

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

The Children's Justice Act Task Force

Division of Child and Family Services- Family Programs Office

Dylan Nall

March 25, 2025



Department of Health and Human Services

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Welcome

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Roll call**



Initial Public Comment

3. Initial 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.
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Information

4. For Information

- Review the Notice of Funding Opportunity applications for fiscal year 2026- Dylan Nall, Division of Child and Family Services



Possible Action- Total Request: \$142,016

- Consideration and discussion of Notice of Funding Opportunity Applications, and possible approval of funding recommendations to present to the Children's Justice Act Task Force. The subcommittee will review and discuss each application listed below and make recommendations for full/partial/ or no funding for each one. –Dylan Nall, DCFS
 - i. Clark County Department of Family Services (Current Grantee)
 - 1. Last year funding: \$40,000
 - 2. Requested: \$40,000
 - ii. Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing (Current Grantee)
 - 1. Last year funding: \$30,000
 - 2. Requested: \$30,000
 - iii. Carson City District Attorney (New Agency)
 - 1. Requested: \$19,126
 - iv. Washoe County Health and Human Services (Current Grantee)
 - 1. Last year funding: \$15,000
 - 2. Requested: \$15,000
 - v. Great Basin Children's Advocacy Center (Previous Grantee)
 - 1. Requested: \$9,900
 - vi. No to Abuse (Previous Grantee)
 - 1. Requested: \$27,990



Clark County Family Services

- This year's request for Children's Justice Act (CJA) funding is to support training for professionals in the forensic interviewing of children. This evidence-based method ensures that interviews are conducted in a neutral, non-leading manner, allowing children to share detailed accounts of their experiences in a structured and supportive environment. Forensic interviewers are trained to engage in a guided conversation that encourages a child to disclose information while minimizing suggestibility and undue influence. This specialized training is crucial, as forensic interviewing differs significantly from typical conversations with children.
- The primary goal of forensic interviewing is to provide investigative agencies with critical information needed to assess child safety and pursue justice. Law enforcement relies on these interviews to determine whether a crime has occurred and to take appropriate legal action. Additionally, Child Protective Services (CPS) uses information from forensic interviews to evaluate the protective capacities of non-offending caregivers. This assessment is vital, as a child's safety may be at risk if a non-offending parent was complicit or failed to protect the child from harm.



Nevada Institute of Forensic Nursing

- NVIFN is requesting \$30,000 to enhance forensic imaging capabilities for child survivors of sexual abuse and assault by acquiring a second Cortexflo Machine and the necessary technology to support it. \$25,000 will fund the purchase of the second Cortexflo machine, an advanced forensic imaging system designed for high-resolution photographic evidence collection in forensic exams. This trauma-informed technology improves documentation accuracy while ensuring the comfort and well-being of young survivors. The remaining \$5,000 will cover the computer technology required for secure operation, including cloud-based storage that integrates with NVIFN's first Cortexflo machine, maintaining full HIPAA compliance while ensuring forensic images are protected and easily accessible for medical and legal use.



Carson City District Attorneys Office

- The proposed project is to provide evidence-based Drug Endangered Children training performed by national experts to the Carson/Storey/Lyon/Douglas County region with little to no cost to the interested stakeholders. Our department will contract with National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children to provide the training. National DEC has provided expert training, technical assistance, program, resources, and support to thousands of professionals, partners, organizations, parents and caregivers nationally every year since 2003. National DEC believes that the best way to address the needs of drug endangered children is a coordinated approach that puts children's needs first as they have historically been the first impacted and often the last identified. DEC defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm because of legal and/or illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution and/or children whose caretaker's legal and/or illegal substance misuse interferes with the caretaker's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment. Specifically, the training will consist of 5 different sessions. The initial 2-hour orientation session will guide participants through their access to DEC's free tools as well as four online trainings, *CJA Application SFY 2026 Drug Endangered Children Overview*, *You Can Change the Long-Term Outcome*, *Prenatal Substance Exposure – Why should I care?* and *Postnatal Risks – How You Can Make a Difference*. The second session will be DEC awareness.



Washoe County Human Services Agency

- The enhancement of training and services that directly affect the effectiveness of child safety assessments. In child welfare work, responding to new reports of abuse and neglect often involves a complex set of challenges. Specifically, the safety of children must be assessed under a short timeframe, requiring a high level of expertise and skill from staff. To address these challenges, WCHSA seeks funding for initiatives that will bolster the agency's investigatory capacity, expand alternative responses to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and improve the medical evaluation process for injuries related to abuse and neglect.



Great Basin Children's Advocacy Center

- The Great Basin Children's Advocacy Center is dedicated to providing comprehensive support and services to children and families affected by abuse. Utilizing a Multi-Disciplinary Team approach, GBCAC creates a coordinated response system for investigating and prosecuting cases of child abuse. This evidence-based method significantly reduces trauma for children and their families, while enhancing the quality of evidence collected, ultimately increasing the likelihood of successful litigation against perpetrators.



No To Abuse

- The NCCAC intends to send 14 people from the MDT to the San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment in January 2026. This would include 2 staff from each discipline including child advocacy, forensic interviewers, law enforcement, prosecution, medical, mental health and child protective services. The training provides specific training for all disciplines in our MDT focusing on the multidisciplinary response for victims of child sex abuse and exploitation, physical abuse and child victims with disabilities and the prosecution of those cases.



Final Public Comment

6. Final Public Comment

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Adjournment

7. Adjournment

- Thank you for your time and commitment to improving services for children and youth in Nevada.