task Force deliberations regarding grant approval. CJA staff shall act as sole contact with grantees and prospective sub grantees regarding pending applications and approved grant activities.

Article XI – Miscellaneous

- 11.1 Amendments to Bylaws.** These bylaws may be amended upon majority vote of the Task Force membership at a duly announced meeting at which a quorum is present, provided that proposed amendments are distributed to members at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.
- 11.2 Removal from Membership.** When a member has a third unexcused absence within a calendar year, the Chair will send a notification letter to the member that the CJA Task Force intends to take action to request removal and replacement of the member at the next regularly scheduled meeting. At that meeting, the member will have an opportunity to refute the action or the CJA Task Force will proceed with the removal and replacement process. The removal and replacement process shall be a simple majority vote to recommend the removal of the member and request that a replacement be made by the DCFS Administrator based on CAPTA Section 107 membership requirements.
- 11.3 Travel and Per Diem.** Reimbursement for travel and per diem costs at State rates shall be processed by support staff to the CJA Task Force for each eligible member, and drawn from the travel funds budgeted as part of the CJA Task Force's biennial budget.
- 11.4 Governance.** Task Force meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise specified by these bylaws.

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: Ida Peeks | Date: 6/20/2023 |
| Agency: Washoe County Human Services Agency | |
| FFY2020 Grant Funds Received: \$40,050 | |
| Funds expended: \$38,185.92 | |

Activities Funded and Evaluation Work

| |
|---|
| Describe the activity funded: |
| <p>WCHSA requested travel/training to provide specialized training for workers and partners of the Child Advocacy Center. Staff and MDT members attended the Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas, Texas August 8-11, 2022.</p> <p>WCHSA booked travel and arrangements for staff to attend the Child Welfare League of America's Annual Conference in April 2023.</p> <p>In May 2023 WCHSA hosted the John E. Reid & Associates training over two days which will cover interview techniques for suspects of child abuse and child sexual abuse investigations. The Reid Training has been offered to members of the Multidisciplinary team across Northern Nevada, hosted by WCHSA through the CJA grant.</p> <p>The CJA grant also funded technology for staff members of the CAC and we were able to purchase laptops and external CD/DVD drives in October 2022.</p> |
| 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): |
| <p>In August of 2022, 8 members of WCHSA attended the Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas Texas. The 8 participants varied in experience levels, scope, and application of the knowledge, reaching WCHSA's Child Protection Workers on the Multidisciplinary Team for the Child Advocacy Center, WCHSA's foster care licensing investigation unit, and WCHSA's after-hours emergency response team. There were over 110 in-person hours of instruction completed amongst the 8 participants, and over 50 additional hours of online curriculum completed. The information gained from this training benefited several of our front-line</p> |

CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

investigation programs and added knowledge about child fatality, physical abuse, and sexual abuse investigations.

The Child Welfare League of America's Annual Conference was attended by 3 child welfare assessment staff in April 2023 and was over 2 full days and 1 half day with workshops, roundtables and lectures with a total of 22 hours of training and staff development. One staff member was unable to attend. The participants gained increased knowledge in information gathering, fostering connections with community and family partners, and application of the safety model to child welfare safety assessments.

The Reid Training occurred May 31st – June 2nd which allowed for 29 people to participate. This training was offered to the entire MDT and additional agencies in Northern Nevada. Attendees included 16 law enforcement members, 9 CPS workers, 2 mental health workers and 2 advocates. The training offered in depth learning of the application of the Reid Interview Technique, the preferred suspect interview method throughout Washoe County law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's office. The Benefit of opening the training to the MDT ensured that all members of the MDT are utilizing the same interview techniques during all contacts with suspects and witnesses during an investigation. The CPS worker attendees have been working on collaborating the "best takeaways" from the training to share with other CPS workers in Washoe County, extending the reach of the training.

Online trainings from CRTI have given opportunities for 26 frontline employees to participate in online training specific to leadership, secondary and vicarious trauma, working with challenging clients, working within dynamics of family violence and bullying, and culture trainings. These trainings were accessible and open to all of WCHSA assessment staff and supervisors. All assessment supervisors took the online training for trauma-informed leadership.

The external CD/DVD drives that were purchased are used frequently by the Child Advocacy Assessment workers. DVD drives allow workers to review forensic interviews and suspect interviews during their assessment and documentation and have become a key component to completing assessment. The laptops provided have been used daily and allow for caseworkers to be mobile and work from police stations, forensic interviews, and other places in the field necessary for them to remain an active part of the MDT. For example, when interviews are taking place at a police station, caseworkers can bring their laptops to assist in live-time documentation and information sharing. Since the last reporting period additional technology has been purchased to include 7 enhanced laptop monitors, 4 large monitors for CAC, 1 desk, 1 printer station, and 7 upgraded cell phones and cases to allow for better camera technology. Increased technology has allowed for the CPS workers to be more accurate in their documentation and increased efficiency of working from both the office and the field. The ReMarkable2 tablet was purchased as a pilot for assessment staff to determine if that technology would better assist them in documentation directly from the field. Field documentation is more accurate as it is occurring as the events are happening. Field documentation also allows for better time management for caseworkers and increases efficiency in the tasks of the job.

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: Rachael Berg | Date: 6/22/2023 |
| Agency: Great Basin Children's Advocacy Center | |
| FFY2020 Grant Funds Received 14,520.00 | |
| Funds expended: 9,760.54 | |

Activities Funded and Evaluation Work

| |
|--|
| Describe the activity funded: |
| We just wrapped up our training that we hosted with Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center on June 20, 2023 on Secondary Trauma. At the end of that training, toolkits were offered to the participants. As soon as we have the poll results on who wanted a toolkit, we will be expending out the remaining \$3,200.00 in the CJA grant on those and sending them out to the participants. |
| 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): |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |