

MINUTES

Nevada Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force Subcommittee
Evaluation of Grantees

June 14, 2023

1:00 PM

1. Call to Order – Salli Kerr, Chair

Meeting called to order at 1:09 PM by Salli Kerr. Janice Wolfe, spokesperson for the Evaluation Subcommittee, was not present.

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

Dylan Nall called the roll.

Attendees:

| Name | Organization |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Beverly Brown | Nevada DCFS |
| Dylan Nall | Nevada DCFS |
| Wendy Maddox | Magistrate |
| Fran Maldonado | Nevada DCFS |
| Jane Saint | Director, Nevada CASA |
| Jimesian Sanders | Nevada DCFS |
| Laurie Jackson | Nevada DCFS |
| Michelle Rodriguez | Magistrate |
| Salli Kerr | Western Regional CAC |
| Bruce Cole (recorder) | Nevada DCFS |

Absent:

| Name | Organization |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Desiree Mattice | Lieutenant – Dept. of Public Safety |
| Janice Wolfe | Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada |

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

No comments.

4. For Possible Action: Approve March Minutes – Dylan Nall, DCFS

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

Dylan Nall said that this subcommittee usually meets the month after the CJA task force meeting, so she put forward proposed dates of August 9, 2023; November 8, 2023; February 7, 2024; and May 8, 2024.

Jane Saint said she would not be available for the August date. She will be in Omaha on business with Boys Town. Given the time difference, though, maybe she could sneak away and attend. Fran Maldonado suggested substituting August 2nd. Most others were fine with that, but Michelle Rodriguez said she would be in hearings all that morning- Wednesday mornings she normally has juvenile delinquent hearings from 8:15 until noon. Dylan Nall asked about changing it to Wednesday afternoons at 1 PM. That was a good time for Michelle Rodriguez.

Jane Saint moved to approve the proposed meeting dates as changed, to August 2nd, November 8th, February 7th, May 8th, all at 1:00 PM. Michelle Rodriguez seconded. Approved unanimously.

6. For Information – Review and discuss upcoming Grantee and their proposed activities – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall went over the approved grants from the NOFO subcommittee meeting.

Clark County Department of Family Services was approved for full funding. They are seeking to contract with the National Children's Advocacy Center to train up to 90 Southern Nevada Child Advocacy Center (SNCAC) and community partner professionals in forensic interviewing. They're also seeking funding to assist in providing the latest technology to enhance law enforcement's ability to be efficient in working on site at the SNCAC through the purchase of a high-speed copier machine. They were awarded full funding at \$48,500.

Great Basin Child Advocacy Center requested funding for two forensic interviewers seeking Advanced Child Forensic Interview training (AFI) called Beyond the Basics through the National Child Advocacy Center. They requested \$6300 and were fully funded as well.

A new grantee, the Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing, requested CJA funding to aid in the cost of virtual training for their contracted nurses to work with the children under their care. The awarded funding would provide the cost for the new technology, the VALT Cloud system, to be used in the soft exam room and the mobile unit which will allow for remote viewing of interviews by law enforcement or attorneys. All the VALT Cloud information is admissible in court. They were awarded full funding of \$14,362.

No to Abuse – Nevada Outreach Training Organization (NOTO) wants to send 14 people to the San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment in January 2024. This would include two staff from each discipline, including children's advocacy, forensic interviewers, law enforcement,

prosecution, medical, mental health, and child protective services. Their request of \$19,849 was fully funded.

Washoe County Health and Human Services wants to provide specific advanced training for their CAC team to enhance services and stay current with emerging trends and best practices. Trainings are specific to forensic interviewing for five CAC protection workers, CSEC advocacy courses 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 Trauma-Informed Leadership training for four MDT members in leadership roles. Additionally, this project includes the purchase of two multifunction printers needed for the medical unit office and the assessment workers' office within the CAC to increase efficiency and accessibility, and seven large monitors for intake assessment workers to increase their intake efficiency. They were fully funded at \$40,684.

Salli Kerr asked about the total amount awarded because she thought it went over this year's total allocation. Dylan Nall confirmed that that was the case. Jane Saint said that they had quite the conversation about whether we wanted to provide full funding or not, but we have extra money this year, so while we can meet the needs, let's do it.

7. For Possible Action: To review and possibly make edits to quarterly grantee update – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall sent the Grantee Update Template as one of the attachments. This has been discussed at prior meetings. We wanted to make sure that we updated it to make it a little bit more efficient and ask grantees certain questions to make sure that the grants that we were funding are up to date, with their answering the questions that we want answered. We are doing this to basically update our CJA coordinator and then also our CJA Task force. We want to make sure that we're getting the right evaluation, we're funding the right activities, no one is overspending, etc.

If there is anything that we wanted to add, subtract, et cetera, Dylan can edit this, and we can talk about it. So that is what this subcommittee meeting was basically for.

Jane Saint said she had a problem with this format because it doesn't tell us really anything. It gives grantees the opportunity to just put some words down and she didn't feel that it properly helps us track the activities. She had sent Dylan an idea of an evaluation form that she has used in the past. Dylan told her that because this is an Open Meeting, she couldn't send it to the whole group. Dylan said yes because it would look like they were working outside of a public meeting. But Jane Saint could share it with the whole group right now because this is an Open Meeting, and anyone can join.

Jane Saint put up the report. When they get money from the national CASA office, this is what they have to give back. It has the goals and objectives, the activities that were planned, whether completed or not, the results of the activities and then any barriers towards achieving the objective. She felt that it would give us a better picture than somebody just giving us words on a page because there are actual categories that they have to answer.

Salli Kerr said she liked this form pretty well. It's not so complicated as some of them she has seen, but it does allow us to break some things down. She recalled that we were also going to change some of the evaluation wording in the Notification of Funding Opportunities (NOFO). She said we are almost in this weird interim place because we didn't really set out really kind of clear evaluation goals in the last NOFO. But this next round we will, and then have an evaluation that ties more to what they've been told up front.

Dylan Nall said that she was hoping that in the August meeting she can have the NOFO ready and then she and Beverly Brown can make it all perfect prior to the December due date. If we do it in August, that gives us some time to talk about it and then time to get it all finalized.

Jane Saint said that one thing she would add is, how much grantees have spent so far as well. We need to give our grantees, if there are any issues with not being able to spend the money by their time frame, an opportunity to tell us.

Dylan Nall said that if everyone is fine with Jane Saint's report, she can take this and make a new one. Dylan and Salli Kerr agreed that if they matched up their work on the evaluation form and the NOFO in August, that would still give Fiscal Year 2023-2024 grantees time to do a quarterly report on the new form.

Salli Kerr asked if a grantee doesn't spend their funding by June 30th, do we have a way to offer them, say, a 90-day extension and can they redo objectives to have a way to spend that? Is that typically how that's handled since it's already allocated funding?

Beverly Brown said they must have the money obligated by June 30th, but she believes they have until the end of September to spend it. It is rare, but they could ask to have it extended. They would just have to let us know and then we would ask our Grants Management Unit what they need to do that. Beverly didn't know what the exact date is, but there is the deadline for when you can request it like that.

Salli Kerr said she would follow up off-line on this and added one of the benefits of the new form is that you will see these issues coming.

Laurie Jackson moved to bring the alternative form back for discussion to this group. Michelle Rodriguez seconded. Approved unanimously.

8. For Possible Action: To review and add possible future agenda items. – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall said it sounded like we wanted to add the updated NOFO and the updated grantee update to the agenda for the August meeting. Jane Saint moved those two items be added to the agenda. Laurie Jackson seconded. Approved unanimously.

9. For Information: Announcements – Salli Kerr, Chair

Jane Saint announced she will be leaving Nevada CASA as their state executive director the end of the month. They will be replacing her position, so if anyone knows of someone who might be interested in leading a state organization, there's an opportunity there. The Board is currently putting together a search committee and updating her old job description from 2018.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:41 PM