



Children’s Justice Act Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 2, 2024
Remote Zoom meeting, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Task Force Members:

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

Guests:

X	Caroline Olfert, CVSSD Communications	
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CVSSD DOJ Staff:

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

Welcome and Introductions

Robin welcomed the group. She explained membership changes and requested assistance with vacancy recruitments.

Approval of February Minutes

February minutes were approved without additional edits.

Field Report Presentations:

Each member presented their findings from interviews with their peers and their own reflections. Staff turnover, need for specialized training, and increasing consistency of services and prosecution were common themes. Greater attention to trauma-informed services for children and families is a positive trend, especially within the judicial system. Families continue to experience communication challenges with MDT partner agencies. Oregon continues to improve collaboration among MDT agencies, but conflicting purposes and timelines continue to pose challenges to coordination of efforts. Task Force members think inconsistencies will be improved with better training and mentoring. The impact of changes in case law and statistical drivers of child safety assessment and planning were discussed. Robin and Caroline shared data from the Statewide and Community Surveys.



Investigation, Prosecution, and Judicial Handling Recommendations:

Prosecution – With regard to the need to retain senior prosecutors and support junior prosecutors, the group recommended developing a listserv or utilizing an existing listserv to promote networking, support and information sharing state-wide among Child Advocacy Division, Criminal Justice, and Internet Crimes Against Children AAGs and District Attorneys and Deputy District Attorneys who handle Juvenile and Child Abuse cases. The group also recommended trainings and case study reviews for prosecutors with a focus on cases of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and torture. These recommendations would increase consistency and equity across Oregon counties and directly support smaller offices.

Judicial – The group recommended training and additional resources for criminal and juvenile court judges pertaining to prioritization of child abuse cases on judicial schedules. The group also noted the need to address challenges created by recent changes to grand jury recording practice, and the impact on trial practice of the probability of a child’s testimony at grand jury being used to challenge their testimony at trial. The group recommended exploring a legislative fix.

Investigation - There has been a decrease in the number of children in Child Welfare (CW) care. Questions were raised about possible links to apparent emphasis on data, raising concerns about child safety. The group would like to hear more about the family preservation model. They recommended a study of the current CW intake system, including the state-wide child abuse hotline to ascertain the criteria for assigning or not assigning cases as well as the impact to children. Recognizing the large role in supporting children and families CW holds, the group recommended trainings, possible legislative changes, and CJA support for CW efforts to close existing gaps in service or staffing.

Meeting adjourned: 3:56 PM

Next meeting: Monday, August 12 from 1:00-4:00 PM via Teams

Action Items:		
Item	Assigned to	Status
Final survey result document	Robin	
Federal report	Robin	