

**OREGON CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE  
FULL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Friday, January 9, 2009

Location: HSB – Room 252

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT ( 13 ):** Shary Mason, Chairperson, Margaret Semple, Steve Brinlee, Don Darland, Becky Smith, Judge Lorenzo Mejia (by phone), Judge Douglas Van Dyk, Steve Duvall, Robin Wright, Stacy Liskey, Amy Miller, Matthew Pearl, and Tonia Hunt

**MEMBERS EXCUSED ( 1 ):** Teri Shultz

**MEMBERS UNEXCUSED ( 4 ):** Steve Atchison, Stacey Ayers, Suzy Isham, and Mark Held

**DHS STAFF PRESENT ( 2 ):** Jan Slick and Heather Mowry

**GUESTS ( 1 ):** Nancy Allen is attending as a guest of Matthew Pearl

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Shary Mason at 9:00 a.m.

**Membership Report and Introductions**

**Debra Markham** is no longer serving on the CJA Task Force, as she has resigned her position with Yamhill County. She represented the Task Force as a prosecuting attorney. We will recruit for this position.

**Action Item:** Recruit for the Prosecuting Attorney position.

**Judge Alta Brady** has resigned her position; Shary read her resignation.

**Action Item:** Recruit for the Judge (Civil/Criminal Court-related to child abuse/neglect) position.

**Action Item:** We continue to recruit for the vacant Tribal representative position.

**Tonia Hunt** is a new member joining us today. She represents the Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers. Kevin Dowling previously held this position.

### **October 3, 2008 Draft Minutes**

**Action Item:** Judge Van Dyk made a motion to approve the Minutes. Margaret Semple seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Legislative Report – presented by Mickey Serice**

Mickey is the CAF Deputy Assistant Director for Program and Policy and works in central office. Erinn Kelley-Siel has one other deputy, James Neely, who is responsible for the field offices within CAF.

CAF is the largest Division within the Department of Human Services, and has about half the Department staff.

One of Mickey's primary responsibilities is to serve as a liaison with the legislature and governor's office, regarding issues concerning CAF and during legislative sessions.

Mickey gave an overview of the legislative objectives and initiatives developed over the last year, within child welfare (see handout). Highlights of the presentation are:

- Objectives and initiatives are still being developed; it is hoped that they will turn into a strategic plan for the child welfare program, over the next five years;
- Current objectives and initiatives are directed primarily at foster care. Oregon has one of the highest national rates for children in foster care;
- Following are some of the groups working on child welfare objectives and initiatives:
  - Child Welfare Advisory Committee

- Legislative, Judicial, and Stakeholder partnerships with the National Governors Association (NGA) / Casey Agreement
- Casey kickoff for eight pilots (within DHS) throughout the State, was Monday, January 5, 2009. See Governor's Executive Order No. 09-02 to develop a Task Force on Disproportionality in Child Welfare; Kory Murphy is part of the Task Force;
- The Disproportionality Task Force will review the child welfare system, as it relates to populations that are disproportionately represented; It appears that the Latino and Asian American populations are under represented; The Task Force will also identify decision processes during a case from first contact, throughout the life of the case, as they relate to diversity and cultural competency;
- Child welfare will determine ways that data entry practices can be improved to strengthen data accuracy;
- Native American and African American populations are over represented in Oregon's foster care system;
- CAF has a newly formed Diversity Unit, with Gloria M. Anderson as the manager;
- The Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was developed in response to the Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR); See: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/cfsr/index.shtml> (Control + Click);
- McKinsey and Company completed a staffing study within the Oregon child welfare system; See: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/publications/index.shtml> (Control + Click); Child welfare is in the process of shifting from a staffing model to a workload model; Child welfare will formally present information about results (of the staffing/workload model shift) to the current legislature; See SB 414;
- Rapid Process Improvement (RPI); DHS has done RPI with adoptions program, screening and intake, and relative search, but more RPIs have been with self sufficiency because of the economy issues;
- Mickey suggested having a future conversation about how the CJA Task Force could partner more closely with the Child Welfare Advisory Committee;
- DHS/Child welfare and Judicial Department are working together to give presentations to new legislators (ie, Judiciary Committee) to help them understand what the child welfare and judicial dependency systems do and how they work together;

- If the CJA Task Force has questions about involvement in legislative activities, either Mickey or Government Standards and Practices would be a resource.

Shary shared that our Three-Year Assessment survey revealed that<sup>1</sup> completing mental health assessments (in a timely manner), and-<sup>2</sup> workload and staffing issues are barriers to best practices in child welfare. Shary noted that we might explore gathering information about disproportionality in our Three-Year Assessments. Is there other work that this Task Force could do to support the Task Force on Disproportionality in Child Welfare is doing?

Handouts: Four Broad Objectives for Child Welfare and Current Initiatives  
Definitions of Lobbying  
Governor's Executive Order No. 09-02

### **Juvenile Court Improvement Process (JCIP) Update and Recommendations – presented by Shary Mason**

We have been working for several months to get a representative from JCIP to attend a CJA Task Force meeting. However, JCIP has been going through transition. Because both Timothy Travis and Helen Hoang left the organization, Judicial has been working on filling those vacancies.

Previously, the Oregon Judicial Department included counsel for juvenile law (Timothy Travis) and counsel for family law (Belissa Sydlick). Belissa has also resigned. Court Programs and Services Division (CPSD) is reorganizing and will have a new Family and Child Department that will encompass both juvenile and family law. The reorganization is intended to provide a closer working relationship between the two areas because many treatment courts are working with more families with children.

Shary talked to Helen Hoang before she left Judicial. JCIP is required to complete a re-assessment process, every three years. A detailed report was completed, after the latest re-assessment.

The two main areas in which JCIP is currently involved are training and data collection. They are particularly interested in developing on-line training.

The CJA Task Force could explore ways to partner with JCIP in these areas, depending upon the Recommendations developed in its own three-year assessment.

As they are completed and we receive the PowerPoint presentations from our subcommittee projects, we will post on the CJA web site. It may also be possible to develop **on-line training** in some of these areas.

Another project could be to look at **outcome-based data**. Is there a way we can collect data, as we are completing our subcommittee projects?

Judge Mejia reported that Timothy Travis has been replaced by Judge Rebecca G. Orf, who retired from Jackson County Courts. She will be starting early February.

**Action Item:** Shary will invite Rebecca Orf, and the new replacement for Helen, to our April Task Force meeting.

### **CJA Three-Year Assessment - Facilitated Meeting on February 6, 2009** **- 9:00 to 4:00**

Shary announced that Alice Galloway will facilitate the February meeting to develop the CJA Three-Year Priorities and Recommendations. The Priorities and Recommendations will guide Task Force work for the next three years.

Much of the work for the February meeting will be driven by data collected in the statewide assessment via the SurveyMonkey. There were 170 responses to the survey.

Survey responses will be sent to Task Force members about a week before the February meeting. We ask that members study the comments and come prepared work. Please look for areas that weren't captured in the survey that you would like to discuss at the meeting. Also, please note if you see information that seems skewed in the survey.

Our goal is to come out with three to four main Priorities. From these Priorities, we will develop specific Recommendations and Action Plans.

## **Budget Report**

Jan reported that we have approximately \$40,000 for one project (Scott Modell training) that hasn't been completed.

It appears that we will be able to maintain funding for three subcommittee projects at \$120,000 (\$40,000 each, per year).

Shary mentioned that the Strategic Planning and Foster Care Subcommittees want to purchase the following:

- videos on drug abuse that Suzy Isham researched, and-
- developing materials to give to foster children upon entering care through work with FosterClub

**Action Item:** Develop a chart to show timelines for spending grant funds, including subcommittee projects. Completed

## **FosterClub – presented by Celeste Bodner, Executive Director**

—Coloring Book and Comic Book developed by All-Stars

Celeste has been a foster parent for about 15 years.

FosterClub is the national network for young people in foster care. The headquarters is in Seaside, Oregon where Celeste lives. Some main points of Celeste's presentation were:

- FosterClub began as a web based project to deliver information to young people, to enable them to take control of their lives and become more involved in the process of foster care;
- In 2008, FosterClub oversaw or delivered workshops at about 45 conferences, across the nation, working with about 3,000 young people;
- FosterClub runs a program called FosterClub All-Stars. Twelve young people are selected from about 300 youth across the nation. They live in a house in Seaside, during the summer and travel with Celeste around the country. They attend Teen Conferences to talk with child welfare professionals from the perspective of being in the foster care system;

- FosterClub has been involved in the 'Kids are Waiting Campaign' which is a national campaign leading the effort to pass the 'Fostering Connections to Success Act'.
- In 2008, these youth made about 250 congressional visits. They flew to Washington, DC and met with their representatives. About 20 of the youth were invited to make presentations in front of Congress;
- They also create publications for youth in foster care.

Celeste talked about the trauma that young people experience in foster care. She works mostly with youth between the ages of 14 to 24. The main points follow:

- The disruption and anxiety is carried for a life time, even if they were only in foster care for a week;
- FosterClub has a diverse group of youth; different cultures view the child welfare system differently. African American youth have different experiences and feelings about a White caseworker coming into their home and breaking it up;
- Racial issues and disproportionality has been a learning experience for Celeste;
- Youth remember specific things about entering foster care:
  - Driving away in the car, or-
  - Saying goodbye to a sibling.
- Teen cases are very complicated, regardless of the home environment. It doesn't mean they want to be disconnected from their family; they experience many different emotions;
- Celeste works closely with CASA because it maintains a relationship with the youth and can help bring important issues to the courts; involving the youth in their case planning helps to reduce their feelings of anxiety and disempowerment, of being in foster care.

Shary mentioned new legislation about judges having age-appropriate consultation with youth about their foster care plan. Celeste said she doesn't think we provide enough youth-friendly publications, including information about what happens in court. Having an avenue to express their thoughts and wishes to the court would be helpful. Many 'informed youth' feel that all youth should have legal representation.

Judge Van Dyk talked about all the times a youth might share with the court that they want to return home, but the judge isn't able to allow it because of

meth use or other circumstances. Judge Van Dyk said that when youth have someone to bond with (CASA, other youth, etc) while in foster care, it helps them survive the experience. He asked Celeste if there would be a way the CJA Task Force could help youth accomplish bonding with their peers, groups or counselor, or with some type of communication avenues.

Celeste agrees that there needs to be a peer network or alumni for youth to access, while they are in the foster care system.

Shary mentioned that it is important for judges to become aware of the resources available to foster youth.

Becky summarized some points of action:

- develop or support peer networks for children in care;
- recruit community adults who are vested in the foster children in their neighborhood
- continue to work on our child welfare system to make it work;

Celeste said there needs to be a way for individuals to sign up to be a mentor for a foster child. She also said that the child welfare system needs to work in a way that isn't winners versus losers. When children leave foster care, regardless of their life style as an adult, they almost always reconnect with their birth parents. This is why it is important for the child welfare system to facilitate ways for children to maintain safe and healthy relationships with birth parents, and also help them become aware of the aspects of having those relationships.

Handout: Brochure

### **CJA Training Committee – presented by Shary Mason**

–Development of procedures for allocating training funds

This will be carried over to a future meeting.

–Results of Vote by email

### **Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee, and- Governor's Meth Task Force**

**Presented by Shary Mason**

Shary said that, at the December 29, 2008 subcommittee meeting, PSU reported they are developing a summary report of the previous 11 summits. PSU noticed that, from the first summit to the most recent summit, folks are choosing to implement more diverse/specific action planning. PSU is beginning to complete followup work for the most recent summits. Upcoming summits will take place in Grant, Harney, Lincoln, Josephine and Wallowa Counties. Grant and Harney Counties will do a joint summit (Judge Cramer is looking forward to the summit). Lincoln County is working on ways they can include the business community.

Shary talked about the 12 videos, on substance abuse, that Suzy Isham researched. They were developed in Jackson County, have a life-time guarantee, instructor's guide, audience handouts that may be copied, and an information sheet. Each video costs \$129.00. The subcommittee is recommending that, if funds are available, we purchase the set. We could have them available for people to borrow, or place them on our web site for all to access.

Heather passed out information about the videos.

There were questions about how we would make folks aware of the videos and who would be the target audience, if they were placed on the CJA web site.

**Action Item:** Shary asked Task Force members to consider purchasing the set of videos, if there is funding available.

### **Foster Care Subcommittee – Presented by Don Darland**

Celeste Bodner distributed some of the publications that the FosterClub All-Stars created, and explained how foster children use them. Celeste focused on the "Getting Solid" publication. The goal of the publication is to:

- describe to young people what permanence is;
- explain why they would want it;
- help them figure out whether they already had it;
- talk about why they might fear it; and
- help them understand how to get it

There will be another teen-friendly publication coming out called “Foster Care 411” which is a series of questions and answers about being in foster care. It is much like Getting Solid, except it is about 200 pages long. Celeste is realistic about the fact that not every child (who goes into foster care) will read 200 pages; and, because the publication will be more expensive, not every child will be able to receive a copy.

Celeste talked about when she first became a foster parent and how she received training and written information. She remembers that the two children she fostered (11 and 13 years old) weren’t given much to tell them what was going on. Celeste said she hopes that the Foster Care Subcommittee will support a project that will create written information to fill this gap.

Celeste proposed a project for this subcommittee that would be a “giveaway piece”, maybe printed on newsprint or comic book styles stock. Keeping it inexpensive would enable us to get copies into the hands of those who come into contact with children going into foster care. She said it needs to be brief to enable even a disadvantaged reader to understand the contents.

Celeste said the original proposal was to do two publications; one for older youth and one for the younger children. There was discussion about creating a coloring book for younger children and a comic book style for teens. Celeste recommends doing a teen magazine theme as opposed to a comic book theme. It’s better to keep the length to no more than 24 pages, and the information should be elementary. It is important to create these books from a youth perspective to assure them they aren’t alone. Professionals from all disciplines would be able to sit down and go through the publications with foster children.

Celeste estimated each publication would cost \$9,200; which includes illustration and art production, content and writing, and project management. The printing cost would be in addition. Celeste said they will donate staff time to the project, which equals about one-half of the \$9,200. She gave us a couple of print bids:

- Coloring Books (black and white)
  - 5,000 copies-\$4,000; or-
  - 10,000 copes-\$6,000
- Youth Book-24 pages (in color)

- 5,000-\$5,600
- 10,000-\$7,600

They are willing to do the groundwork to approach an Oregon foundation (like the Oregon Community Foundation) for additional funding. She said they don't have a way to distribute the publications, once developed.

The contract with the FosterClub would be for \$4,800 per publication to develop them, plus printing costs. The FosterClub will donate the equivalent of \$9,200 (\$4,800 each) for development of the publications.

Celeste said they probably have more expertise with teens which will enable them to produce the teen publication quicker.

**Action Item:** This Task Force will discuss all possible subcommittee projects today. They will inform Celeste Bodner after those discussions have happened.

Don referred Task Force members to page two of the last subcommittee minutes. Please see spinoffs of the projects.

**Action Item:** Don made a motion to tell PSU not to contact public health nurses during Phase 2 of the "Reducing the Trauma of Initial Out-of-Home Placement". Steve Brinlee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item:** Heather will contact PSU and inform them the Foster Care Subcommittee does not want public health nurses contacted during Phase 2 of the "Reducing the Trauma of Initial Out-of-Home Placement" project.

Don explained that PSU determined that representatives from different disciplines indicate they don't have staff available to develop the actual training packages (from the "Reducing the Trauma of Initial Out-of-Home Placement" project.) Therefore, PSU proposed to the Foster Care Subcommittee, on December 9, 2008, that they would like to subcontract out development of the actual training, from the components/tips that they have already developed. PSU would use some money currently allocated (in their own contract) to do the subcontract work. There would be no

additional request for funding. We would not lose all of the technical assistance hours (from PSU staff) that are already written into the current contract. Those technical assistance hours are meant to help the different disciplines develop and implement actual training.

**Action Item:** Don made a motion to amend the current contract with PSU to allow subcontracting out of the development of the actual training package. Steve Brinlee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item:** Heather said that PSU needs to know what our decision is (about subcontracting out, how many hours we want to retain for technical assistance, etc), by January 15, 2009.

**Action Item:** The Foster Care Subcommittee needs to meet and make decisions about the subcontracting and other details of the contract before January 15, 2009.

### **Children with Disabilities Subcommittee – Presented by Margaret Semple**

Margaret gave a brief overview of this subcommittee's most recent project-

- Demystifying Disability in Child Abuse Interviewing, and-
- Project Ability: Interviewing Children with Disabilities

Both projects are posted on the CJA web site. This information was developed for first-responders of child abuse and neglect to help with interviewing children who have some type of disability.

For Phase 2, the Subcommittee is presenting the Task Force with a proposal to bring Scott Modell to Oregon to do a series of trainings, in the Spring and Summer of 2009. Scott is a nationally recognized expert in interviewing children with disabilities. The target audience is multidiscipline, first-responders of child abuse and neglect contacts, and some community folks. Scott's training will compliment the work of Phase 1 and bring a more in-depth focus to interviewing techniques.

The plan is to do three, two-day trainings/workshops, with relatively small groups. The training will tentatively take place statewide where Scott has not previously provided this type of training.

A two-day training is approximately \$5,000 which includes all expenses. Other expenses (food, stipends, facility rent, etc) will be in addition to the \$15,000 for Scott's contract.

Shary attended a training Scott provided and said it is very good. Jan said two CPS consultants attended Scott's training last Fall, and they both said it would be very good for CPS workers.

Scott is from California State University, in Sacramento. You can read about Scott at: <http://www.csus.edu/news/031605modellinc.stm> Scott's contact information is at: [http://www.hhs.csus.edu/KHS/faculty\\_n\\_staff/modell/](http://www.hhs.csus.edu/KHS/faculty_n_staff/modell/)

**Action Item:** Don made a motion to set aside \$10,000 for the development (not printing) of the coloring book and youth book that will be done by the FosterClub, and use the remainder of \$40,000 for the Scott Modell trainings. Steve Duvall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item:** Ask Scott if his training qualifies for CEUs.

**Action Item:** Jan asked that the Disabilities Subcommittee provide direction about how it wants participants chosen, for the Modell training. She suggested folks from CPS, assessment centers, law enforcement and prosecutors.

### **Child Fatality Review Team Follow-Up**

Please refer to the handout that Heather developed, by pulling information from the "2007 Status of Children in Oregon's Child Protection System" report that is published by DHS/CAF. You can view these reports at: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/publications/children/index.shtml>

Heather reported that statistics are not available, by county, because there aren't enough numbers within each county to be significant. Heather noted that there could be more than one factor that contributed to a fatality.

Stacy Liskey said the Review Team needs more staff to provide technical assistance to the local MDTs that review fatalities. She said it might be feasible for the CJA Task Force to provide training and technical assistance to MDTs; for instance, do regional training or provide something specific to fatalities at a summit. Another possible focus for the CJA Task Force is trends that result in fatalities identified by the Review Team.

**Action Item:** Shary suggested obtaining a report (once or twice a year) from the Review Team outlining what they have identified as current trends, related to fatalities. Stacy Liskey suggested we talk to Lisa Millet about obtaining this information. We could also obtain this information by inviting a Review Team member to speak at a regular CJA Task Force meeting, as opposed to asking for a written report.

Jan clarified that the Child Fatality Review Teams were set up in each county, along with the State Fatality Review Team to look at any unexpected fatality/injury to a child with a focus on prevention. The Review Team focus wasn't only child abuse related. The other focus has been with both the local and State Review Teams working together to do a better job of identifying when a fatality was a result of abuse, with subsequent technical assistance and consultation provided in the investigation of those deaths.

### **CIRT Followup – Presented by Heather Mowry**

Jan explained that the CIRT (Critical Incident Response Team) was set up by DHS to look at fatalities on open cases (or other high profile cases) and to look at our systemic response, to those cases, to see whether there are things we could be doing differently (in practice and/or procedure); particularly at a statewide level, what can we learn from a fatality/incidence that we can apply to our casework practice. Do we need to change rules, etc. You may view the CIRT reports at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/publications/children/index.shtml>

Heather discussed how the CJA Task Force could support the efforts of the CIRT process. The work could be done by an intern from PSU, and would consist of ongoing maintenance, such as spreadsheets and/or chat rooms. The Task Force would not have staff available to do the ongoing maintenance.

DHS/CAF implements needed changes that are identified by the CIRT, after reviewing a fatality/injury. Therefore, currently, there isn't any work that the CJA Task Force could be involved in.

Shary reminded that the reason our Task Force has been discussing ways it might be involved in the CIRT process is because the CJA statute was revised to include child-related fatalities. Therefore, we need to include this in our Three-Year Planning process.

**Action Item:** The CIRT process is currently being reviewed. We can revisit our participation in this process, at a later date.

Please refer to the handout.

### **CJA Statewide Assessment / Priority Recommendations**

—Work Group Report on Survey Monkey Results – Provided by Heather Mowry

There were 170 responses, of which 30 to 34 fell into “other respondents”.

Alice Galloway's suggestion is to focus on the strengths, challenges and opportunities, in each area, when we meet February 6<sup>th</sup> to develop our recommendations and plan for our next three years' work.

Stacy Liskey mentioned an issue that is growing which is domestic minor sex trafficking; there is a strong circuit on the West Coast that is targeting teens who are homeless or within the foster care systems. There is a web site called [sharedhope.org](http://sharedhope.org) that is devoted to this topic.

Please see the handout.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

<b><i>Future Meeting Dates:</i></b>	<i>April 10, 2009</i>	<i>Room 137 C</i>
	<i>July 10, 2009</i>	<i>Room 137 A &amp; B</i>
	<i>October 2, 2009</i>	<i>Room 137 A &amp; B</i>

All meetings will be scheduled from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

***Future Subcommittee Meeting Dates:***

***Future Topics:***