

## MINUTES

### Nevada Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

August 10, 2021

9:00am

#### **1. Call to Order – Salli Kerr, Vice-Chair**

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

#### **Members Present:**

Name	Organization
Betsey Crumrine	DCFS – Rural Region
Cheryl Cooley	Clark County Department of Family Services- CAC
Cory Martin	Great Bain CAC (Elko)
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
Jennifer Spencer	Deputy Attorney General
Kathie McKenna	Nye County CAC
Kimberly Mull	Victim Advocate
Mari Parlade	Clark County Department of Family Services
Michelle Rodriguez	Family Court Master
Salli Kerr, Vice Chair	Western Regional CAC
Sharon Benson	Deputy Attorney General
Tammi Williamson	Washoe County Human Services Agency

#### **Members Absent:**

Name	Organization
Cole McBride	Washoe County CAC
Jonathan Slothower, DO	Great Basin Advocacy Center

**Guests:**

Name	Organization
Dashun Jackson	
Esther Rodriguez-Brown	
Judy Henderson	Training Coordinator for Nevada Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
Kendra Gipson	Nevada PEP
Lisa Ruggerio	Nevada CAC
Shannon Gildea	Court Improvement Program
Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner	
Zaide Martinez	Court Improvement Program

**Staff Support:**

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

**2. For Information: Roll Call and Introductions – Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Beverly called the roll and had people identify their institutional affiliations.

**News** from or about attendees: Sharon Benson said she may be leaving the committee soon, and Jennifer Spencer will represent the AG's office. Jane Saint, state director of CASA, will be replacing Shelia Parks on the committee. Kendra Gibson will be replacing Allison Stephens as a representative from Nevada PEP. Kimberly Mull, Victim Advocate, announced that she has founded a new non-profit in Las Vegas called Bless and Bloom which works with survivors of sexual trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, and adverse childhood experiences. Salli Kerr noted that her committee affiliation will change in March. Tammi Williamson will be taking over for Shannon McCoy representing Washoe County Human Services. Lisa Ruggerio, state director of Child Advocacy Center, will be added as an official member, attending today as a guest until paperwork comes through. Cory Martin, UNR School of Medicine, is acting director of the Great Basin CAC, which covers Elko, Lander, Eureka, and White Pine counties. They have been awarded the property for a brick-and-mortar building and a \$5.8 million-dollar grant from the Pennington foundation.

**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, Vice-Chair**

No comments.

**4. For Possible Action: Approval of May 11, 2021 meeting minutes – Salli Kerr, Vice-Chair**

Mari Parlade moved to approve the minutes. Sharon Benson seconded the motion. Judge Gibson and Jane Saint abstained as they had not attended previous meeting. Minutes approved.

**5. For Possible Action: Voting on chair – Salli Kerr, Vice-Chair and Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Beverly has reached out to Master Carr, who believes she no longer meets any of the membership categories and would not be able to continue as chair. Sharon asked about the language in the by-laws regarding membership categories and how this relates to election to the chair. Beverly pulled up the language on the screen. She then laid out the basics of the situation: the Chair is now empty, and Salli's term as Vice-Chair is expiring as of March 2022. There needs to be a temporary Chair, and a new Vice-Chair. Jennifer Spencer located in section 7.7 of the by-laws the procedures for nominations and elections. Sharon wondered if Salli could take over as temporary Chair. Kathy McKenna nominated Salli for Chair; Judge Gibson seconded. The motion was approved.

**6. For Possible Action: Voting on vice chair – Salli Kerr, Vice-Chair and Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Sharon asked Jane Saint if she would be interested in the Vice-Chair position, saying someone from CASA would be a good fit for the committee. She indicated she would. Kathy McKenna nominated her, and Judge Gibson seconded. The nomination was approved.

**7. For Information: Grantee Update from NCEDSV FY2021- Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Judy Henderson of the Nevada Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence had attendance total and assessment scores from trainings they conducted (attachments were provided to the committee.) She noted that post-assessment scores for objectives met was above 90%, and that valuable knowledge, skill enhancement, and new content all scored above 80%. Various localities have indicated they would like trainings open to all regions at the same time, so they will be conducted in that manner. The dates for next year's sessions are February 22 and 24, April 11 and 13, and June 21 and 23. Flyers are being created to inform people about this.

**8. For Information: Grantee Updates for FY2022 – Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Beverly noted that because we are early in the fiscal year, there will be no updates.

**9. For Information: CJA Expenditures – Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Beverly said laptops and docking stations are being provided for DCFS Rural Region workers and supervisors. An evaluation will be conducted some months down the road. Funds are being provided to Clark and Washoe counties to print and distribute the Child Welfare Court Process Guide for Families Handbook and the Quick Guide Roadmap.

**10. For Information: Child Welfare Court Process Guide for Families Handbook and Quick Guide Roadmap presentation – Shannon Gildea and Zaide Martinez, CIP**

Zaide Martinez gave an overview of the Handbook and Roadmap. This project came up during the PIP review. The judiciary, attorneys, parents, advocacy groups and other stakeholders worked on it, to better explain and clarify how it works. Work began in December 2019 among various workgroups. The North Carolina handbook was used as a guide for Nevada, as was the Florida Child Welfare System Roadmap.

Shannon Gildea said these were completed on January 31, 2021. Both are now on the Supreme Court website. They have been distributed to the Court Improvement Councils throughout the

state and to each judicial district. Another PIP item was the Family Tracking Sheet (other family members and fictive kin) which is now included in the guidebook. These documents will continue to be reviewed and revised as time goes on.

No further questions or comments.

### **11. Information: Review of New/Modified Legislation that apply to Child Welfare – Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Beverly spoke about three pieces of legislation.

SB 376 adds “unable to locate or complete” and “administrative closure” to determinations made by caseworkers. Sharon commented that this is a far more realistic way to deal with such cases, rather than just say “unsubstantiated.” SB 274 requires DCFS to license Receiving Center to serve CSEC. AB 426 authorizes child welfare agencies to obtain warrants, modifies notice of court hearing process, and adds that jurisdiction includes where a child is domiciled – all are changes recommend by the Court Improvement Project. Sharon said that this is “clean-up” to comply with Ninth Circuit case law. Other terms can be used than “warrants.”

### **12. For Possible Action: Discuss Training Evaluations – Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Beverly said the Children’s Bureau would like evaluations on what they are funding. DCFS is working with grantees on this. Evaluations will be used to report back to the Task Force and the Children’s Bureau. DCFS is also devising its own evaluations, as well. Cheryl Cooley said she spoke with NCAC, and they are compiling the evaluations which will be completed in about a month. She will forward it to the Task Force. Salli added that people going to out of state trainings fund by CJA should be reminded about doing evaluations.

Beverly forwarded information from the chat sessions to make sure they are recorded. Tammie Williamson confirmed that CJA funded 30 Washoe County Human Service Agency employees attend the Dallas Crimes Against Children Virtual Conference. Judy Henderson volunteered to help with the evaluations, as she has long experience with curriculum evaluations. Beverly said she would continue to report to the Task Force on how the evaluation process is going.

### **13. For Possible Action: Discuss Task Force Survey -Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Beverly will conduct a survey to get individual feedback regarding the five CJA goals and other ideas members might have. Results would only be accessible by DCFS family programs office. Results will be shared at the next meeting.

### **14. For Possible Action: Discuss subcommittee for NOFO – Beverly Brown, DCFS**

Beverly said there would be a vote on creating a sub-committee for the Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) to evaluate applications and make recommendations. This would be more efficient than the entire Task Force doing this. Sharon thought it would be a good idea to have people on the sub-committee go through the huge amount of application information that must be sent to Fiscal and weed out what is essential for the entire Task Force to make the final decisions on applications. Jane Saint moved for a vote, seconded by Cory Martin. No objections, no abstentions, the motion was carried.

### **15. 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, Vice-Chair**

Sharon reminded the committee about the golf tournament in October that Supporting our Survivors is holding. Anyone who wishes to participate in any capacity should get in touch with her.

## **16. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.