

MINUTES

Nevada Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

July 2, 2024

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Members Present:

Name	Organization
Betsey Crumrine	Division of Child and Family Services
Desiree Mattice	Lieutenant – Dept. of Public Safety
Jamie Wong	Division of Child and Family Services
Jane Saint, Vice-Chair	Boys Town Nevada
Janice Wolfe	Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Laurie Jackson	Division of Child and Family Services
Margaret Pickard	Eighth Judicial District
Melanie McCormick	Nevada CASA
Michelle Rodriguez	Family Court Master
Rachell Ekroos	
Salli Kerr, Chair	Western Regional CAC
Wendy Maddox	

Members Absent:

Name	Organization
Angelina Blare	Adult Survivor
Christine Sullivan	Division of Child and Family Services
Fran Maldonado	Division of Child and Family Services
Konswayla Mackey	Division of Child and Family Services
Massey Mayo	

Guests:

Name	Organization
Britt Young	
Cheryl Cooley	Clark County
Chris Goodman	NOTO
Cyndi Milligan-Lusk	Nevada Institute of Forensic Training
Denise Tyre	Washoe County

Isaac Rowe	
Lauren Pow	Children’s Cabinet
Lisa-Kaye Bryan	Washoe County
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 – 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

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 April 2, 2024 meeting minutes – Salli Kerr, Chair

Michelle Rodriguez moved the minutes be approved. Jane Saint seconded. Approved, with Betsey Crumrine abstaining.

6. For Possible Action: Consideration, Discussion and Approval of Future Meeting Dates – Salli Kerr, Chair

The proposed dates are January 7, 2025; April 8, 2025; July 8, 2025; and October 7, 2025. Laurie Jackson moved the dates be approved. Jane Saint seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to approve funding for Tritech Forensic Training regarding the Child Death Investigation Course for child welfare staff who will be investigating the death of children – Salli Kerr, Chair

Dylan Nall said that in a previous task force meeting, we approved finding a training for all three jurisdictions so that we all can be on the same page regarding a training for all child welfare staff. Dylan, Beverly Brown, and Jamesian Sanders did research about Tri Tech Forensic Training regarding the Child Death Investigations course. It would be about \$300.00 a person. Dylan showed a slide to give a quick synopsis. It addresses child death from an interdisciplinary perspective, it provides all agencies and necessary information to not only investigate and gather information but to understand and appreciate the details and collaboration required in order to make the final

determination of cause and manner of death. It is a 2-hour course with 16 hours of certification and recertification training credit. Actual cases will be covered during this training from the initial 911 phone call through the final determination of cause and manner of death, and then at each step of the investigation process, they examine what was done correctly, what was missed, and why. They also do exercises that help participants to grasp the importance of how the smallest differences can make a significant effect on the outcome of the case. Since we did approve trying to find a statewide training to all three jurisdictions, Clark, the rural regions and Washoe, anyone who would investigate child deaths would be a part of this training. On the next screen, Dylan showed some of the topics that would be covered, such as manner and mechanisms of death, difficulties in investigating infant death, scene investigations, court issues, and interviewing families.

Betsey Crumrine asked if this training was virtual. Dylan said she believed it is. Betsey asked that this be confirmed because that really matters for the rurals. If it's an in-person training, we need 5 locations because we need each team in each location to be able to participate and law enforcement can't really travel from rural areas because they don't have money, and they don't have coverage when they leave their area. So, it's really important that it be offered in or near the community. Betsey usually uses the five district offices; if it's an in-person training, they need one at each of those locations. Dylan said she thinks the training is just specifically for CPS. Betsey replied that law enforcement's the one that investigates it. We would want law enforcement and also coroners.

There was some discussion of who investigates. Michelle Rodriguez said that in Elko it is law enforcement which does that. Denise Tyre said that in Washoe it is the medical examiner's office, and she is sure Clark County is the same. Dylan Nall reiterated that CPS people, as part of the child death team, would be receiving this training, but Betsey noted that the CPS people are not the investigators and so law enforcement should be included in the training. Rachell Ekroos said that the trainer for this course is a diplomate of the medical death investigators board, and that's who presents this course. It's very much a multidisciplinary approach, so it's not just for law enforcement. It's not just for corner medical examiner death investigators or for CPS. It's trying to bridge that communication gap between all the different folks who are involved in an investigation. Dylan confirmed, after looking further, that it includes all members of an MDT.

Jane Saint noted the training is \$300.00 per person. Whom do we determine can attend that we will pay for under this funding opportunity? What if we have more people than then we have dollars for this? What is the budget for this training? Say 100 people decide they want to attend, but we only have money for 50, do we decide who gets a scholarship from our task force? Then are the other people because they want to attend, can they pay for it out of their agency budgets?

Beverly Brown said she thought the quote on the budget for this was \$7000 for a maximum of 25 students. She didn't foresee the budget being an issue on this if we wanted to host multiple trainings throughout the state; it could have gone up by now because this was from six months ago. Denise Tyre said quote came from Washoe, for Trittech to come and train there in person. Beverly confirmed this.

Jane Saint asked if we had double the number of people who want to attend, would we be able to allow them to pay their own way? Denise Tyre said, going off her own memory, that the amount was for the first 25 people and then there was an additional cost for each person after that and she would have to comb through her emails to find it.

Jane Siant then asked, do we have locations that would be willing to host? Beverly Brown said we would look to our child welfare agencies to help us identify those spots and they could probably help us out with that. Denise Tyre said they can host for free in Reno.

Betsey Crumrine they are currently having to locate places for the sex offender training. They have a conference room in every office, but if it's going to be more than 25 people, then we would look for a location in the community.

Dylan Nall said she had set aside some money for a statewide training. While she was pulling up that, Rachell Ekroos said that Phil Sanfilippo is the director at Tritech; she goes back many years with him. If Dylan reaches out to Phil and let him know our unique needs, he may be able to create something that's more budget friendly. Dylan said that we have roughly \$30,000 as a rough estimate for statewide training. If the cost is 300 dollars per person, it would roughly be 1200 people across the state that we could train. Jane Saint asked if there was a time frame for this training. Dylan said before the next fiscal year. Rachell Ekroos said if we go forward she would be happy to reach out to Phil and do an introduction and then Dylan can take it from there.

Cheryl Cooley asked if this training would be voluntary or mandatory. Dylan said it would be voluntary. Cheryl said they could probably find meeting space free of cost – they have a connection with North Las Vegas and they have allowed them to use meeting space. Cheryl said there is a specialized unit within child welfare in Las Vegas that investigates child homicides. Twelve people are in that unit, including the supervisors. She asked if someone on the task force is from law enforcement, because she is curious about getting buy in about abuse and neglect and homicide from, say, from law enforcement folks down here in Vegas. With child investigations, are they open to hearing another perspective on training, or if they feel locked in to how they do it now. Something she wants to figure out is how to get their law enforcement folks to buy in, because if we're not coming together as a team, then that kind of defeats the purpose.

Desiree Mattice spoke to that. She comes from the state side of law enforcement, so her jurisdiction is the entire state of Nevada. One of the things that was mentioned earlier is, who would be participating within these types of training? Clark County has their big metropolitan area, so that law enforcement component, they do have several law enforcement entities that work within that jurisdiction. Very similar to Washoe County with Reno and Sparks, they have their own teams that do these types of investigations, but they work very closely with the CAC. They also work very closely with the medical examiner as well as any Child Protective Services, or DCFS. It is a combination of the entire team working together with, especially when it comes to child death investigations, because it doesn't just affect the death of that child. It is an entire family that is affected. There could be other children, which is where those forensic interviews do come into play. And that's where the CAC comes in. So in those big areas, those law enforcement agencies work very closely with the DCFS and CPS as well as the medical examiners and the coroners. When it comes to the rurals, a lot of the law enforcement entities do have some detectives. However, they then reach out to Department of Public Safety or Nevada State Police, and then that investigation

division, which is where she's from actually, are the ones that are responding to these investigations and that team actually takes over those investigations when those agencies need assistance and as well they work directly with CPS. But the other thing, more importantly, is paying attention to the District Attorney's Office because they would probably benefit as well at understanding the type of information that's being found, so when they receive those files they can see what the detectives and what CPS was looking at. Also, with the coroners, they are the ones that are, for lack of a better term, investigating the body of that specific death. So, the whole entire team would be extremely benefited with a collaboration of everybody being within the same class when it comes to child death. Law enforcement will always have buy in if they can get more tools, more understanding, because when you look at one death, it is not going to be the same as the next death. There is always going to be something that is an anomaly, and understanding the people who have that expertise is going to be extremely beneficial. The other piece that she was looking at was topic of funding for training. If there are available seats that are going to be paid for, they put it out there as first come, first serve. For example, if we were able to pay for 25 seats, it's a first come first serve. But if there's fifty seats available, then the other people can pay for it, that way anybody has an opportunity to attend the training as deemed appropriate.

Judge Pickard commented that if the training is \$300.00 per person, she wondered if it might be more cost efficient if we pull in the resources for Las Vegas using Metro or North Las Vegas and bringing that together and then rather than offering maybe a uniform course, just maybe making sure that everybody who's presenting has the relevant information because that that money might be better spent for the rurals. Then if we can pull in the people who are doing the investigations and do a training as well, it might be dollars better spent.

Desiree Mattice agreed with that. She knows that a lot of the rurals don't have a full detective unit. One of the things that we have to be very cognizant of is that there's still the first responders and they're the ones that are showing up on scene and make the determination on what are the next steps, whether that be with law enforcement, CPS, the coroner. So, if there's a way to have it so these rural entities are able to have direct access to the training, it's going to be very beneficial. You're going to get probably more buy in from the law enforcement, officers, or deputies that work directly with CPS and now you're going to have that collaborative effort where everybody kind of knows each other and they're all going to be on that same page.

Cheryl Cooley asked if what she is hearing is that we'll spend the money to do something for the rurals and encourage Washoe and Clark to kind of come up with their own thing. Judge Pickard said that she was just thinking financially that might be more cost beneficial because, as was mentioned, Metro has a lot of trainings, and we can kind of put something together. Clark County would probably consume the entire budget on its own, and so she's saying maybe make those funds available where they could be most needed. Clark County could probably put something together. Metro's been fantastic to work with in the past.

Cheryl Cooley said she did not want to minimize the needs of the rurals, but if we're doing something statewide, "we" should feel included as well. She was curious, was she thinking that maybe give some money to help Metro put something together and that way we take care of the Clark County and then pay for the actual training for the rurals? Is that the thought? Judge Pickard replied that if there's only money for 100 people to be trained at \$300.00 a person, what would be the most efficient way to make sure that everybody gets the training? If we really want to reach the

number of people that would be most beneficial, how we can best accomplish that with a limited budget?

Cheryl Cooley asked if there was a train the trainer option. Dylan said that she didn't think so. Dylan then said she understands the concern about limited funds. Perhaps we fund, say, 25 or whatever and then whoever wants to attend beyond that they use their own budget. Maybe we will limit a certain amount of people per agency and then invite law enforcement and others, saying that if we hit our maximum then you guys have to find funding.

Judge Pickard said she liked that idea. She said the court people probably could use some other training budget.

Salli Kerr said she liked the idea because then if Metro wanted to bring it in for a second set we can offer to broaden the scope by bringing it one more time that they would be paying for or something like that.

Desiree Mattice thought that, based on what we've done historically with law enforcement, especially when there's such a specific training, and if it is first come, first serve and if it's opened up where it's a collaborative effort and it's not just law enforcement, we have CPS and other people with significant backgrounds that would benefit from this training because they're part of that multi-disciplinary team, they're going to be willing to pay because it's going to provide more tools within their toolbox for the expertise of their field. Child death is much different than any other type of homicide because there's so much more that's encompassed. If law enforcement is truly interested, which they will be because of the description that's been provided, they will absolutely jump on it and probably request additional training.

Denise Tyre, who is with Washoe County, commented that Clark County investigates probably 10 times more child fatalities than the other counties. The amount of CPS workers that they use alone is twice as much as Washoe's. So they would need twice as many spots as Washoe. Training 25 people from the rurals and 25 people from Clark is going to have a much smaller reach than what would be effective and improving our death investigations across Nevada.

Beverly Brown concurred with what Denise was saying. We obviously want to have this statewide. The task force does not have to figure out today how many people are involved. We're taking in all the feedback that we're getting to make sure that we're offering it to everyone. Sometimes when you request multiple trainings from an entity, they may give discounts because we're training so many people. What we need from the task force is it wants us to move forward with this or not and then we will just work our magic behind the scenes and make it happen - then update you all. Also, they would be reaching out to Desiree and then our child welfare agencies and trying to get just some rough numbers to help us finalize stuff on our end with the funding.

Denise Mattice moved to approve that we further investigate to identify this as a good training. Salli Kerr asked Dylan to confirm that the agenda item was to actually approve this particular training. Dylan confirmed that. The logistics and funding of the training will be determined later. Salli said she felt a funding motion was a little premature. Desiree Mattice asked if we could request or move a motion to obtain quotes for how much it would cost for 100, or 250, or 300, and that would give us an understanding of what potential cost range it would be. Isaac Rowe advised that this item can

be tabled, more research done in the meantime, and then taken up at a later date. Salli noted that there does not need to be a motion to table. The item was tabled, and Dylan will put it back on the agenda for the October meeting.

8. For Information: Presentation regarding conferences that were attended during this quarter – Salli Kerr, Chair

Denise Tyre did not personally go but supervises those from Washoe who attended the Child Welfare League of America Conference in April. They were able to send six front end workers to the conference this year and all of them came back with a really valuable learning that was shared with all of the other assessment staff in their jurisdiction. There was a lot of information around working with relative and foster providers, also a lot of information around equity and diversity in child welfare. How the conference was set up was really helpful, where all six of them were able to attend at least one of the sessions during each of the session times. Sending that many people was really beneficial because they didn't miss out as a group on any of the learning and they were able to come back and share that with the others or the other workers who did not get to go.

Cyndy Milligan-Lusk spoke for the Nevada Institute for Forensic Nursing. They sent a nurse and advocate and forensic interviewer to the End of Violence to Women Conference in April. There were different sections, and one of the things that they took back that was extremely helpful for them was more information for the LBGQT plus population. They don't see many in their service area. They actually have had two that have come through our doors, and they've been able to help them little bit better because of the training.

Next up was the annual National Citizen Review Panel Conference, and Salli Kerr jumped in to say she did get the pleasure of attending that conference. One of the things that that conference did was focus on the Hope framework, and that kind of optimistic approach and how we could move those things across systems. She'd love to see us get to the strengthening families frameworks and those kind of strength based frameworks across systems, not just with child welfare or not just at the CAC, but how our that language is being supported with families regardless of where they come in, whether it's through a Family Resource Center or whether it's through a CAC or a child welfare experience, that they're still getting that same kind of strength based foundation in advocacy work.

Dylan Nall said that James Sanders was not at this meeting, but she was another member who went to the NCRP Conference and Dylan just to read her synopsis really fast. James said while attending the National Citizen Review Panel Conference, she found the Improving Reporter Decision Making workshop interesting. The workshop was geared towards the inconsistency of maltreatment reporting and how a few counties in California have begun to address the issues. Humboldt County created a tool called the Child Protection Reporting Guide for improving mandated reporter decision making. Adding information into the tool, they get notified whether they should make an actual CPS report or if they should provide alternate resources to the family. James has a link if anyone is interested. She said another workshop she found intriguing was Life Changing Choices. It sought to improve outcomes for young people impacted by foster care rather than focusing the energy on attempting to reform systems that operate as originally designed that presenters explore the

alternative approach that have delivered positive, measurable impacts for more than a decade, there were seven essential choices that determined critical decisions about policy and practice. It brought a new perspective that allowed for powerful questions and crucial conversations that can replace historical negative outcomes with empowerment and life satisfaction.

Denise Tyre also attended this and said it was the best conference in her career. They had an overage of CJA fund for training at the end of this last fiscal year and were able to organize a webinar with Hope. They came on live and did the Hope training to about fifty of their staff directly after this conference. They also have several free trainings and that are online as well that they've been participating in and then actually applied for a grant not just a week ago, using Hope and the perspective of service provision from all different areas of life as our grants basis. That's the evidence model that they put in the grant. She also wanted to comment on Dylan, what she was saying about the mandated reporter bias and it was really inspiring to think about how our biases start from the mandated reporter when we get our report, and how does that impact our ability to properly manage, not our biases, but the biases that come with the with the reporting system that we have in place. So they should have a couple of workshops planned for their assessment staff to really dive deep into bias and not just the bias of themselves, but the bias of collaterals, the bias of schools, the bias of mandated reporters. What do we need to be aware of in order to properly assess and give families a bias free assessment?

Dylan Nall spoke about the Annual Children's Justice Act Conference, which was held virtually this year. It gives everyone who is a CJA grantee an opportunity to meet together to talk about a lot of things. We talked about where our successes, our challenges and some cool stories to share. One of the cool takeaway things that she wanted to present to everybody and she gave the Nevada Institute for Forensic Nursing a lot of kudos, we shared what they were doing in the rural counties in her little focus group, which was just consisted of her and five other states. She don't know how many questions she got and how impressed everybody was with their work.

Cyndy should meet with Dylan to discuss about talking to people from Utah who have a lot of questions. They were so excited that these funds were being used for a mobile care Center; they were just impressed. There was another person from Kansas who said they have a lot of rural Native American reservations that this would be really good for them.

Cyndy Milligan-Lusk wanted to share the fact that they were presented an award from the Nevada Coalition to end Domestic Violence. They were also awarded the Certificate of Special recognition from Senator Rosen and then a Certificate of Commendation from Senator Cortez Masto.

9. For Information: Updates to the Task Force on activities and spending of Children’s Justice Act funds by current grantees – Salli Kerr, Chair

Cheryl Cooley spoke for Clark County. They were given funding for two trainings this fiscal year, again with forensic interviewing. Their first training for the fiscal year will be a virtual training. Right now they’ve got 24 people out of 30 signed up. The second training that the CJA funded will be in October of this year. Denise Tyre asked what agency Clark uses that does the virtual forensic interview training. Cheryl answered that it is NCHC out of Huntsville. Denis asked if they have a single extra spot, she would appreciate that. They have one person that needs to be trained this, so she will reach out to Cheryl separately.

Rachael Berg spoke for the Great Basin CAC. Their grant is for forensic interview advanced training. Two of their forensic interviewers are headed to Huntsville in this month, July 22nd and 23rd. It's the Moving from Rote to Responsive practice training. Rachael will be going to Huntsville for training as well for supervising forensic interviewers. Their grant manager has moved on in her career, so Rachael is now taking over all of that, a new task for her.

Salli Kerr noted that Nevada Outreach for Training had completed their grant for this year, so she didn’t know if they wanted to jump in and say anything. Chris Goodman did say that they sent two advocate to the January conference in Washington, which they really enjoyed.

Denise Tyre added to what she had said earlier that they had just added the Hope training and and then were complete for the year.

Salli Kerr thanked everyone for their reports.

10. For Information: Discussion with grantees about the quarterly form – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr said the next thing is to ask the grantees about their experience with the new reporting

11. For Information: Task Force Member Announcements Regarding Their Agencies – Salli Kerr, Chair

Salli Kerr said that today we have Lauren Pow with us and she's in one of the mandated categories that make up our task force, currently working at Children's Cabinet. Lauren said she is currently coordinator of this Safe at Home program at the Children's Cabinet. Previously she worked for DCFS. She had been with the Cabinet since January and is looking forward to being part of the task force.

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) – Salli Kerr, Chair

No comments.

13. Adjournment – Salli Kerr, Chair

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.