

MINUTES

Nevada Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

January 4, 2022

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Salli Kerr, Chair

- a. Salli called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Members Present:

| Name | Organization |
|--|--|
| Betsey Crumrine | DCFS- Rural Regions |
| David Gibson | District Court Judge- Eighth Judicial District |
| Desiree Mattice | Sergeant – Dept. of Public Safety |
| Fran Maldonado | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Jamie Wong | SNCAS |
| Jane Saint | State Director, Nevada CASA |
| Janice Wolfe | Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada |
| Jennifer Rains | Washoe Public Defender |
| Kendra Gipson | Nevada PEP |
| Mari Parlade | Clark County Department of Family Services |
| Massey Mayo | Juvenile Court Master; 6th Judicial District |
| Michelle Rodriguez | Family Court Master |
| Rachell Ekross | Health Professional |
| Salli Kerr, Vice Chair | Western Regional CAC |
| Sharon Benson (proxy for Jennifer Spencer) | Deputy Attorney-General |

Non-Voting Members Present:

| Name | Organization |
|---|---|
| Cheryl Cooley | Clark County Department of Family Services- CAC |
| Cory Martin | Great Basin CAC (Elko) |
| Jennifer McCann | Washoe County CAC |
| Kristy Mills (proxy for Kathie McKenna) | Nye County CAC |
| Lisa Ruggerio | Nye County CAC |

Members Absent:

| Name | Organization |
|------------------|---|
| Kimberly Mull | Victim Advocate |
| Tammi Williamson | Washoe County Health and Human Services |

Guests:

| Name | Organization |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Keyan Javadi | Health Management Association |
| Robyn Odendahl | Health Management Association |
| Uma Ahluwalia | Health Management Association |

Staff Support:

| Name | Organization |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bruce Cole (recorder) | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Dylan Nall | Division of Child and Family Services |

2. **For Information: Roll Call –Salli Kerr, Chair & Dylan Nall, DCFS**
 - a. Dylan called the roll.
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**
 - a. No comments.
4. **For Information: Review CJA Task Force Goals – Dylan Nall, DCFS**
 - a. Dylan set out a slide showing the Task Force Goals. There were no questions or comments.
5. **For Information: Health Management Association (HMA) Presentation - HMA**
 - a. Health Management Association (HMA) presented on current efforts in Nevada to support Nevada’s families and children impacted by domestic violence. The HMA team (Uma Ahluwalia, Robyn Odendahl, and Keyan Javadi) introduced themselves. Uma then began a slide presentation about their work. HMA is a consulting firm with locations around the country, largely doing public health, Human Services, and healthcare related consulting work.
 - b. The three tasks UMA are engaged on are a preliminary needs assessment, developing an implementation plan, and then implementation and evaluation. Betsey asked about the time frame of this project. Uma said the goal is to have the preliminary report by the end of April, the training plan will be developed in April through June, July through October will be the implantation of training, and final report delivered in early 2023.
 - c. Betsey wanted to know if the trainings will be complementary with the SAFE model. Uma said it will, and that there is and will be continued consultation with various CPS actors throughout the state to ensure that. Betsey said she also hoped that the training will assign appropriate weight to offender accountability. This is a continuing problem; these offenders are big, scary, often armed, often in rural areas where law enforcement is not readily available. As a result, a lot of responsibility and accountability falls on the victims by default. Uma agreed but cautioned that resources will continue to be an issue – that Nevada is a ‘tale of two states,’ between the urban and rural areas.
 - d. Kendra asked about who the “external stakeholders” are who will be interviewed during this process, and who are mentioned in HMA’s slide presentation. Uma cited as examples, the state Attorney-General’s office, people who run shelters, domestic violence coalitions child advocacy centers, victim advocates, etc. UMA hopes to finish the focus group and interview work in February.

- e. Judy Henderson said she did not think her group, Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, had been contacted by HMA. She spoke about the training they have been doing for two caseworkers, based on best practices around the United States. There are some further trainings scheduled for February, April, and June. She wondered how this fit in with HMA's project. Uma said they would have to connect with the Coalition to see how this aligns.
 - f. Robyn then presented how UMA went about its assessment of data. There are four areas of focus. Focus Area 1 is the assessment of domestic violence rates and the known risk and protective factors for domestic violence. Focus Area 2 is assessment of organizational policies and practices and of child maltreatment over time. Focus Area 3 is assessment of child welfare services' (CWS) staffing and capacity. Focus Area 4 is assessment of CWS and domestic violence collaboration, court systems, law enforcement, and domestic violence advocates as well as survivors of domestic violence.
 - g. Desiree asked if they were gathering information about teen-to-teen violence. Uma said they are, adding that their team is still working to grasp who works with whom across the state, and cited Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and how they work among partners as something they are still trying to see how they work, as well as the role of secondary trauma among social workers, as examples of what they are working to understand. Cheryl said in response that she is the director of her CAC and that they have investigation protocols with their partner agencies and will pay for anger or domestic violence assessments.
 - h. Uma said they want to have more conversations with judges and Masters, and better understand the Court Improvement Project. She said that there needed to be a deeper approach to services to victims than just ordering anger management sessions and visitation arrangements.
 - i. Rachell said that in her experience often no MOUs are in place, or they have been created to meet some specific situation. So, they may not represent the actual roles of various parties to the MOU. In practice, this has sometimes meant, especially in rural areas, the multi-disciplinary teams end up no longer acting as teams. Uma agreed and said that in her discussions with Fran Maldonado about MOUs with tribes, she saw the case-specific nature of these agreements, but at least there is a template in place for these agreements. Rachell agreed, and then spoke about Quality Assessment (QA) and Quality Management (QM) and the vulnerabilities of persons and agencies that are exposed when roles have not been clearly laid out, and sometimes agencies or persons are not even present in these working arrangements. Uma noted this concern and said that these matters are part of a long-term process and, for example, just getting MOUs in place is a necessary first step which can take some time.
 - j. Uma gave a quick review of the steps laid out earlier that HMA is taking in their work. She said people can route their questions, suggestions, and information through Dylan, as well as to HMA directly.
- 6. For Information: Review CJA Task Force key provisions of by-laws – Dylan Nall, DCFS**
- a. Dylan ran slides with the CJA by-laws. There were no questions or comments.
- 7. For Possible Action: Approve the last two meetings' minutes – Salli Kerr, Chair**
- a. Jane Saint moved approval of the August 10, 2021, minutes. Sharon Benson seconded. Minutes approved, with three abstentions (due to absence from the meeting).
 - b. Mari Parlade moved for approval of the November 4, 2021, meeting, with the minutes amended to restore a missing word on page 5. Master Mayo seconded. Minutes approved, with seven abstentions (due to absence from the meeting).

8. For Information: Grantee Updates for FY 2022 – Salli Kerr, Chair

- a. Dylan had attached these updates in a packet for the meeting.
- b. Judy reminded the meeting that a flyer will be going out about upcoming two-day trainings, which can be selected from the following dates: Feb. 22/24, April 11/13, and June 21/23. There will also be a training (“Hanging Out and Hooking Up”) on Feb. 14 and 16 on teen relationship abuse, using virtual simulations and case scenarios where attendees will make decisions on how to handle these situations. Another “Hanging Out...” session will be held on April 26, focusing on youth with disabilities. There will be a training focusing on health care providers on the 25th of May. This will be offered from 6:30 AM to 7:30 AM before they go on rounds; she is open to doing another one from noon to 1:00 PM. This would be on adolescent abuse as a public health priority. Finally, on June 15 there will be a training focusing on children experiencing domestic violence in the home. This will offer Social Work and Nursing CEUs.
- c. Jane asked Judy about the April 26 session on youth with disabilities. What kind of disabilities? Judy said they have chosen to concentrate on developmental disabilities. Judy said they have done a customized training for CASA volunteers and would be glad to do that again.
- d. Jane asked the grantee at the meeting how they are facing the challenge of the last Covid upsurge.
- e. Cheryl Cooley said there have been a lot of people sick. They are tightening up their procedures about distancing, testing clients, mask wearing, etc. Jane opened up her question to all the meeting participants. Betsey said that the Rurals have a 60% vacancy rate in some offices anyway, so people getting sick makes it even worse. Protocols are in place and protective equipment is being used. She is impressed by the willingness of people to continue to work. Exhaustion is setting in and to her this is more wearisome than the illness.

9. For Possible Action: Vote on Citizen’s Review Panel (CRP) Recommendation – Dylan Nall, DCFS

- a. Dylan and Beverly Brown created a recommendation for the Task Force to submit to the State:
 - i. “It is recommended that the DCFS continue to prioritize training, for all child welfare staff and/or stakeholders in the State of Nevada, to improve the investigative process and handling of cases of child abuse and/or neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This training recommendation includes, but is not limited to, child protection model assessments, domestic violence, mandatory reporting, and trauma-informed practices.”
- b. Betsey asked if there hadn’t been a goal very similar to this. Dylan said, yes, but that this is specifically for the Citizen Review Panel – every year the Task Force must make a recommendation.
- c. Betsey thought it was a good recommendation, and then wondered if there are training opportunities for criminal attorneys who take on pro bono child welfare cases. The problem they run up against is the difference between criminal law and civil law. Cheryl said that San Diego is having the 37th annual International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment and was sure there would be something there along these lines. Massey Mayo said the 6th Judicial District is creating an “on-boarding system” for attorneys who are coming onto dependency cases. She said she could talk to Betsey off-line about this.

- d. Rachell put some minor edits of the recommendation into the Chat function. These edits were accepted. [Note: wording of recommendation above is the edited version.]
- e. Sharon Benson moved the recommendation be approved. Massey Mayo seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. For Possible Action: Vote on Chair – Dylan Nall, DCFS

- a. Dylan noted that Salli was voted into the Chair in July 2021, with the term ending February 2022. The committee can vote Salli in or select a new chair. Salli indicated she is interested in staying on. No one else indicated interested. Sharon Benson moved that Salli be elected to a 2-year term as Chair. Betsey seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with Salli abstaining.

11. For Possible Action: Notice of Funding (NOFO) application dates – Dylan Nall, DCFS

- a. A slide with the proposed dates for the NOFO application process was put up. Dylan said she reached out to Grants Management and confirmed January 10 for the announcement of grants opportunities. The deadline for submission is Feb. 18. Dylan put up a slide for people who have reached out who wish to serve on the subcommittee, with a proposed date of March 25. From 9:00 AM to 12 noon. The evaluation period is March-April 2022, the announcement of awards is in June, the program would then run July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.
- b. Massey Mayo said she serves on a board which might be eligible for a grant. Should they apply, does she just abstain on that, or from serving entirely on the subcommittee? Dylan said the abstention would be specific to just that application, with the member muting and turn off the camera during that discussion.
- c. Mari said she would be out on March 25th. Sharon said a Doodle poll could be sent out asking about the most convenient date. Salli confirmed that today's vote is on establishing the subcommittee and not the specific date. Massey moved that the subcommittee be established, with meeting date to be determined later. Mari Parlade seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

12. For Possible Action: Establish NOFO subcommittee dates – Dylan Nall, DCFS

- a. As recorded above, the date will be determined later.

13. For Information: Announcements – Salli Kerr, Chair

- a. Kendra Gipson reminded the task force that she is at Nevada PEP, and they have a support group for families on-line. If members of the task force know of families who have children with disabilities, let them know about the support group. Kendra said she would share her e-mail.
- b. There were no other announcements.

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 at a later meeting) – Salli Kerr, Chair

- a. No comments.

15. Adjournment – Salli Kerr, Chair

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.