

MINUTES
Nevada Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force
April 5, 2022
9:00am

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

Jane Saint called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. Salli Kerr, Chair, could not attend.

Attendees:

Name	Organization
Betsey Crumrine	DCFS- Rural Regions
Cheryl Cooley	Clark County Department of Family Services-CAC
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, Vice-Chair	State Director, Nevada CASA
Kathie McKenna	Nye County CAC
Kendra Gipson	Nevada PEP
Mari Parlade	Clark County Department of Family Services
Michelle Rodriguez	Family Court Master
Sharon Benson	Deputy Attorney-General
Tammi Williamson	Washoe County CAC
Xavier Planta	Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Members Absent:

Name	Organization
Cole McBride	Washoe County CAC
Cory Martin	Great Basin CAC (Elko)
Janice Wolfe	Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Jennifer Rains	Washoe Public Defender
Jennifer Spencer	Deputy Attorney General
Jonathan Slothower, DO	Great Basin Advocacy Center
Kimberly Mull	Victim Advocate
Laurie Jackson	DCFS-Rural Regions
Salli Kerr, Chair	Western Regional CAC

Guests:

Name	Organization
Judy Henderson	NCEDSV
Rachael Berg	Great Basin CAC

Staff Support:

Name	Organization
Beverly Brown	Division of Child and Family Services
Bruce Cole (recorder)	Division of Child and Family Services
Dylan Nall	Division of Child and Family Services

2. For Information: Roll Call –Jane Saint, Vice-Chair & Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall 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) – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

No comments.

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

Dylan Nall set out a slide showing the Task Force Goals. There were no questions or comments.

5. For Information: Review CJA Task Force key provisions of by-laws – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall used a slide to review CJA by-laws, including the CJA mission statement, purpose, proxies, term, quorum, and non-disclosure of sensitive information. The task force responsibilities are to determine the priorities that will guide the sub grant award process as well as inform the CJA's purpose; make recommendations regarding policy issues; the task force may submit to policymakers proposed improvements consistent with its mission, or recommendations (in order to make a recommendation on a policy issue the matter must be presented and approved by the task force); to approve CJA funding for the sub-grant awards; to act as a Citizen Review Panel.

Sharon Benson noted that most of these are requirements of the Federal Children's Justice Act. Dylan Nall then used a slide that explained the required membership categories for the task force, and the advisory or collaborative membership categories. Sharon Benson reminded the group that more than one person can occupy a category and urged members to look for people who would be good candidates to serve on the task force.

Jane Saint asked if anyone from the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY) had ever served. Beverly Brown indicated she didn't think there was, but that Salli Kerr had occupied the role in mandatory memberships that addresses homeless children and youth. Beverly Brown added that she and Dylan Nall have been reaching out to people to bolster the various membership categories. Jane Saint said she would reach out to Arash Gafoori, executive director of NPHY, about serving on the task force. Beverly Brown said that mandatory membership category of "Adult survivor child abuse or neglect" needed to be filled, recognizing this is a sensitive matter. Sharon Benson suggested reaching out to young adults who have aged out of Independent Living. Tammi Williamson and Mari Parlade said they would reach out in their respective jurisdictions. Jane Saint and Sharon Benson spoke of two girls who aged out of foster care and are now in college. They suggest that they should be contacted.

Dylan Nall used a slide about the frequency of task force meetings and quorum requirements. At least (4) meetings a year should be scheduled, with additional meetings called by the chair if necessary. At least (3) future meeting dates will be established at the beginning of each federal fiscal year. The chair will establish meeting dates in consultation with the task force meetings. Meetings may be cancelled by DCFS in consultation with the task force chair. Special meetings of the task force

may be called by any member by notifying the State staff and such a meeting shall be scheduled within 30 days of the requests being made. The presence of a simple majority of voting task force members shall constitute a quorum as defined by NRS 241.015. Voting occurs only when a quorum is present. A majority vote of the members present is required to carry a motion or take action.

6. For Possible Action: Approve the last meeting's minutes – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jane Saint noted that meeting minutes are the legal documents of the task force and she asked those present today, but who were not present at the last meeting to abstain from the minutes. She stated that they were not at the last meeting, and we will record the names of people who are abstaining. This also applies to those who did not have the opportunity to read the minutes. She also thanked the staff for their great work in taking such detailed minutes. Jane Saint said the minutes should be corrected to listing herself as vice-chair and Salli Kerr being listed as chair, she went to item 8 in the minutes where “lasts Covid upsurge” should be changed to “latest Covid upsurge.” Also, under item 10, it should say Salli Kerr was voted as Chair in the August (not July) meeting. She finally requested that last names be used when saying someone has spoken.

Mari Parlade moved that the January 4, 2002 minutes, as amended, be approved. Desiree Mattice seconded. Dylan called the roll. The motion was approved, with Betsey Crumrine and Xavier Planta abstaining.

7. For Information: A presentation from NCEDSV regarding trauma – Judy Henderson, NCEDSV

Judy Henderson from the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence gave a presentation with a short video about the long-term effects of trauma and how to advocate for trauma informed practices. The video addressed those who pass through trauma. Judy Henderson said that anytime she talks with someone who is in a crisis situation, she wants to focus on their feelings because they may not be able to focus on what's currently happening to them, or everything that's happening to them is becoming so jumbled that it's very hard for them to distinguish what is really happening. But most of the time they can send her a feeling that they're having, so that is a good place to start. She asked the members what words “pop out” that illustrate key elements of “trauma-informed approaches.” Members suggested being open, breathing, and accepting.

Judy Henderson gave a basic definition of trauma as an event that is going to affect an individual mentally, emotionally, and physically and that zaps internal resources. The person responds with fear, hopelessness, and horror. This makes it difficult to work out a case plan for that person. The person may not show up for an appointment (has the abuser prevented them?) or have fears as to what will happen to their children. It is difficult to focus on what needs to be done and what has happened to them (for example, law enforcement will wonder why a victim can't recount what happened during a sexual assault). Finding employment and housing is very difficult, and the task may be to see how they can survive in their current environment as they have no other options. A trauma-informed approach involves understanding of trauma and its impact; understanding trauma triggers and the vulnerabilities of victims; designing policies and procedure that acknowledge the impact of violence and trauma; shifting the focus from “what's wrong with you?”

to “what happened to you?” Judy Henderson gave an example of someone who attempted to gather evidence on her abuser. Her attempts were not understood by others, and no-one aided her during this time. All four of the above aspects of a trauma-informed approach were missing. Judy Henderson then spoke about how trauma affects the brain. Pathways in the brain can be disrupted. Hormones like adrenaline and cortisol can be released. A survivor can be stuck with a PTSD-like response. Brains will continue to respond as if under stress, even when an event is over. Judy then showed a video by Rebecca Campbell, of Michigan State University, about a sexual assault survivor. Professor Campbell said there are two basic neurological processes during a traumatic event. The first is what hormones are released during the event, and the second is what happens to memories of the event. Four main stress chemicals are released in survivors’ bodies.

One of these are catecholamines, which is like natural adrenaline, helping the victim to fight or flee. Another is corticosteroids, which works with catecholamines, determining how much energy the victim has – the survivor may have a lot of energy, or conversely fall into a stupor. Other hormones are opioids, which is like a natural morphine and often leaves a survivor feeling drugged, which is why victims when interviewed often show little or no emotion or affect. The fourth hormone is oxytocin, that promotes good feelings and is blocking physical and psychological pain. When the level of these four hormones is high, they can act to block brain mechanisms which are trying to lay down memories; thus, the body is working at cross-purposes. Memories are stored after a traumatic event in a very disorganized way, which is why information comes out in a very hit-and-miss way with law enforcement. This can lead to law enforcement suspecting the survivor is making things up. Research has shown that the presentation can be disordered but the memories are accurate.

Dr. Campbell made the analogy of having to write down memories on post-it notes and then scattering them on a messy desk, then coming back much later and attempting to organize the notes. After the video, Judy Henderson reiterated that expectations of law enforcement, seeking a logical, coherent narrative of events are met with something very different from survivors. She then related an incident where one woman, during her first interview after trauma, couldn't recall much more than bits and pieces. Law enforcement said, let's come back in a couple of days. When she came back in a couple of days, she seemed like a totally different person and they were able to figure out there were actually two perpetrators in her sexual assault, not just one.

Judy Henderson ended her talk with what she called the “good news” of “post-traumatic growth” – people taking new meaning from their experience in order to live their lives differently. The factors that foster growth are a strong support system, positive personality traits, the ability to reflect, developing coping systems, and focusing on evidence-based trauma-focused, compassion-focused cognitive behavioral therapy. Finally, there are guiding principles to a “trauma-informed approach” – safety, trustworthiness, transparency, peer support, collaboration, mutuality, empowerment, and cultural-historical-gender issues. These come from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Jane Saint asked about strong support systems. How does this work in Nevada? considering a lot of people move in and out, and friends and family are far away. Judy Henderson indicated that being skilled in social media as a tool for reaching out is important. Providers can help, especially with older people, also ensuring safety with the use of technology. Jamie Wong asked if there is a link to

the presentation. Judy said Dylan Nall will send it out as long as it is in PDF form. Tammi Williamson asked if Judy could do this presentation for Washoe County. Judy said she would be happy too but is also interested in doing a state-wide presentation.

8. For Information: Discuss the Annual Progress Services Report (APSR) and the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) – Beverly Brown, DCFS

Beverly Brown said there would not be a detailed presentation about this today, but in a future meeting. She provided two links to access the information and advised the meeting what these two links are. Every year DCFS has to write a Progress Services Report. The report describes everything that DCFS does throughout the year, touching on several of topics, from preventing maltreatment, preventing fatalities, CSEC and what has been done on the PIP. CJA is under CAPTA and a CAPTA report goes into the APSR. The current APSR is due June 30th and the report is then posted on the DCFS website.

The CFSP is a five-year plan, running 2020 through 2024. Much of the work CJA deals with is covered in the CFSP.

9. For Information: Grantee Updates for FY 2022 – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jane Saint asked Rachael Berg of the Great Basin Child Advocacy Center about their report to the task force. There was no description of the outcome. Rachael said she was calling in from her car and did not have the report in front of her. Jane Saint said it was for two trips to Ely for forensic training, “soft interview” room, and furniture. Rachael Berg said the trips to Ely were for interviewing children who have been either sexually or physically abused. They went into the Sheriff’s Department and completed those interviews. As to outcomes, she thought they had one disclosure and one that did not disclose abuse. As for the equipment, that was for a soft interview room for White Pine County. The interview room is also where suspects are interviewed and it’s not child friendly. The equipment and the furnishing were bought for the room, the previous day. Rachael got a message from one of the detectives who said the room is up and running. Cory Martin, director of CAC, and Rachael will soon go and take pictures and see what the room looks like. They will be spending money from this grant for supplies such as Play-Doh, crayons, markers, and colored paper for the children in the interview room.

They have a meeting later this month to discuss some of their training that was in the grant that they weren’t able to be spend out. They had initially wanted to send people to a training in Milwaukee but that training is not opening up. They are going to redistribute some of that money and add more people into a training. Jane Saint thanked Rachael and asked her to remember to include that kind of Information because that tells more of what is happening with the money that has been provided.

Rachael Berg said this was the first time they were able to put in any kind of updates. It was a very slow process getting White Pine County to spend out that money even though she was on them biweekly, so it delayed updates. This is the first time they actually had enough data to give to the

task force. She added that GBCAC began construction of their own building just the day before this meeting.

Jane Saint had questions for Judy Henderson of the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. With NCEDSV results there was mention of an evaluation survey that was required to be completed to earn a certificate. What does it mean when they earn that certificate and what is so important about that? Judy said the certificate is meant for them to show their supervisors that they had attended a six hour-training. The certificate is for their CEUs. The CEU boards have requested that they do pre and post assessments and evaluations. Jane Saint asked about registering people and getting and sharing the names of people who attended trainings with the task force. Aren't there some HIPAA rules about sharing names and why are they requiring names? Judy answered that they are not going to be shared with this committee. They use the names for the CEUs so that everything has to match the pre-assessment, the post-assessment, their evaluation, and the time that they spend in attendance in the Zoom meeting itself. They have to have names so they all match up and then they can distribute this certificate through the Nevada Partnership for Training.

Jane Saint then asked Kathie McKenna of the Nye County CAC about the results of the activities that were funded. Kathie McKenna said the results are what they are doing to help gain accreditation for their children's advocacy center. She sent a copy of the different classes they had. The classes which child and family advocates attend are different from each other because trainings focus on each area of expertise, like the sheriff's deputies on the investigation side, or the DA side, the medical examiner, the therapists, or forensic interviewers. The child and family advocate training helps with their areas in the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT). One person was not able to attend in person because of family illness. She attended virtually which allowed the CAC to have a slight overage. They have requested to utilize the balance of grant funds to put it towards their annual subscription fee for software that allows all the forensic interviews to be stored securely. Prior to this, interviews were stored on a DVD and those interviews handed over to detectives. Unfortunately, a few that have gone to court have been lost. Now when the case has either been dismissed or prosecuted it is archived in the case and they would need to go back to it.

Jennifer McCann asked if there is access to the archive off-site and Kathie said "yes." She shared there is a two-factor authentication because several people need access to it (investigators, the DA's office, defense attorneys, etc.) The interviews cannot be downloaded. People have limited time to view it. They give them a "window" and then there is no longer access. They have to ask for permission to actually see it and they can make notes. They can put tick marks at different times to say, for instance, a child said this at 1:30 and the child said that at 1:45 and it helps them in developing a case against the perpetrator.

Jane Saint then asked Jennifer McCann about the 38 members Washoe County CAC had sent from its MDT to the Crimes Against Children Conference. Who were they? Jennifer said they were from law enforcement, CPS, child advocates, the DA's office, forensic interviewers, and administration. Jane noted that only 13 of the 38 responded as to what happened at the conference. Jennifer confirmed that was the case. Someone else was in her position before and had not made it clear how important the training was and so by the time the training was over some people couldn't go back and show proof that they had taken the training because the conference had shut down

access. A few people were able to “kind of bug” that particular conference enough to get a certificate. They lost 4 people that attended the training who then left to work at different agencies, and they didn't have those certificates. Moving forward, she has been very clear that when a training is provided through grants, it's importance the training be taken and has been sending out reminders. This particular conference had access for six months and people could go in at their own pace, then it closed off. A lot of people probably just let it go and didn't complete everything. Jane Saint agreed about the importance of tracking attendance. She cited her own experience with the Cleveland Clinic and the Alzheimer's program – the clinic needs the feedback for future funding and not everyone understands that aspect of things.

10. For Possible Action: Notice of Funding (NOFO) subcommittee results – Jane Saint, Subcommittee Spokesperson

Beverly Brown spoke about one of the applicants this year, the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. They have done a great job developing and providing domestic violence training to our child welfare workforce. But the task force heard from the Health Management Associates (HMA) at the January meeting that HMA is also developing a domestic violence training for our child welfare workforce. To continue funding for the Coalition with that training would be duplicative. Therefore, they will not be getting funding from CJA. They are valued and appreciated for the work they have done and they will be an integral part of the training that's going to be coming later and will be here when HMA is long gone.

Jane Saint thanked those who served on the NOFO subcommittee. They had \$100,000.00 to allocate. The applications, scoring sheets and guidelines how to score were given to the subcommittee. If the application had everything then you could consider this number, if it didn't have half of the information, then you could consider another number when scoring. The group appreciated the efforts of Beverly and Dylan keeping them on track. It was not subjective when scoring, because there was a good basis for their scorings. Dylan Nall showed a slide with the amounts requested, and the amounts allocated for the grantees.

Great Basin requested \$14,520 and received full funding, this was a decrease from the the year before. They are seeking to serve all children and adults and have a well-functioning Multi-Disciplinary Team that operates seamlessly and effectively together. They provide compassionate trauma informed response therapy giving not only the victim, but also their care givers, the best chance at a healing recovery, and support Great Basin's partners and surrounding counties. Under their budget section, they were looking to fund \$3200.00 for training and traveling. Rachael Berg said the travel and training section required them to reach out to Salli Kerr and Western Regional CAC to help do a training. This was for the MDT team to work together since it's through Western Regional it's a free training. But they will need supplies, pamphlet, and books. It's assumed since they asked for 14,000, the rest of the request is for different types of brochures in both Spanish and English for non-offending caregivers. Rachael added that they have reached out to a child advocate fluent in Spanish whom they hope to add to their team soon.

Clark County Department of Family Services requested \$51,515 and are approved for \$45,430. Cheryl Cooley said the bulk of the money requested is for training in interviewing, supplies and furniture for the interview room. Jane Saint said NOFO subcommittee approved the training and equipment but did not approve the request for funding of art therapy. Desiree Mattice said there wasn't a lot of information about art therapy. It's a concern that this practice is already being implemented and they just wanted to enhance it with the volume of people that are trained in it or if this is a new thing that they are trying out? Cheryl Cooley said they had one therapist who currently did so, and they were looking to increase that.

The final grantee was Washoe County Human Services Agency and they requested \$46,550. They were granted \$40,050. Tammi Williamson was still on the line and said she had been part of the grants team, so could speak to some things. This year training is now going to be back in person. She has attended the Crimes Against Children conference in Dallas twice in her career and says it is one of the most important opportunities for caseworkers. Especially through the CAC, to attend for the collaboration and teaming with over four to five thousand professionals, including, law enforcement, social workers, forensic interviewers, and doctors. The request for this year is to send 4 staff members and 4 MDT members. The second part of the training request was to send 35 people to the 2-day training given in Reno by John Reed Associates on non-accidental injuries inflicted by a caregiver, investigation of sexual abuse, and the technology facilitated with that. The last part of the request was for additional laptops. There is a lot of "virtual" work done, with interviews at the CAC, at police stations, etc., so it's very helpful to have laptops available at their fingertips to provide history to the team, look up important information throughout interviews and provide that, etc.

They have applied for additional caseworkers with their current budget, which would enable them to have their own individual laptops as well. Another component of this is CD drives. Most laptops don't come with a drive where you can watch forensic interviews. They were sharing one between the 6 members. Jane Saint strongly recommended that people on the task force stay on top of the quarterly reports from the grantees to see that the funds are being spent appropriately.

Sharon Benson moved that the funding be approved. Desiree Mattice seconded. Voting to approve: Desiree Mattice, Michelle Rodriguez, Sharon Benson, Xavier Planta, Jane Saint, Jamie Wong, Fran Maldonado. Abstentions by Tammi Williamson and Mari Parlade as they belong to agencies which are grantees.

11. For Information: Announcements – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

Jane Saint reminded the meeting that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and agencies are planting their pinwheels. Cheryl Cooley said Clark County is planting their pinwheels. They will be having an Easter egg hunt for 400 or so foster children at the government center. There is a nonprofit that supports the work of the CAC and they are hosting a huge fundraiser at the Aviator Ballpark on the 23rd of April with the goal of getting more awareness out about the CAC and their work in Clark County and to start looking at getting into a bigger space. They have outgrown their space so they're having the big fundraiser on the 23rd. There is a survivors' group for kids and

they are putting patches of denim of affirmations that the kids have written that spur them on and it's just really encouraging to walk in and see all the positive things that are going on because kids are so resilient.

Jane Saint and Sharon Benson spoke about an Easter Egg hunt in Reno. Jennifer McCann said she was on the committee and they actually got 46,000 eggs total. It will be held at Rancho San Rafael Park on April 9.

12. 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

There were no comments.

13. Adjournment – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.