

## MINUTES

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

October 4, 2022

9:00am

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

Salli Kerr called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

#### **Members Present:**

Name	Organization
Angela Blare	Adult Survivor
Cheryl Cooley	Clark County Department of Family Services- CAC
Desiree Mattice	Sergeant – Dept. of Public Safety
Fran Maldonado	Division of Child and Family Services
Jamie Wong	SNCAS
Janice Wolfe	Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Jane Saint, Vice-Chair	State Director, Nevada CASA
Jennifer Rains	Washoe Public Defender
Kendra Gipson	Nevada PEP
Kimberly Martin	Washoe County
Kristy Mills	Great Basin CAC
Laurie Jackson	DCFS Rural Regions
Lisa Ruggerio	Nevada CAC
Mari Parlade	Clark County Department of Family Services
Rachell Ekross	Health Professional
Salli Kerr, Chair	Western Regional CAC
Sharon Benson	Deputy Attorney-General

#### **Members Absent:**

Name	Organization
Cory Martin	Great Basin CAC (Elko)
Jennifer Spencer	Deputy Attorney General
Michelle Rodriguez	Family Court Master
Tammi Williamson	Washoe County CAC

#### **Guests:**

Name	Organization
Judy Henderson	NCEDSV
Rachel 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 – Salli Kerr, 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) – Salli Kerr, 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 put on a slide to review some CJA by-laws, including Mission Statement, Advisory Role, Task Force Responsibilities, Quorum, Frequency of Meetings, Attendance, and Confidentiality.

Salli Kerr said she recalled some discussion about review of the bylaws but thought it had been quite a while; 2019 or 2020 was the last time we did any major review and revision, and wondered if it was best practice to look at every couple of years at least, or even annually. She would like to see if we could put a task force together for early in 2023 to just review those bylaws and make sure that they are updated and appropriate.

Dylan Nall said she could put this item on the next Agenda for next year and then schedule a meeting and get approval from everybody for a subcommittee for the Bylaws.

**6. For Possible Action: Review and possible action regarding the Children’s Bureau’s recommendations from our 2022 CJA Annual Report – Dylan Nall, DCFS & Salli Kerr, Chair**

Beverly Brown said that every year, in May, there is a CJA report due to the Children's Bureau, talking about the activities that we funded throughout the year. They want to know our outputs or outcomes, our evaluation methods, and then what we're planning on doing for the upcoming year and then they give us feedback on our report. Our report was accepted as it was, but they still gave us some good feedback and then some items to consider in the future. They did indicate that it was great to see we maintained full membership despite having a mass exodus last year; we had seven people leave all at once and we had to refill all those positions. Our information and our report are clear and easily understood. Our activities carried out over the past year and our proposed activities for the next year align with the CJA program and the Task Force recommendations. We can't do direct services, prevention services and or any kind of permanency because we're limited in this one area. We do a good job at making sure we're only funding what we're supposed to. They appreciated reading our information about ongoing activities such as the subgrants for multidisciplinary trainings, our support for child advocacy centers and our domestic violence training

that the coalition did for child welfare staff, and work around implementation of the CSEC Protocol and enhanced data collection of victims of CSEC.

Some things that they wanted for future consideration is they wanted us to explore adding a parent with lived experience as a task force member. Lived experience is a hot topic right now and it's talked about quite frequently at the federal level and then down to our level. They are really wanting us to have people with lived experience on task forces and group meetings or when we're updating policy. They want us to support our CFSR PIP, more specifically around safety outcomes. We actually did just complete our CFSR PIP and we met all of our items. We're not going to be on a PIP for a few more years. What that means is we won't be doing our federal case reviews, which will then inform our data for our PIP until either 2024 or 2025. In the meantime, the team is going to continue looking at safety outcomes. Then they also indicated our annual report narrative includes reference to evaluation methods, outputs, and outcomes. But there's a lack of clear and specific data provided in these areas and so they want to see more detailed information such as results of surveys pre- and post-test related to training to the extent possible, information such as the type of training provided, the number or percentage of the targeted people who should have been trained who received that training. So that is one of the reasons we have our evaluation subcommittee is this seems to be something that we've gotten feedback on before and the Children's Bureau is really pushing evaluation methods. They don't want to see; we sent 38 people - here's the certificates of attendance, and that's it. Any way we can shore up language in our annual NOFO to make sure those applicants are getting us information that we're going to need for that evaluation, that's something that Beverly Brown would definitely like to do. If we look back at what Judy Henderson has given us from her training, that is like exactly what they are looking for.

Overall, it was really positive. They just gave us some suggestions and we're already working on some and we'll work on the other ones and keep doing what we're doing.

Jane Saint asked what the Children's Bureau meant specifically by a "parent" in their recommendation. Beverly Brown said they want a parent that was actively involved in the child welfare system as a parent. We already have someone on our task force who represents a child or an adult survivor of child abuse or neglect. Now they're wanting a parent who has worked with the child's welfare system.

Kimberly Martin confirmed this really is a hot topic and one of the things that is talked about is that when you have parents come in, it sure is nice if you can pay them for their time because it's a commitment. Sometimes these meetings are hard for folks and to just ask them to participate without any compensation can be tough. It would be great if we could figure out a mechanism for that, not just for this task force but other advisory boards as well. Beverly Brown said that is an internal conversation they've been having at Family Programs Office because they recognize there's a variety of areas that need to have someone with lived experience involved and have learned about the fact that we do need to be compensating them. She doesn't know what that looks like or how that works with Fiscal departments, but it is a conversation. It is something that's on their radar and want to make sure we compensate people for their time.

Cheryl Cooley asked what was intended by more work being done implementing the CSEC protocol. Beverly Brown said our most recent venture is the CJA funding a vendor who is going to develop a database of the CSEC victims for tracking. We could probably get a presentation in here soon about

that, but that's really what they're talking about is that we're funding this vendor to develop this database for CSEC victims in Nevada.

Salli Kerr asked if Beverly Brown would be overseeing the contractor on this. Beverly said there is somebody else who oversees CSEC in our Family Programs Office and another contract worker who would probably be the one that could come and present to the task force on this.

Jane Saint asked Kimberly Martin about providing stipend or payment. Does Washoe you have any experience with that? What does that look like? Hundreds of dollars, thousands of dollars? Kimberly Martin said they have just started talking about it because they want to create a Continuous Quality Improvement Advisory Board for Washoe County, and she hasn't really identified how they are going to do it. They talked about using gift cards. She thought if they can just give them an hourly rate, that would make the most sense, and it would need to be substantial because giving them \$20 to attend a meeting, she didn't know that that's enough.

**7. For Possible Action: Approve the last meeting's minutes – Dylan Nall, DCFS**

Desiree Mattice noted minor errors to be corrected on pages 5 and 7. Rachell Ekross noted she should be marked as absent from the meeting. Jane Saint moved the minutes as amended be approved. Desiree Mattice seconded. The motion was approved, with Sharon Benson, Rachell Ekross, and Kimberly Martin abstaining.

**8. For Possible Action: Draft and/or Approve 2023 CJA's Recommendations – Salli Kerr, Chair & Jane Saint, Vice-Chair**

Dylan Nall said that Jane Saint and Salli Kerr wanted to talk about potentially getting those figured out and drafted and/or approved during this meeting because those are the recommendations to DCFS from CJA. Salli Kerr asked when those are due to DCFS. Dylan Nall said that was in January. Salli Kerr thought she recalled that a subcommittee was going to look at this, but perhaps that was for a different subject. Beverly Brown said that we've talked about doing a subcommittee. It's something that she really wanted to do, but there's always been a little bit of pushback on that because it means more work. We just have never established one. If the task force wants to do that, we can do that too. That way the subcommittee can work on it between now and January. Jane Saint liked that idea, so people can be phoned and e-mailed to participate.

Dylan Nall asked Sharon Benson if this should be put to a motion at this meeting. Sharon replied what they could do is have a special meeting with just that item and just post it and just do a quick little video meeting to create the subcommittee. Salli Kerr said they could call a special meeting, invite everyone who wants to attend to be a part of that. She would have a concern then that we might not meet a quorum. Sharon Benson said they could do a special meeting to establish a subcommittee, that would take less than 10 minutes. It would be easier to get a quorum and then your subcommittee will be much smaller, so you won't have to have the quorum issues.

Salli Kerr said she would like to go with that. She added that that in all of the discussion we had about how important it is that we start to have some input into these recommendations, we really need to stand by what we said and get some folks together to really review it and talk about it and not try to just drop them on the fly. At this point, she said, let's look for a notification that there'll be a special meeting called to establish that subcommittee. It would be early November because we

have to give a 30-day window for that special meeting to occur. So, there will be no motion on this item then and there'll be a notification coming for that special meeting and Salli Kerr asked that all attend and make time for that. They will need a quorum at that meeting to vote to establish the subcommittee so anyone who can possibly make time to step in, please let give us that few minutes.

**9. For Possible Action: Approve next year's CJA Task Force Meetings– Salli Kerri, Chair**

Dylan Nall announced the proposed meeting dates for 2023 as January 3, April 4, July 11, and October 3. All are Tuesdays, all would be from 9am to 11am or adjournment. Salli Kerr suggested the first meeting be moved to January 10, as people might be getting back from vacation travel. Jane Saint moved the dates be approved as amended. Desiree Mattice seconded. Approved unanimously.

**10. For Information: Video on Children's Advocacy Centers in Nevada – Salli Kerr, Chair**

Cheryl Cooley gave some background before the video. There are over 900 accredited children's advocacy centers. If you have more than one accredited CAC in your state, you're then able to become a chapter. Salli Kerr did a bunch of work on working on getting us to be a chapter Nevada is the newest chapter in the United States. They hired a chapter coordinator. In the last legislative session Assemblywomen Brittany Miller authored a Bill that really legitimizes the multidisciplinary approach that CAC's do to help children that have been abused and neglected. As a part of the effort to get the word out a public relations agency was hired to make a video about the work that they do at the CAC. After the video was shown, Cheryl Cooley said that just as sex abuse is a secret, the power of teamwork sometimes is a secret that people don't even realize. For sex offenses, arrests for molesting children, etc., the CACs have their hand in that. An example: there's a producer for a national television network that was molesting children really all over the nation, and it was through the efforts of a forensic interviewer in Southern Nevada that was able to interview the child, build some rapport. The child wasn't ready to completely disclose, but we left our doors opened, left that safe place open for her to talk, and then when she came back to talk, we were able to see that producer who had a cabin out in the woods somewhere and was calling people from all over the state to come and abuse them in this cabin. It was her voice that put a stop to that kind of abuse. So, whenever you read something in Nevada about child sex abuse, know that the support that CJA gives is helping us to get support to those kids and help them start the path of healing.

Desiree Mattice said she has seen the inside of some of the CACs that are around the state and one of the things that she, on the law enforcement side, has recognized is that the offices are very welcoming. It's not a scary environment other than what we're there for, but the situation is that people are very well trained. They're acknowledging the fear factor and the offices are put together very, very well.

**11. For Information: Evaluation Subcommittee update – Janice Wolf, Subcommittee Spokesperson**

Janice Wolf said they did meet to discuss parameters and what we're looking for in terms of grant applications sharing information. It was a productive meeting because they were able to focus on what's really important. They had some questions about sharing information about repeating multiple applications, keeping straight who is applying, making sure that we were clear on reporting parameters. The purpose of that meeting was just to clarify our processes for evaluating, accepting and disseminating grant applications.

Salli Kerr asked if there we upcoming meeting scheduled. Dylan Nall said the next meeting is November 9. They will do it specifically a month after CJA task force meetings to give time to evaluate, for our grantees to submit their reports, and then for our committee here to talk about them.

### **12. For Information: Grantee Updates for FY 2022 – Salli Kerr, Chair**

Dylan Nall said Great Basin had no updates and so we just have them send me an e-mail saying no updates. Washoe County has had some movement and she got in touch with the grants management people at the CAC last week. Due to open meeting laws, she couldn't publish that in time for this meeting. But she did invite them, and they are more than welcome to discuss it today. She will provide the update next meeting. Rachel Berg said Great Basin did have updates on the CAC. They are up for an accreditation site review on October 19th. Their building is very much moving along. She was at a site tour last week and they have drywall, windows, and doors. It looks like the backyard is starting to come along. So, she just wanted to give that update to everybody.

### **13. For Information: Announcements – Salli Kerr, Chair**

Jane Saint reported that the Nevada CASA received approval to be allocated American Rescue Plan funds. Over a two-year period, they will be receiving \$2.5 million. They don't have enough volunteers across the state. So, they are usually serving just about a quarter or less of the children who need a CASA in the state. So, this will allow them to really ramp up our services, 70% of those dollars are going to be passed through to the local programs so that they can expand their capacity to serve more children. It does mean that they get to hire two additional staff members on the state level, a program director as well as an administrative assistant. So, if anyone is interested, you can reach out to her and get the job description. They are also looking at getting a specialty license plate for CASA.

Jane Saint added that it was very interesting, because for the ARPA funding they decided to do special funding pool just for nonprofits and the legislative committee set aside \$30 million for nonprofits to provide services. They had 337 grant applications that came in asking for \$445 million, which she hopes is an eye opener to our legislators that this is the what the nonprofits feel is a minimum to provide an adequate safety net for those in need in our state. This is one of the reasons why we tend to be at the bottom of every good list and the top of every bad list. We just don't have the money to provide those services.

Rachell Ekross shared why she was in Washington, DC right now. There is an NHI-DOJ funded project for a translation to practice for using alternate light source for detecting injuries that are under the skin for bruises and things like that which may not have raised to the level of being visible, but also for darker tone skins where bruising is much more difficult to visualize. Law enforcement has known since the 90s that we can use alternate light sources in these different areas, but we didn't have the science behind it and now we have the research and the science behind it. But now we're trying to translate it into practice so that the clinicians can use these resources and be able to testify and it holds up and not create issues in court. She is there with three study sites right now starting to do the implementation project and then the outcome of this is a translation into practice guidebook and toolkit. That has morphed into getting in the public eye of Angelina Jolie and others across the US, and her colleagues recently met with some funders who

are interested in developing app or AI protocols, so that this resource can also be available in the field to law enforcement and others who are accounting victims of violence and be able to do a different type of visualization of injury.

On a more local front, Rachell Ekross added that she has been reached out to by some of the CACs and from medical folks about having medical representation oversight at these different agencies. She will be following up with everyone next week on that. They had their own staffing shortages and are starting to overcome that. They will see how they can reach out across the state and support everyone so that they can meet accreditation, meet best practices, and can best serve the kiddos in their areas. Jane Saint had one other announcement. March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, through the March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is Children's Week at the Nevada Legislature. If you are interested in having a table, you can have a table for the full week, or you can have a table just on a day that relates to your issues. Nevada CASA will be there all week and it's just a great way to meet staff members and to meet your legislators. They do have some time where they get you down on the floor with your legislators and you can see what happens on the floor of the Assembly and the Senate. Tabling space is limited. It's kind of tight, but it's also a great time to connect with your fellow child welfare agencies and see what they're up to from across the state. She said she would send out information on how to register. She said she could share CASA's table so CJA task force could have a small display as well.

Cheryl Cooley will look into a CAC table.

Salli Kerr asked if CJA has the authority to have a display. Dylan Nall said she will look into it. Sharon Benson indicated there would be no problem.

**14. 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)**

There were no comments.

**15. Adjournment – Salli Kerr, Chair**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2023.