

MINUTES

Nevada Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

October 1, 2024

9:00am

NOTE: AS THIS MEETING WAS NOT RECORDED, THESE “MINUTES” ARE A RECONSTRUCTION OF THE MEETING TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM.

Members Present:

Name	Organization
Christine Sullivan	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
Wonswayla Mackey	Division of Child and Family Services
Laurie Jackson	Division of Child and Family Services
Margaret Pickard	Eighth Judicial District
Melanie McCormick	Nevada CASA
Michelle Rodgriguez	Family Court Master
Rachell Ekroos	Health Professional

Members Absent:

Name	Organization
Angelina Blare	Adult Survivor
Betsey Crumrine	Division of Child and Family Services
Desiree Mattice	Lieutenant – Dept. of Public Safety
Fran Maldonado	Division of Child and Family Services
Massey Mayo	Children’s Attorney
Wendy Maddox	Humboldt County DA’s Office

Guests:

Name	Organization
Britt Young	Nevada PEP
Jan Marson	Carson City CAC
Lauren Pow	Children’s Cabinet

Staff Support:

Name	Organization
Beverly Brown	Division of Child and Family Services
Dylan Nall	Division of Child and Family Services
Jimesian Sanders	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) – Jane Saint, Vice-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, 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 July 2, 2024, meeting minutes – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

The minutes were approved.

6. For Possible Vote to Approve: Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve nominees for the CJA Chair and Vice-Chair – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Salli Kerr and Rachell Ekroos were approved as nominees for CJA Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

7. For Possible Vote to Approve: Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to approve new CJA Chair and Vice-Chair – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Salli Kerr and Rachell Ekroos were approved as new CJA Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

8. For Possible Action: Consideration, discussion and possible action to recommend DCFS to use CJA funding to provide Tritech Forensic Training regarding the Child Death Investigation Course for child welfare staff and other professionals who will investigate the death of children in Nevada – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Below are notes from the meeting forwarded by Jamesian Sanders:

Dylan Nall said this training will be provided training to any child welfare staff who will be investigating the death of children. This course is roughly \$300.00 a person.

1. Child Death Investigations Course, 16 hours, two sessions presented on four consecutive days in the Greater Las Vegas area. \$7,300.00
2. Child Death Investigations Course, 16 hours, two sessions presented on four consecutive days in the Greater Reno area. \$7,300.00
3. Child Death Investigations Course, 16 hours, two sessions presented on four consecutive days in the Greater Elko area. \$5,800.00

Because communication is key to any death investigation, this training has a focus on interdisciplinary approaches and collaboration.

“Interdisciplinary Approach: Because every death matters.” With every state in the country now having some type of child fatality review system in place, the process by which child death cases are handled and investigated is under immense scrutiny. Every agency having a role in a child death investigation must be prepared to have their involvement analyzed from beginning to end.

Communication is the number one reason agencies identify as a system issue in many investigations. Unfortunately, it is an issue that can permeate and wreak havoc at any stage of an investigation.

This program addresses child deaths from an interdisciplinary perspective. This approach provides all agencies the necessary information to not only investigate and gather information but to understand and appreciate the details and collaboration required in order to make a final determination of cause and manner of death.

Two courses with approved 16 hours of certification/re-certification training credit.

Actual cases will be covered, from the initial 911 call through to the final determinations of cause and manner of death. At each step of the investigative process, we will examine what was done correctly, what was missed and why, why some details are more important than others, and critical communication times. These exercises help participants truly grasp the importance of how even the smallest details can have a significant effect on the outcome of a case.

Manners of death—Natural, Accidental, Suicide, Homicide, Undetermined. We will explore each pathologist and the methods they employ to reach their determinations.

- Mechanisms of death—The pathological aspects of the cause of death. We will discuss interpretation of injuries and the lack of injuries. What do the pathologists look for with their various tests and analyses? What does asphyxiation look like, or can you tell
- What is SIDS anyway? We will do an in-depth analysis of this subjective and often misapplied diagnosis.
- Why are infants so complicated? Regardless of circumstances, infant death cases have many associated issues that must be addressed during the investigative process.
- Scene investigations—What makes a child death scene different? •Court issues—Now that we are here, what is going to happen? •Reconstructions—A must of any infant death, reconstructions are a

valuable tool regardless of the age of the decedent. We will do re-enactments and cover exactly how to do a complete infant/child death scene reconstruction. •Interviewing families—Talking to families and gathering information from them can be difficult and unnerving in highly emotional situations. We will address specific strategies for obtaining maximal information from families.

9. For Information: Review response from Children’s Bureau regarding CJA’s Annual Report – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Below are notes from the meeting forwarded by Jamesian Sanders:

Dylan reviewed the response from the Children's Bureau:

Thank you for submitting the Children’s Justice Act application. The Children’s Bureau has completed its review of your submission, which included a review and comments from staff in both the Central Office and Region 9 Office. Overall, we found that NV’s submission was clear, concise, thorough, and contained all the required information. All activities completed over the course of the previous year and proposed for the year to come appear appropriate for the CJA program and aligned with Task Force recommendations.

- It was great to see that Task Force membership continues to be full, and we appreciated the information on Task Force maintenance over the course of the year. We do encourage the Task Force to consider the inclusion of individuals with lived experience with the child welfare system as parents, as this can provide a unique and important perspective to the work. In addition, we would encourage the Task Force to consider the inclusion of individuals representing tribal populations as well.

- We appreciated the level of information provided on the ways in which the Task Force is collaborating with the Court Improvement Program (CIP) around a proposed goal for NV’s Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) to improve existing relationships between child welfare and courts in an effort to improve outcomes for families. We look forward to learning more about this work and the involvement of the Task Force as this moves forward.

- Updates on ongoing activities including multidisciplinary professional training, technology upgrades for CACs, and support for the CSEC database were clear and well-detailed, and it was great to see the amount of work that was accomplished over the course of the year through CJA support. We also appreciated the inclusion of outputs and outcomes from each activity, and the efforts that have been made to get a better sense of the impacts of trainings through evaluation strategies.

- NV’s Three-Year Assessment report was also clear and concise, and provided a detailed overview of the process used to complete the assessment as well as the resulting recommendations. It was good to see that the Task Force took into consideration the multidisciplinary presentations that it has received in recent years and that they were able to use this information to agree upon areas of focus for moving forward. •Again, thank you for your report and application. The Children’s Bureau does not require any additional information at this time, and your application will be forwarded to our leadership for review and approval. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to let me know.

**10. For Information: Citizen Review Panel's Recommendations Subcommittee Yearly Meeting
Reminder – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair**

Jane Saint reminded the meeting about the yearly CRP Recommendation Subcommittee meeting.

**11. For Information: Updates to the Task Force on activities and spending of
Children's Justice Act funds by current grantees – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair**

Clark and Washoe counties gave update on their activities

**12. For Information: Task Force Member Announcements Regarding Their Agencies – Jane Saint,
Vice-Chair**

Jan Marson of Carson City CAC gave an update of its activities.

**13. 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**

No comments.

14. Adjournment – Jane Saint, Vice-Chair

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.