

**CJA Task Force Meeting
Child Neglect Subcommittee
Thursday, April 13, 2006
HSB – Room 137D
11:00 – Noon**

Present: Jan Slick, Mary May, Michelle Weber, Christine Nelson-PSU, Diane Yatchmenoff-PSU, Don Darland-Foster Parent Assn, Shary Mason-Chair of the Task Force, Becky Smith-CASA

The group walked through the handout; (supplement to the final report)

PSU presented an overview and the group discussed:

- *Risk Factors in Oregon
- *Promising Practices for Neglect
- *Program Models (National & Oregon)
- *Family Connections is the only program named by the Children's Bureau as a "Demonstrated Effective Program"
- *Substance Abuse Programs including Family Drug Courts
- *Oregon Service Provider Survey Results
- *Promising Practices in Oregon
- *Parent Education/Parent Support/Case Management
- *Concrete Services/ Court and Substance Abuse Services

Handouts- Supplemental Report to the Children's Justice Act Task Force + Appendix A; Child Neglect Study by PSU

**CJA Task Force Meeting
Full Committee
Thursday, April 13, 2006
HSB – Room 137D
1:00 – 4:00**

Present: Jan Slick, Mary May, Michelle Weber, Kristi Nelson-PSU, Diane Yatchmenoff-PSU, Don Darland-Foster Parent Assn, and Shary Mason-Chair of the Task Force, Becky Smith-CASA, Teri Shultz, Judge Doug Van Dyk, Courtland Geyer, Sam Salazar, Stacy Liskey, Kevin Dowling, and Eva Kutas.

Shary introduced Mary May as the new Grant Coordinator.

Becky provided an historical overview of the Neglect Subcommittee; its charge and strategic thinking. Neglect is a difficult area to define. There is a need to be able to make informed decisions about how to address neglect, what “best practice” is, etc. The CJA Task Force initiated an RFP for the purpose of gathering information to compare Oregon data on neglect to national data to get us closer to our goal. PSU/Dept of Social Work did the study. There were changes within PSU that created a need for an addendum, to the original report. Today, that addendum was discussed at the Neglect Subcommittee.

Diane and Kristy provided a PowerPoint update/overview and a handout of the national information. PSU did a statewide survey regarding neglect that includes DHS, agency service providers, community partners, and others.

Strategic Planning:

Shary asked if anyone had ideas of how we want to use the data that was presented today. Should we pass this information on to someone else so they can continue the research? Should we invite people from CAPTA panels to our strategic planning process? Kevin thought, yes; although, he doesn't know what they are currently focusing on; capturing different parts of the state is good.

Diane asked if our Oregon programs are serving the populations that need to be served; and, do we need to educate the communities about neglect. We need to know exactly what information we are looking for before we begin research. Which part of neglect? Chronic neglect? Results of drug/alcohol abuse? We need to focus on what we want.

Don Darland reminded the group that it needs to stay within the scope of the CJA Task Force.

Judge Van Dyk asked about the reliability of challenges/abuse; are they the same? What are the different categories of neglect, and how does DHS categorize them? Should we use the data that was presented today to allocate funds? The PSU staff was asked if they could suggest additional information to consider. What else can we do to obtain more comprehensive and accurate information on neglect? Let's gather information about what we are doing correctly, and build on that; we need information we can take to the legislature.

Eva asked if we can go deeper within DHS to find additional information. Can we have a CPS person at one of our meetings to talk about threat of harm? Jan will invite someone. Should DHS reevaluate its data?

Kristy stated that there is no real scientific data regarding neglect, and that neglect has never been defined, and it's different from state-to-state.

Kevin asked who makes the decision about whether a program is "evidence-based". The committee discussed this.

Should we refocus on whether we are going in the correct direction, asking the correct questions, etc, before we begin to bring additional folks into our meetings?

Minutes from January 27, 2006

Motion to approve and Becky seconded the motion. No one opposed. Minutes are approved.

Contract Updates

Teen Project: They worked with JRP and PSU to obtain clarifications to enter into a contract. This contract is at JRP and is ready to be executed.

This contract is primarily for training, to work with teens, interview teens, and to show how to talk to teen victims of abuse. This is a continuation of the JRP “study”.

Systems Response Project: There was a meeting with Katharine Cahn-Executive Director/Assistant Professor at PSU-Child Welfare Partnership, to obtain answers to questions. (See handout/overview of the grant, as it currently stands)

JCIP (Juvenile Court Improvement Project) will work on this with PSU. We also want an agreement with JCIP to clarify what their involvement would be when working with PSU.

The group discussed how to package and implement the training.

Neglect Training Proposal: DHS has been working on how to engage self-sufficiency families, to identify high-risk factors, which will hopefully prevent them from becoming involved on the child welfare side. Family Support and Connections (coordinator is Stephanie Jernstedt) was formerly Community Safety Net. If TANF workers had a better understanding of what neglect is, it would be easier for them to identify it within a family. CJA funded training is proposed to address this by providing TANF workers with an understanding of neglecting families and services to prevent these families from coming into the child welfare system. None of these trainings have happened. Stephanie was informed an RFP needed to be completed.

The committee discussed whether they approve use of CJA funds for this training. Becky noted that this would reduce the amount of funds for other neglect projects, and suggested that the Neglect subcommittee have the first consideration for spending additional CJA funds. There should be a process followed for expenditure proposals. Don noted that this is truly an opportunity to get the communities trained on neglect. Jan stated that it’s particularly important to train the people who are mandated to report abuse/neglect. Becky requested that ~~the~~ Stephanie Jernstedt attend the next CJA meeting and suggested that the TANF Neglect training be incorporated into the ‘strategic planning’.

The current CJA funds need to be obligated by Sept 30th 2006. \$225,000, with approximately \$40,000 of that for administrative expenses. Following are contracted expenses: Alice Galloway-\$1,000; Teen Project-\$105,000; Systems Response Project-\$61,400; and, a balance of \$10,000 from the PSU neglect study. We have approximately \$20,000 that hasn’t been obligated.

We have asked the feds to extend the time period we have to obligate funds, for a couple of these projects; they haven't responded about whether we will get the extensions, or not.

Subcommittee Meetings

Each subcommittee needs to develop recommendations for possible projects to be funded by CJA in the next grants cycle. These proposals should be presented to the Task Force at the July meeting. Funds allocated in June 2006 must be obligated by September 2007.

Current subcommittees:

- Systems
- Neglect
- Teens
- Foster Care
- Methamphetamines
- Crawford Decision
- Disabilities
- Strategic Planning for Children

The Task Force requested that Mary verify subcommittee membership and send that information to the Task Force members.

Kevin will let Mary know which subcommittee(s) he wants to serve on.

Membership & Bylaws

Jan and Mary have been working to obtain information regarding membership and bylaws, for the CJA Task Force. At the next meeting, the bylaws that were found - but were never adopted - and procedures will be discussed. Appointment letters for the task force members haven't been located, so we don't know the date that many of the current members were appointed.

Doug suggested preparing a ratifying resolution, to adopt the bylaws, instead of trying to go through the old minutes. Shary proposed forming a small committee to review the bylaws and make recommendations to the full Task Force: Eva, Becky, Stacy and Shary volunteered to serve on the committee.

Following is a list of future meetings:

May 5th is Strategic Planning Meeting on Neglect from 10:00 to Noon. Katharine Cahn will facilitate this meeting.

July 14th 9:00 to Noon (2nd Fri)

October, 13th (2nd Friday)

January 2007???