

Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Remote meeting via Teams

2:00 pm- 5:00 pm

Task Force Members:

	CASA Jenna App	xx	CAMI AC Member Tammi Pitzen
	Prosecuting Attorney VACANT	xx	CAMI AC Member Marilyn Reilly
xx	Person with Experience Working with Children with Disabilities Shawna Clowser	xx	Attorney for Children Rahela Rehman
xx	Criminal Court Judge Hon Andrew Erwin		Lived Experience Expert Sherree Rodriguez
xx	Law Enforcement Amy Ford	xx	Parent Patty Terzian
	Mental Health Professional Damon Holland		Person with Experience Working with Homeless Children and Youth VACANT
	Civil Court Judge VACANT	xx	Child Protective Services Deena Loughary
xx	Health Professional Patty Kenyon		Defense Attorney Matthew Muenzen
xx	CAMI AC Member Tina Morgan	xx	CAMI AC Member Beatriz Lynch

Guests:

xx	Shelly Smith, Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS)	xx	Cassy Miller (OCAS)
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CVSSD DOJ Staff:

xx	Robin Reimer, CAMI Fund Coordinator		Kim Kennedy, GMS Section Manager
xx	Amanda VanTil, Grant Specialist		Shannon Sivell, CVSSD Director

Welcome

February meeting minutes were approved without objection.

OCAS Project Updates Shelly updated the group on the recent activities of OCAS including the quarterly membership meeting in Hood River, and a training for medical professionals held in Bend.

Kat Hendricks has joined the state child death review team.

Cassy introduced the group to the Kirkpatrick Model of Evaluation. OCAS has applied the Kirkpatrick model to many of their CJA funded programs. The Kirkpatrick model encourages ongoing evaluation of programs to help achieve desired outcomes and behavior changes.

Annual Report and Application Robin submitted the Annual Report and Application and is awaiting feedback from the Children’s Bureau. The Federal Program Instruction outlines the basic requirements for

the CJA grant and signals the priorities and direction for the grant. It requires a report of the CJA activities for the past year as well as a description of how the CJA activities fit with other Children’s Bureau activities across the state related to child abuse and, a demonstration of the intersection of child welfare, courts, and prosecution. Currently, OCAS is the CJA’s only grantee and the grant to OCAS is just starting year two of a two-year grant, so projects and outputs/outcomes are at a mid-point. The next federal report and application, due in May 2024, will include the final report as well as a three-year needs assessment.

Tina updated the group on the recent National CJA conference (see attachment A). Other states with similar funding amounts as Oregon are utilizing funds in much the same way as Oregon, and there appears to be movement toward funding fewer projects for long term as opposed as short-term innovations.

Take aways included data on the rising use of Xylazine (veterinary sedative) as well as Child Welfare’s data on parents with addiction.

Evaluation Discussion Robin shared that the Children’s Bureau has been emphasizing the importance of evaluating CJA funded programs. The Children’s Bureau have not been prescriptive about the type of evaluation, but are emphasizing a desire to see grantees move from outputs or satisfaction surveys to evaluations focused on program impact or outcomes. Patty Terzian presented on the evaluation mapping activity to be conducted during the August CJA meeting. The group is asked to provide input on evaluation of CJA funded activities as they relate to Oregon’s priorities. These activities may include activities of the Task Force or of funded projects. Patty will circulate a worksheet that may be used as an example.

Member Updates Jackson County held a symposium on the scope of fentanyl and the impact on children in the community, hair strand testing, and concluded with self-care and secondary trauma observance.

Wrap Up Robin presented Stacy Neal as the nomination for the prosecution representative for the Task Force. The nomination was approved to move forward without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm

Next meeting: **Tuesday, August 22, 9:00am - 12:00pm in person at 100 SW Market St. Portland, OR**

Action Items:		
Item	Assigned to	Status
Share data map form	Patty	

Take-Aways from CJA Annual Meeting – Baltimore Maryland May 23-24, 2023

Submitted by: Tina Morgan, Chair CJA Task Force

Day 1:

- **Opening and Welcome from Children’s Bureau and CW Capacity Building Center.**
Interactive exercise demonstrated the number of attendees were in their positions as CJA Grand Administrator or Chair less than a year. Pandemic perceived as primary contributor to change in staffing/leadership.
- **Family Safety and Risk in the Presence of Parents Substance Use Disorders:** *Child Welfare data indicate removal with alcohol/drug use present is very high across the country. Oregon the rate is 51 to 60%. The rising use of Xylazine (non-opioid) a veterinarian sedative is the cause of overdose deaths. Emerging drug trends highlight a critical need for child welfare to:*
 - *Partner with additional systems when making decisions on family safety and risk.*
 - *Stigma attached substance use and mental health disorders influences how various service systems interact with families affected by these issues.*
 - *Presenters highlighted family-centered collaborative strategies that remain key to disrupting stigma and ensuring families access the services they need.*
 - a. *Diverse teams bring a range of experiences that can **inform strategies to reduce stigma and increase access** to culturally responsive services.*
 - b. *Those affected and/or in recovery should be invited into conversations. State collaboratives are expanding to include parents with lived experience to inform equitable and **inclusive policy and practice decisions.***
- **CJA Funded Collaborative Efforts Highlighted:**
 - *Illinois - Highly prestigious university level child abuse medical training.*
 - *New York – Operate 13 Rural Mobile CACs*
- **Presentation on Safety Science and the National Partnership for Child Safety –** *which is an evidence-based safety discipline that provides a framework for understanding the factors that influence decision-making in safety critical work settings and provides strategies for building more safe, effective, and reliable teams of professionals. Using safety science to improve child safety is at the heart of the work being done by the National Partnership for Child Safety (NPCS), a collaborative of 33 state, county, and tribal child-serving jurisdictions. Since 2018 NPCS has been working across jurisdictions to focus on applying safety science and sharing data to develop strategies in child welfare to improve safety and prevent child maltreatment fatalities.*

DAY 2:

- **Evaluating CJA-Funded Activities:** *This work session included information on conducting and evaluating CJA funded activities with the focus on finding solutions to evaluation challenges.*
 - *Our very own Robin Reimer was a co-presenter for this topic area. Robin did a great job describing Oregon’s projects and the task forces efforts to implement and expect*

more meaningful outcome measures to ensure appropriate funding decisions and the impact on investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of child abuse cases across the state.

- **Addressing Disproportionality, Disparity and Equity (DEE) Throughout Child Welfare:**
This session focused on key components child welfare agencies and partners should consider in planning and advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts to improve child and family outcomes and address disproportionality and disparity in practice.
 - *In my opinion it was by far the most engaging and practical session of the conference offered over the two days. Unfortunate, the participants were dwindling as they exited for the airport. There were several cases presented with identical circumstances but handled drastically different conceivably based on the race of the mother the petition was being filed against.*

Summary and Feedback Provided in Evaluation: Again, as you can see from the presentation the CJA Annual Meeting continues to focus heavily on Child Welfare agency work. The speakers are highly qualified in their field of expertise, professional, smart, and are excellent presenters. The utilization of the information provided is not applicable for many of us in attendance. There is little to no discussion that addresses the criminal investigation, prosecution and/or judicial handling of child abuse cases even though CJA-Funded projects tend to focus a great deal on the work CACs across the country, i.e., Forensic Interviewer Training, Child Abuse Medical Assessment Training, Mobil CAC units, MDT Trainings, etc. I often feel like I have gone to the wrong registration desk and landed in the wrong training room. An agenda that is more inclusive of all the areas that CJA funds are required to address would be a far more effective use of attendee's time and travel. The meeting accommodations, location, access to fabulous seafood, and networking opportunities were fabulous!

Links to Meeting Materials:

1. [CJA Grantee Meeting – CFSR Presentation](#)
2. [CJA Jeopardy Answers_May 2023](#)
3. [CJA small group takeaways_5.23.23](#)
4. [CJA_SLO_EID Session_Hudson_Final 052423](#)
5. [CJA Grantee Meeting_Evaluation Presentation_2023_Final](#)
6. [NCSACW Session_5.23.23](#)
7. [Safety Science CJA and SLO meeting](#)