

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

Children's Justice Act Task Force

Division of Child and Family Services- Family Programs Office

Dylan Nall

February 7, 2025



Department of Health and Human Services

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



TEAMS' LINK

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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 803208052#. 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 October 1, 2024, meeting minutes



For Possible Action

6. For Possible Action– *Dylan Nall, Division of Child and Family Services*

- Consideration, Discussion and Possible Approval of the 2024 Annual Citizen’s Review Panel (CRP) recommendations to DCFS



Proposed CRP Recommendations

- **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 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, child protection assessment and system of care models, family and interpersonal violence, mandatory reporting, medical forensic interventions, trauma-informed practices, and cultural responsiveness.
- **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, maintaining, and establishing Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) in conjunction with the Nevada State CAC Chapter as appropriate.



For Information

7. For Information– *Salli Kerr, Chair*

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Subcommittee
Yearly Meeting Reminder



For Information

8. For Information– Salli Kerr, Chair

- Reminder of Existing Mandated Reporter Training
- <https://mandatedreportertraining.com/nevada/>
 - The training is free but to print out the certificate the price is \$7.99



For Information

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

- Provide Taskforce with State Fiscal Year 2026 NOFO timeframes

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Date/Time</u> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Grant opportunity announced | January 06, 2025 |
| Deadline for submission | February 14, 2025 |
| Evaluation period (approximate time frame) | March 2025 – April 2025 |
| Announcement of awards | June 2025 |
| Program start date | July 1, 2025 |
| Program end date | June 30, 2026 |



For Information

10. For Information: DCFS process on scheduling Trittech Forensic Training– *Dylan Nall, Division of Child and Family Services*

- *Clark County July 7, 2025 thru July 10, 2025 (two sessions)*
- *Washoe County August 4, 2025 thru August 7, 2025 (two sessions)*
- *Rural Region September 22, 2025 thru September 23, 2025 (one session)*



For Information

11. For Information: Court Improvement Program and Judicial, Court and Attorney Measure of Performance (JCAMP) Presentation– *Zaide Martinez, Statewide Court Improvement Program Officer*



For Information

12. 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

13. For Information: Task Force Member
Announcements Regarding Their Agencies— *Salli Kerr,*
Chair



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.)

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Adjournment

15. 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

October 1, 2024

9:00am

NOTE: AS THIS MEETING WAS NOT RECORDED, THESE “MINUTES” ARE A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MEETING TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM.

Members Present:

| Name | Organization |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Christine Sullivan | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Jamie Wong | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Jane Saint, Vice-Chair | Boys Town Nevada |
| Janice Wolfe | Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada |
| Wonswayla Mackey | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Laurie Jackson | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Margaret Pickard | Eighth Judicial District |
| Melanie McCormick | Nevada CASA |
| Michelle Rodriguez | Family Court Master |
| Rachell Ekroos | Health Professional |

Members Absent:

| Name | Organization |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Angelina Blare | Adult Survivor |
| Betsey Crumrine | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Desiree Mattice | Lieutenant – Dept. of Public Safety |
| Fran Maldonado | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Massey Mayo | Children’s Attorney |
| Wendy Maddox | Humboldt County DA |

Guests:

| Name | Organization |
|-------------|--------------|
| Britt Young | |

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| Jan Marson | Carson City CAC |
| Lauren Pow | Children's Cabinet |

Staff Support:

| Name | Organization |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Beverly Brown | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Dylan Nall | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Jimesian Sanders | 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) – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

There was no comment.

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

Dylan Nall said that we did turn in our three-year assessment, which means we updated our goals for the next three years. We did change just some specific language regarding interpersonal violence. Other than that, are five goals have remained pretty much the same. Goal 1 is to 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 multi-disciplinary response for victims of child sexual abuse and exploitation, witness to interpersonal violence, physical abuse, and victims with disabilities.

Goal 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 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 July 2, 2024 meeting minutes – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

The minutes were approved.

6. For Possible Vote to Approve: Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve nominees for the CJA Chair and Vice-Chair – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Salli Kerr and Rachell Ekroos were approved as nominees for CJA Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

7. For Possible Vote to Approve: Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to approve new CJA Chair and Vice-Chair – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Salli Kerr and Rachell Ekroos were approved as new CJA Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

8. For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to recommend DCFS to use CJA funding to provide Tritech Forensic Training regarding the Child Death Investigation Course for child welfare staff and other professionals who will investigate the death of children in Nevada – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Below are notes from the meeting forwarded by Jimesian Sanders:

Dylan Nall said this training will be provided training to any child welfare staff who will be investigating the death of children. This course is roughly \$300.00 a person.

1. Child Death Investigations Course, 16 hours, two sessions presented on four consecutive days in the Greater Las Vegas area. \$7,300.00
2. Child Death Investigations Course, 16 hours, two sessions presented on four consecutive days in the Greater Reno area. \$7,300.00
3. Child Death Investigations Course, 16 hours, two sessions presented on four consecutive days in the Greater Elko area. \$5,800.00

Because communication is key to any death investigation, this training has a focus on interdisciplinary approaches and collaboration.

“Interdisciplinary Approach: Because every death matters.” With every state in the country now having some type of child fatality review system in place, the process by which child death cases are handled and investigated is under immense scrutiny. Every agency having a role in a child death investigation must be prepared to have their involvement analyzed from beginning to end.

Communication is the number one reason agencies identify as a system issue in many investigations. Unfortunately, it is an issue that can permeate and wreak havoc at any stage of an investigation.

This program addresses child deaths from an interdisciplinary perspective. This approach provides all agencies the necessary information to not only investigate and gather information but to understand and appreciate the details and collaboration required in order to make a final determination of cause and manner of death.

Two courses with approved 16 hours of certification/re-certification training credit.

Actual cases will be covered, from the initial 911 call through to the final determinations of cause and manner of death. At each step of the investigative process, we will examine what was done correctly, what was missed and why, why some details are more important than others, and critical communication times. These exercises help participants truly grasp the importance of how even the smallest details can have a significant effect on the outcome of a case.

Manners of death—Natural, Accidental, Suicide, Homicide, Undetermined. We will explore each pathologist and the methods they employ to reach their determinations.

- Mechanisms of death—The pathological aspects of the cause of death. We will discuss interpretation of injuries and the lack of injuries. What do the pathologists look for with their various tests and analyses? What does asphyxiation look like?
- What is SIDS anyway? We will do an in-depth analysis of this subjective and often misapplied diagnosis.
- Why are infants so complicated? Regardless of circumstances, infant death cases have many associated issues that must be addressed during the investigative process.
- Scene investigations—What makes a child death scene different?
- Court issues—Now that we are here, what is going to happen?
- Reconstructions—A must of any infant death, reconstructions are a valuable tool regardless of the age of the decedent. We will do re-enactments and cover exactly how to do a complete infant/child death scene reconstruction.
- Interviewing families—Talking to families and gathering information from them can be difficult and unnerving in highly emotional situations. We will address specific strategies for obtaining maximal information from families.

9. For Information: Review response from Children’s Bureau regarding CJA’s Annual Report – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan reviewed the response from the Children's Bureau:

Thank you for submitting the Children’s Justice Act application. The Children’s Bureau has completed its review of your submission, which included a review and comments from staff in both the Central Office and Region 9 Office. Overall, we found that NV’s submission was clear, concise, thorough, and contained all the required information. All activities completed over the course of the previous year and proposed for the year to come appear appropriate for the CJA program and aligned with Task Force recommendations.

It was great to see that Task Force membership continues to be full, and we appreciated the information on Task Force maintenance over the course of the year. We do encourage the Task Force to consider the inclusion of individuals with lived experience with the child welfare system as parents, as this can provide a unique and important perspective to the work. In addition, we would encourage the Task Force to consider the inclusion of individuals representing tribal populations as well.

We appreciated the level of information provided on the ways in which the Task Force is collaborating with the Court Improvement Program (CIP) around a proposed goal for NV’s Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) to improve existing relationships between child welfare and courts to improve outcomes for families. We look forward to learning more about this work and the involvement of the Task Force as this moves forward.

Updates on ongoing activities including multidisciplinary professional training, technology upgrades for CACs, and support for the CSEC database were clear and well-detailed, and it was great to see the amount of work that was accomplished over the course of the year through CJA support. We also appreciated the inclusion of outputs and outcomes from each activity, and the efforts that have been made to get a better sense of the impacts of trainings through evaluation strategies.

NV's Three-Year Assessment report was also clear and concise, and provided a detailed overview of the process used to complete the assessment as well as the resulting recommendations. It was good to see that the Task Force took into consideration the multidisciplinary presentations that it has received in recent years and that they were able to use this information to agree upon areas of focus for moving forward. •Again, thank you for your report and application. The Children's Bureau does not require any additional information at this time, and your application will be forwarded to our leadership for review and approval. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to let me know.

10. For Information: Citizen Review Panel's Recommendations Subcommittee Yearly Meeting Reminder – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jane Saint reminded the meeting about the yearly CRP Recommendation Subcommittee meeting.

11. For Information: Updates to the Task Force on activities and spending of Children's Justice Act funds by current grantees – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Clark and Washoe counties gave update on their activities

12. For Information: Task Force Member Announcements Regarding Their Agencies – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jan Marson of Carson City CAC gave an update of its activities.

13. 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 – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

No comments.

14. Adjournment – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

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 funded 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, Dylan Nall, dnall@dcfs.nv.gov

Grantee Information

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Name: Ida Peeks | Date: 12/16/2024 |
| Agency: Washoe County Health and Human Services | |
| SFY2025 Grant Funds Received: \$15,000 | |
| Funds expended to date: \$2,396 | |

Part One: Activities Funded and Evaluation Work

Per Grant Application, funded activities:

1. WCHSA will provide a range of discipline specific and advanced trainings for the CAC team and members of the CAC multi-disciplinary (MDT) to enhance services and stay current with emerging trends and best practices. Trainings are specific to child interviewing for forty-five welfare staff, Child Welfare League annual conference for two welfare staff, and International Symposium on Child Abuse Conference for two welfare staff. Additionally, WCHSA will purchase 6 Remarkable tablets with the intent of providing technology to staff members at the CAC to improve the investigation and assessment of child abuse and neglect.

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:

1. WCHSA will provide a range of discipline specific and advanced trainings for the CAC team and members of the CAC multi-disciplinary (MDT) to enhance services and stay current with emerging trends and best practices. Trainings are specific to child interviewing for forty-five welfare staff, Child Welfare League annual conference for two welfare staff, and International Symposium on Child Abuse Conference for two welfare staff.

Objectives: To enhance services and stay current with emerging trends and best practices through discipline specific and advanced trainings.

Activities Planned: WCHSA is in process of scheduling this activity and anticipates its completion to be in Spring of 2025.

Activity Completed: None to date.

Results of Activities: NA

Any Barriers: Currently, the only barriers are the timelines for the selected trainings; all of which are scheduled to occur in early 2025.

CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

2. WCHSA will purchase 6 Remarkable tablets with the intent of providing technology to staff members to improve the investigation and assessment of child abuse and neglect.

Objectives: To allow for more technology resources to better manage caseloads and assist staff with through documentation of case activities. Remarkable allow for paperless signatures on forms from the field and paperless note taking in the field.

Activities Planned: no more planning required for this activity

Activity Completed: All 6 Remarkable tablets have been purchased, 2 are currently on back order.

Results of Activities: Remarkable tablets are being distributed on an "As needed" basis to staff who are showing difficulties in case documentation. Their flexibility allows staff to use them from the field and work more efficiently without needing an internet connection. We have seen improvements with documentation timeliness and thoroughness for those who were distributed tablets.

Any Barriers: There were not enough funds distributed to provide all investigative staff with tablets, the decision was made to utilize the tablets distributed to investigative staff who needed extra assistance with documentation and case 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.

We have been able to assist performance management of investigators using the remarkable tablets. They have aided towards a paper free goal by allowing forms to be signed directly from the field, despite connection to the internet. The remarkable tablet technology assists our staff in maintaining records for each case in a way that is organized and easy to access.

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."

CJA Grantee Quarterly Update

2024/2025 Meeting Dates: