

MINUTES

Nevada Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force Subcommittee
Citizen Review Panel Recommendations

November 27, 2023

8:00 AM

1. Call to Order – Rachell Ekroos, Chair

Meeting called to order at 8:03 AM by Rachell Ekroos.

2. For information: Roll Call – Rachell Ekroos, Chair

Dylan Nall called the roll.

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Dylan Nall	Nevada DCFS
Elyse Monroy-Marsala	
Hannah Branch	
Jane Saint	Boys Town Nevada
Laurie Jackson	Nevada DCFS
Melinda Rhoades	
Michelle Rodriguez	Family Court Master
Rachell Ekroos	
Sabrina Schnur	
Salli Kerr	Western Regional CAC
Susan Waschevski	
Bruce Cole (recorder)	Nevada DCFS

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). – Rachell Ekroos, Chair

No comments.

4. For Possible Action: Draft and/or Approve 2024 CJA’s Recommendations – Rachell Ekroos, Chair & Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall briefly reviewed last year’s (2023) recommendations. 1. the CJA task force recommends that DCFS continue to prioritize training for all welfare staff and stakeholders in the state of Nevada to improve the investigation and handling of child abuse and neglect, particularly child's 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. 2. recommends that DCFS support efforts to translate best practices and support community specific-needs to coordinate multidisciplinary responses to child abuse, neglect or cases involving both particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This MDT support recommendation includes introducing and establishing children advocacy centers as appropriate.

Rachell Ekroos said that, to add a little background, some of the language we changed was ensuring medical forensic interventions as an umbrella phrase that catches all services, and we also added the comments last time on the CACs as appropriate and tweaked some more of the language.

Jane Saint asked what the difference was between domestic and interpersonal violence. Salli Kerr explained that interpersonal violence is more of an umbrella term that's going to include violence between people that share a child but do not necessarily live together. It just has a broader meaning and pulls in different definitions than does domestic violence. It could be anybody that's living in that household, even if they're not in a personal relationship. Rachell Ekroos added that it's not a new term, but in use since the mid-2000s; you're starting to see it much more in the federal documentation, and especially in the research in the area. In her professional arena in forensic nursing, it's been used very strongly for about the past 10 years. It's the term the World Health Organization adopted, and it's considered more universal. She added that the acronym is IPV and is a larger term than intimate partner violence.

After further discussion about language and best practices, the two recommendations now read:

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, trauma-informed practices, and cultural responsiveness.

2. The Children's Justice 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, maintaining, and establishing Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs), in conjunction with the Nevada State (CAC) Chapter as appropriate.

Salli Kerr moved to approve these recommendations. Jane Saint seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

5. For Information: Announcements – Rachell Ekroos, Chair

Salli Kerr said she had a document she can send to Dylan and then send out to this subcommittee, and we may bring it to the larger committee at some point. This particular document is called "Shining a Light on the Preventative Response to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the United States." Nevada was one of the pilot states of that study, and so it really goes through some very

nice things about policies and practices. Child Exploitation is a public health problem, and it gives us some things that we could really look at as far as what Nevada is doing as opposed to other states.

Jane Saint asked how Nevada fared in the study. Salli answered, across the board, about the way we typically expect. They give some nice overall statistics, and an early look at some of the responses that Nevada has and where we could start to build.

6. 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 – Rachell Ekroos, Chair

There were no comments.

7. Adjournment – Rachell Ekroos, Chair

Adjournment was at 8:24 AM.