

MINUTES

Nevada Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

April 2, 2024

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

Members Present:

| Name | Organization |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Angelia Blare | Adult Survivor |
| Betsey Crumrine | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Cherly Cooley | Clark County |
| Christine Sullivan | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Desiree Mattice | Lieutenant – Dept. of Public Safety |
| Fran Maldonado | 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 |
| Jessica Goicoeche-Parise | Washoe County |
| Laurie Jackson | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Massey Mayo | Child Attorney |
| Melanie McCormick | Nevada CASA |
| Michelle Rodriguez | Family Court Master |
| Rachell Ekroos | Clinical Director Nevada Health Right |
| Salli Kerr, Chair | Western Regional CAC |

Members Absent:

| Name | Organization |
|------------------|--|
| Char Frost | NV PEP |
| Cheryl Cooley | Department of Family Services Clark County |
| Margaret Pickard | Judge Family Court |
| Wendy Maddox | Chief DA Humboldt County |

Guests:

| Name | Organization |
|---------------|---|
| Britt Young | Statewide Family Network Coordinator (NV PEP) |
| Cara Paoli | Washoe County Human Services Agency |
| Chris Goodman | NOTO |

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|---------------------|--|
| Cyndi Milligan-Lusk | Nevada Institute of Forensic Training |
| Gina Ramirez | |
| Heather Coffey | Washoe County |
| Isaac Rowe | DA Division of Child and Family Services |
| Jan Marson | Children's Advocacy Center |
| John Lum | Division of Child and Family Services |
| Kimberly Coates | Nevada CASA |
| Kristy Mills | NOTO |
| Lisa-Kaye Bryan | Program Manager for Washoe County CAC |
| Rachael Berg | Great Basin CAC |

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 – 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) – Salli Kerr, Chair

As Salli Kerr was having technical difficulties, Jane Saint took over this agenda item. There was no comment.

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

Dylan Nall noted that these goals will change at the next task force meeting. The new goals were approved at the January 2024 meeting This is our last meeting with these goals:

1. Support our CPS workers and stakeholders who are front-and specialty- discipline-specific with advanced training; this should be prioritized;
2. Support the implementation of our Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (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;
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.

There were no questions or comments.

5. For Possible Action: Approve the last meeting's minutes – Salli Kerr, Chair

Jane Saint moved the minutes be approved. Rachell Ekroos noted that the misspelling of her last name had crept back into the notes. Dylan apologized and said that would be corrected. Rachell then seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Britt Young abstaining as she had not been at that meeting.

6. For Possible Action: Notice of Funding Opportunity Subcommittee's recommendations for subawards of Children's Justice Act funding for state fiscal year 2025 – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jane Saint thanked the Subcommittee for the Notice of Funding Opportunity for their due diligence in reading through all the applications and then the fun part of sitting down and reviewing as a group how we were going to fund. She added that, of course, we had more dollars requested than we had actual dollars to spend. One thing we did differently this year was we actually had the organizations available to make a short little presentation about what their funding request was and then we could ask questions. Jane Saint felt that gave us a much better picture of how the money was going to be spent and how it was going to be put to the best use. We had four applications. Slides were then put up about the applicants.

Clark County Department of Family Services was requesting money to contract with NCAC to provide three 4-day forensic trainings to be held tentatively in July, November and then March of next year. Each training session accommodates 30 professionals for a total of 90 to be trained during the grant period. Their request was for \$60,000 and it encompassed goal #1 of our goals.

Next was the Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing. They were requesting \$30,000 to purchase the Cortexflo machine and the necessary technology (computers) for adolescent exams. This is a portable forensic photography unit that captures images and videos of evidence for physical and sexual examinations. This encompasses goals #3 and #4.

Next was Nye County. They want \$38,299 to send 14 people to the San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Mistreatment in January 2025. This encompasses goal #1. We provided funding last year for this purpose and they will be presenting at one of our upcoming meetings about that training.

The final application was from Washoe County Health and Human Services. They were requesting \$61,369 to provide their staff (CAC members and MDT teams) with advanced training. 45 child welfare staff will attend child interview training with Cornerhouse Training; 25 staff and MDT members will attend TriTech Forensic Child Fatality Training; 7 staff will attend Child Welfare League of America conference; 7 staff will attend International Symposium on Child Abuse conference; 5

staff will attend San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Mistreatment. Funds will also go to purchasing six tablets. Goals 1, 3, and 4.

Breaking down requests, what was allocated, and subcommittee recommendations:

Clark County: funding last year \$48,500, this year's request \$60,000, recommending \$40,000 to cover 2/3 of trainings.

Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing: funding last year \$14,362, this year's request \$30,000, recommending full funding for tech needs.

Nye County: new grantee, requested \$38,299, recommending \$15,000 for training.

Washoe County: funding last year \$40,684, this year's request \$61,369, recommending \$15,000 (tech needs first, then training).

It was also recommended that anytime there was training, when they had put in per diem for the attendees, we have asked them with the dollars that we are providing to pull out any per diem. It was felt we wanted to cover the cost of the training and the agency should cover the per diem cost for their attendees.

Dylan Nall said they would cover the cost for the hotel and the flight, not just the food and everything because it was that if we were able to pull out the cost of the food and the per diem, we could send more people.

Massey Mayo asked regarding the Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing, where their principal place of businesses was and would the portable unit be use all across northern Nevada? Jane Saint said they are located in Elko. Cyndy Milligan-Lusk said right now they're reaching out to numerous counties, currently going as far as Lovelock, and been doing cases in Lovelock, Winnemucca, White Pine & Yureka counties. They are getting ready to do what they call a tour of Nevada with their unit. They have collaborated with the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic Violence. Their first visit on the tour in Reno was April 5th. They are reaching out to law enforcement and so forth there to kind of introduce the system. Signs of Hope is coming from the Tahoe area down to take a look at it and then later in the month they are going to be doing one in Tonopah and then early into May one in Elko. They only opened up in October 2022.

Rachell Ekroos asked what's in place to avoid duplication of services or duplication of funding for services in some of the rural counties? Cyndy Milligan-Lusk said what they are trying to do is collaborate with the counties in the areas that don't have services. For example, on our Indian reservations, we have quite a few around our area right now and they've been traveling because they don't have any services that are relatively close. and that they're not reporting. They don't want to travel to come get services, so they'll decline services. If they have to travel to Elko or to the Boise area, that's what they have ran into in that situation. They are definitely not trying to duplicate in Washoe, but when they can't get in the CAC in Washoe and if they have an emergency

Jane Saint moved that the funding be approved at the recommended levels. Massey Mayo seconded. Approved unanimously, apart from Jessica Goiccoecha-Paris abstaining as her agency is involved in the funding.

Both Jane Saint and Salli Kerr said they are looking forward to the agencies reporting back a future meeting about the trainings they attend.

7. For Possible Action: Recommended changes of the Children’s Justice Act Task Force Bylaws made by the Bylaws Subcommittee – Rachell Ekroos, Subcommittee chair

Rachell Ekroos had Dylan Nall put up on the screen a document showing the changes made to the Bylaws of the CJA Task Force. Rachell started with a broad stroke introduction on the bylaws. It had been several years since they had been updated and reviewed, and the majority of the edits recommended are more to clarify language, remove passive phrasing, make it more action oriented, simplify language, things of that nature. There's very little of substantive changes and where there was substantive changes it is because things legislatively and organizationally with the committees have changed, and so it allowed for removal of things that may not be relevant at this point, and using language that makes it relevant no matter how it changes moving forward. Rachell said that we had a really strong document to begin with and she applauded those who came before her who created this document and worked on it very, very heavily in the prior years. She showed some examples of clarifying grammar, using active language, etc.

Salli Kerr pointed out that Section 4.3.9, stronger language was made about people attending meetings. We want our task force members to be regularly attending or exercise their proxy options as appropriate for absences. They did take away a little bit of the efforts to regularly attend again in moving toward that more active language, and it felt like we needed to make people more aware that it's an expectation to come to the meetings.

Some changes were made at the meeting in Article IX (Meetings) for clearer and consistent language about the role of the “CJA Coordinator or designee” (as opposed to “support staff”).

Jane Saint moved that the bylaws revisions and updates be accepted as presented. Desiree Mattice seconded. Approve unanimously. Salli Kerr thanked Rachell Ekroos again for all her hard work on this.

8. For Information: Ideas for a Statewide Training for Nevada’s Child Welfare Staff – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr reminded the meeting that we are still trying to get ideas for statewide training. Training is a large part of what this committee funds, and if we could look for statewide training ideas for Nevada’s child welfare staff and multidisciplinary team partners, we would happily take recommendations. If you have something that you think would be a nice fit for that audience, please let Dylan Nall know so that we can work as a task force to do some statewide training. Dylan said that in our January 2024 meeting, we approved to find a training for the entire state of Nevada, for our Child Welfare, to provide funding for a trainer to come and figure out training. Salli Kerr has been the only person who's come to Dylan with names and so Dylan wants to remind people, if you

have any wonderful ideas about who we could bring to Nevada for our child welfare staff, please do so.

Jane Saint asked, since we have so many requests for training in the NOFO this year, could we take any of those and bring them to the state. Would that be a possibility? Dylan said she can look into it and present at the next task force meeting.

Rachell Ekroos said she was very familiar with every training that was listed on there and the smaller trainings are not going to go mobile because it's through their organization and it has been established for decades and some of the other trainings on there are national trainings that happen annually and the locations of those trainings are already preset either through the organization or through a sponsor having it. But if we were looking to expand it beyond that, then that would absolutely be an option.

Jane Saint said we could ask those who will be attending any of these trainings to be on the lookout for potential presenters because they're going to be hearing these people directly and we might be able to piggyback on and bring them to our state as opposed to having to send people other places.

Saill Kerr said she would definitely second that, as you were sending staff to these conferences, you may just ask that that they have an eye for who may come to Nevada or be a really good fit for being able to come to Nevada and present some multiple sessions across the state for our child welfare staff and MDTs as you're going to those, it's a great place to come across trainers that you think would fit with our goals as well.

Rachell Ekroos said, for the sake of a lot of new faces here that weren't on a prior meeting, that she had shared in relation to this about the challenges of the content that's being delivered in some of these trainings and the challenges of delivering that type of contact to teams through meetings like this and what you lose in those candid discussions on hypothetical case examples. How would we move through this and apply that we lose that on these electronic based meetings? So, she provided an example of what she was involved with in 2014 with the Attorney General's Office to where they spent one week and had four or five locations in the southern half of the state where it was herself presenting on strangulation and clinical forensics, an attorney from the Battered Women's Justice project, and a representative trainer from Polaris. They went through the rural areas and then about a month and a half, two months later, reconvened and did the same thing in the north part of the state and did that and the robustness of those conversations is priceless. She can say because of the nature of investigating these types of topics, it does make a difference to have them in person. It costs less if we send them to training, but at the same time, our impact may also be different when we do that.

Michelle Rodriguez said they use Circle of Parenting Training. They send her Family Court Coordinator. She's the coordinator for Juvenile drug court and family preservation court. She seems to like it, and our people seem to like it, but the recollection is she did it online to become certified.

Fran Maldonado shared the link to the National Indian Child Welfare Association training. They have various topics on basic understanding of ICWA all the way to positive Indian parenting to qualified expert witness, tribal customary adoptions, and working with substance abusing families.

9. For Information: Current grantee activities and spending of Children's Justice Act funding update – Salli Kerr, Chair

Cheryl Cooley spoke for Clark County. They had their last forensic interview training in February and had 21 participants in that virtual training. For the \$40,000 for this next year's training, they will also offer that virtually to those sites as well, so that they can be trained in forensic interview training as well. They finished out the training that tied in with reaccreditation and for those of you that don't know if you're an accredited children's advocacy center, the National Children's Alliance asks that you complete an application for reaccreditation every five years. So, they worked diligently for months to complete everything. They had their site review in March, and it was a virtual site review. At the end of that site review, the team is recommending reaccreditation to the NCAA. So that was a huge load lifted. Also, in terms of human trafficking, the task force really went after beefing up staffing and public awareness for the Formula One car race, and also the Super Bowl. With those efforts in the Super Bowl, 16 missing youth were found during those efforts during the Super Bowl and two traffickers were arrested. The task force was able to work a deal with The Palms and The Palms has that big video moving billboard, they were able to put out there that prostitution is illegal in Las Vegas, human trafficking is illegal, so just to remind guests coming in to visit for the Super Bowl, that this is not just a free for all when it comes to human trafficking. Speaking of coming together, she loves what the four CAC's have in terms of connections and so they will be going to the leadership conference in DC in June and will be looking for training opportunities there because we'll be hearing from the nation in terms of what's going on, best practices, trainings and so hopefully be able to get some ideas for trainings to bring back to Nevada.

Rachael Berg spoke for the Great Basin CAC. They were granted \$6300 for advanced forensic training for for three forensic interviewers, and when they wrote this grant they initially only had two forensic interviewers, but a lot of the trainings are online. So they went to Dylan and the grant people and asked if they could send three people to these three trainings and they approved it. Two are going to be fully funded. One will be partially funded and she is one of the friends of interviewers as well, so her training has been approved and then just got a phone call last week from NCAC just making sure of the other two forensic interviewers that they were associated with us and so their registration has also been approved. The other two will be leaving in July for their training. So, they will be sending that out sooner than her training, which happens in September but everything will be done by September 30th and they were granted the extension on the deadline as well, so that they can make sure that they could all get that training that they needed to help with NCAC standards, to keep up with for accreditation purposes. This is the first year in their building, so April Child Abuse Prevention Month isn't quite as stacked as some of the other CAC's, but they are working on it in for next year, and hope to have more of an outcome with that, and she will be joining Cheryl Cooley at the NCAC leadership conference in DC.

Cyndy Milligan-Tusk spoke for the Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing. They have spent out the \$66,182 on equipment and towards an interview system that they can use in the mobile unit as well as in the office. She is currently at a training that will spend out the remaining \$6375 and that will be completed at the end of this week. She has informed Dylan Nall that she will submit her report next Monday.

Chris Goodman spoke for No to Abuse – Nevada Outreach Training Organization. Last year they got a little over \$9,000 for the Chadwick conference. They scheduled 14 people, three could not make it. Because of the room cost because they couldn't stay at the actual Chadwick hotel where the actual Chadwick conference was held. They had to stay down the road a little bit. For himself, somebody who has never been a part of this field at all, it was brand new, the training was phenomenal. One thing he really enjoyed about the training is people that were there actually gave presentations bringing their own cases there. Another thing he really enjoyed was, coming from a law enforcement background, usually it's just a person in front of a PowerPoint, these people are actually the ones that participated in that event, so it's very easy to raise your hand and have a question, and they were able to answer it because they were actually the ones that went through the whole court proceeding or the arrest or whatever. One more thing is when he took over this position, he was told he would be over the MDT. He didn't know anybody that was a part of this team. He met them all the first time they went to Chadwick Center and by the end of the week they all started texting each other every night. They all went out to dinner. Ever since then, there's not like 3 days go by where he doesn't reach out and try to text somebody on the team. They have their MDT meeting next Tuesday. This will be their second one, which he's really looking forward to.

Jessica Goicoechea-Parise spoke for Washoe County. They were able to send five of their CAC workers to the forensic interviewing training and one more person will be attending that training in May. They have a group of people who went or will be going to the CSEC training. They did have a group of people who went to the Shared Hope juvenile sex trafficking annual conference in Washington, DC She was able to be one of those people, and had never been to a training like this. She is a marriage and family therapist by training and so to be able to kind of go and see things from a little bit different of a perspective was amazing. They have been able to implement some of the things that were lacking in their system in regard to doing screenings and kind of coming together with more of Nevada, like the overall Nevada coalition for what child welfare agencies need to be doing for CSEC victims and our youth. Salli Kerr asked if all training was completed or are there upcoming activities? Jessica said they still have the Child Welfare League conference that's coming up, and also a trauma informed leadership training that that will finish up their grant.

Salli Kerr thanked everyone for their reports.

10. For Information: Announcements – Salli Kerr, Chair

Jane Saint introduced Kimberly Coates. Yesterday she started as the Nevada CASA Association executive director, and she's on the call today. Jane said Kimberly would be "drinking from a fire hose" with everything she gets to learn. She invited Kimberly today so she can start learning about the different task force commissions and groups that are out there, that she'll be a part of.

Rachell Ekroos said that when she joined the task force she mentioned to everybody about creating medical forensic electronic health records for the state that could be used statewide for the documentation of the exams that are being completed by forensic nurses and forensic providers at all levels, and that would also enable us to meet the standards that are set forth by accrediting bodies for CACs and by clinical practice requirements and standards for the forensic nurses and the practitioners. She wanted to give an update on that, that they are moving forward with the medical forensic electronic health record that will allow the providers to be able to consult. It's going to allow a HIPAA compliant location to provide this connectedness across the state for anyone who wants to participate in it.

Dylan Nall put up a picture for Rachell. This was from NBC Nightly News and showed Cat Scaffidi, Angelina Jolie and a graduate assistant. This is about a National Institute of Justice (NIJ) funded project that Cat Scaffidi and Rachell are doing to translate to practice so that forensic nurses can use it. They funded them to do a project on using alternate light and the assessment of skin trauma and then COVID hit, slowed down the project and now they finally have the draft of the clinical practice guideline recommendations and are moving forward with public comment on that. The big focus on this is creating one equity across services regardless of skin color in the documentation of injury and the other piece of it is to provide sound education of what it can and cannot do and address some of the myths behind these magical technology options that we have as forensic nurses and so that was just a little picture of that to highlight her colleagues on this NIJ project.

Rachell is also wrapping up another National Institute of Justice project on evidence management. She was part of the evidence management steering committee for an NIJ project where they looked at the management of evidence in all types of evidence. For the clinical forensic team, it was looking at evidence when there's that intersection with living and deceased persons and evidence collection from a clinical setting. This is going to be a report that's coming out to highlight the minimal practices that need to be in place for any entity, whether it's a CAC, whether it's a healthcare facility, whether it is a court system, whether it's law enforcement on how to manage, evidence to make sure that the integrity is maintained and that all aspects of evidence management are in place, and so this is going to be a huge report. It's going to be a first of its kind that's put out by the NIJ, and they did a survey of evidence management folks, which included forensic nurses like herself and others that are on here, and that actually showed where there's a lot of inconsistencies across entities, whether it's healthcare or judicial or law enforcement. So, they did the report going through the NIJ review on the survey and then they're going to do a recommended guidelines report that's going to come out next. So, these are national activities that are going to affect us locally.

Salli Kerr said how grateful this task force is to have such expertise as Rochelle brings in multifaceted ways, not just bylaws, but so many other ways that she touches the work that we all do.

Rachell Ekroos said she would put up a link to the site at George Mason because she is a “subaward” through George Mason and that is where her colleague Scaffidi is at.

11. Final Public Comment – Salli Kerr, Chair

No final public comments.

12. Adjournment – Salli Kerr, Chair

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.