

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

Date: Friday, January 4, 2008

Location: HSB – Room 160

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT ( 12 ):** Shary Mason, Robin Wright (by phone at 10:30), Don Darland, Steve Duvall, Kevin Dowling, Matthew Pearl, Debra Markham, Judge Douglas Van Dyk, Stacy Liskey, Becky Smith, Steve Atchison and Una Swanson

**MEMBERS EXCUSED ( 5 ):** Philip Cox, Eva Kutas, Amy Miller, Teri Shultz and Suzy Isham

**DHS STAFF PRESENT ( 3 ):** Jan Slick, Stephanie Stafford and Michelle Weber

**GUESTS ( 1 ):** Margaret Semple on behalf of Eva Kutas

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

**Introductions/Recruitment Status**

The meeting began with introductions.

The group discussed who they have contacted to serve on this Task Force and some other possibilities.

Debra Markham said Judge Carol Jones' workload is too heavy at this time to serve on the Task Force.

Judge Van Dyk stated he believes that contacting State Court Administrator Kingsley Click first would be appropriate. He offered to make some personal contacts if she didn't have any recommendations.

CJA Task Force members, whose terms have expired, need to send a letter stating that they want to continue on the CJA Task Force and submit

a biography or resume. It needs to be addressed to Bryan Johnston, Interim Assistant Director and sent to Stephanie Stafford or Michelle Weber. Stephanie indicated that an email would suffice.

Stephanie Stafford mentioned to Shary Mason that we need to recruit for a parent to serve on this Task Force.

### **Minutes of October 5, 2007**

There was discussion about page four, second paragraph. In the next paragraph, delete "CARES" and, take out "how to interview kids" and add in "child abuse".

With the above changes, Shary Mason called for a motion to approve the Minutes. Don motioned to approve the Minutes and Becky Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee**

At the last meeting, Katharine Cahn presented a report on the Neglect Summits. Shary suggested that it might be a good use of our funds to extend these successful summits, with a focus on methamphetamine, in order to meet the priorities of the Strategic Planning for Child Safety Subcommittee. Katharine presented a proposal on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Shary and Stephanie met with her on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss changes. The proposal was revised to include a requirement for local area leadership and local funding of a minimum of \$1500 in order to make it possible for counties to provide lunch. It was also revised to focus more specifically on meth than the original proposal submitted to us. It really is meant to address meth and child safety. Also, we asked that the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) counties be given priority, and that counties that already had a summit would not be eligible. We had concerns regarding staffing and changed the FTE to 7.5 months. A requirement for follow up, regarding what the counties have done and what their action plans are, was also added. PSU didn't seem to be concerned about the changes. Counties with drug courts already have a heightened awareness, so they do not need to be targeted. Counties that are planning drug courts may be targeted.

Judge Van Dyk commented on meth use and whether it is necessary to continue to tie neglect to meth. Debra said meth is a huge factor. Stats indicate labs aren't being busted, but the usage is still there. We are still seeing neglect from the usage, such as parents not feeding their babies, etc. Kevin Dowling said the public seems not to see the problem. Steve Duvall said it is a cheap drug and easy to get.

Judge Van Dyk said the summits are a rallying point and they need to leverage activism and the correct marketing. If meth is a yawn for folks, maybe flexibility would allow communities to gauge what their own rally might be. Shary said the title is Child Neglect: The Hidden Cost of Meth. The form for the summits includes a Leader (Judge, etc) willing to convene the summit, and letters of intent from community partners that they would attend. Carol Chervenak will present on child abuse/meth, at the summits. The action planning will follow in the afternoon. Una said Jay Wurscher has done a lot of work with Eric Martin to train at the legislative level. Jay has communicated that, in working with his contacts, he has noticed that the number of meth labs has dropped, but family addiction still exists. People replace one addiction with another. So, drug and alcohol addiction is still a major problem. Jan Slick noted that even meth is noticeable. Overall, in child welfare, it is other addictions that continue to be prominent. So, we might broaden the scope. We have already submitted to the federal government (ACF) that meth would be the focus for this project; so, at this point, we aren't able to make a change. Una Swanson agreed that we should also focus on other addictions. Per Shary Mason, we might be able to slip some other things in. Jan, agreed that it's good to broaden our thinking, and wonders if there are sufficient treatment resources, and are we serving all addiction issues. Don Darland said there are other addictions that are causing major problems. We should ask Jay to pull information from our system regarding which clients are being seen for treatment. DHS drug and alcohol folks might also have information. Una said chronic use of marijuana is a problem, too. Jan suggested that participants could broaden their thinking, too. Tillamook County has a huge alcohol problem, but it isn't likely that people would rally around this problem. Kevin Dowling commented that summits help to bring people together, around the state, to address a common topic, such as childhood trauma and issues related to adults with addictions and their struggles. Kevin said it is exciting for him to work with this Task Force around the issues of childhood trauma. Shary said that these summits were

developed three years ago; and, at that time, meth was the rage. Now we are beginning a new process.

### **Foster Care Subcommittee**

Don Darland talked about the draft copy of the contract. We have fine-tuned it and the DHS Contracts Unit will probably be finished with it in a month. Don read the project objective. Don thanked everyone for their help in developing this contract. Shary said they requested changes in the contract because they wanted to make sure curriculum was developed in the first phase, as opposed to a briefing paper, and to incorporate more emphasis on training kin providing out-of-home placements, which is a CFSR priority. Don said he read the contract, and Phase 1 has already begun. Don said there is a lot of information out there, like Casey and CWLA, that he has done research on. Shary said our work must be centered around “...**(1) review and evaluate State investigative, administrative and both civil and criminal judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect...**” (See page 40 and 41 of “The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act” booklet). Una said there is a lot of research/materials related to what workers do when they take a child from their parent, what belongings they take, how they take a child to a car, how they introduce a child to a new environment, etc. She is hoping our new Rule will address some of these issues. Don is hoping law enforcement will understand the trauma of moving a child and what options are available in lieu of removing a child from their home. Also, what can law enforcement do to reduce trauma, during this process. Judge Van Dyk asked Don if there is a community response to what he described regarding trauma? Is there a role the community can play? Don said, that for a family that is involved in State systems, there are limited foster care prevention funds. Don is currently working with folks to develop ways to give foster parents a night off.

### **Children with Disabilities Subcommittee**

Margaret Semple talked about activities of grantee (CARES NW) and creating an advisory group for the grantee. She asked about who might be involved in that group? Kevin Dowling said the contract was sent back on December 17<sup>th</sup> and that the holiday has slowed the process. Originally, the contract was suppose to begin in October 2007. Kevin said now is the time they should be working on the curriculum, but they haven't been able to

begin the work. He said they have sent staff to California, for specialized training, that will help them implement the work of this contract. They have hired a temporary interviewer to assist, and hopefully get the curriculum finished. They are anxious to move ahead with the training piece of the contract. Shary asked that this Task Force be given updates, after each project is finished, so folks have an opportunity to offer advice and to help keep things moving. We want to ensure that, at the end of a project, we don't end up with something we didn't expect. This makes all parties unhappy. Stephanie Stafford said it is a requirement to have an advisory group for each project. Jan said we don't have in-house expertise and it would be helpful to have a group with expertise to develop the projects. Jan also said they had wanted Eva Kutas to assist with this development. Eva is returning on the 18<sup>th</sup> and will weigh in then. The CJA binders have a section on subcommittee members. Una also suggested the Oregon Advocacy Center.

Shary asked about the definition of disabilities. Kevin said that would be part of the grant/contract. This group should give input about what we are defining as a disability. Kevin said they are trying to adjust their timelines, as it has taken so long to get the contract signed (must be finished by August 15, 2008).

### **CJA Draft Logo**

When we sponsored the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, they asked us for our logo. We don't currently have one. We discussed this at the last meeting and Steve Duvall agreed to do some work on this, as he has staff with graphics expertise.

Steve shared some examples that his staff developed, and noted that he hasn't had a lot of time to devote to this project. Members discussed the examples that Steve passed out and gave some additional suggestions. Some of the suggestions were a child instead of a dove, an angel in place of the dove, and a child/adult hand in place of dove. Members thought the coloring should be black and white, and simple. Steve will have his staff re-work the logo, incorporating these suggestions.

## **Shoulder to Shoulder**

Stephanie Stafford noted that, on the back of the budget handout, there is a list of everyone who received a CJA scholarship. David Udlock said they want to know by July 2008 if we are going to give funding for the next S2S conference.

## **Protocol / Application Process for Scholarships**

Shary shared a draft from the Juvenile Court Improvement Program (JCIP). She changed some of the information to reflect this Task Force. It gives us something to start with. There is a group and individual draft application document. The group read over the drafts and will give feedback. Don suggested to set aside funds, for this conference, prior to making project budget decisions. Una asked about funding for the San Diego conference, which happens the last week in January and is the largest West Coast conference available. About 1,500 people attend. DHS doesn't have training funds available. Their training dollars have dwindled over the years. Jan asked if we would want to set aside training funds, on a regular basis, and how funding decisions would be made? Also, do we want to use a group/individual form to use for scholarships? We will discuss this during the time we discuss the budget

The scholarship funding decisions will be deferred until the April 2008 meeting.

## **Bylaws**

Jan Slick explained that, since the Bylaws were approved by the Task Force, the travel language was corrected to mirror DAS policy language. Don Darland moved to accept changes and Judge Van Dyk seconded the motion. No one opposed.

We will get a finalized copy to members.

## **Budget Timelines**

Stephanie Stafford handed out information regarding the budget.

Members discussed the handout. Subcommittees will meet and make recommendations to the Task Force about monetary needs. Becky noted that it would be good to look at second and third years. Subcommittees need to be looking at their priorities when they meet. Are they going to continue with a particular project? Do they have any new priorities? What do they see as funding needs?

Members discussed the Crawford Decision. Will we fund? Debra stated that this is not currently an issue, as most people have adapted to it. The subcommittee was suspended. See the subcommittee list in the black box for notes. You can also refer to last year's CJA grant application when we informed the federal government (ACF) it was suspended.

We need to begin a planning process for the next three-year plan, which is due May 2009.

We need to report on last year's funding; that is, what we received and how we spent it. This report is due around May 2008. Stephanie needs the second steps of the active projects because we will be asking for funds, for the next year in this report. Thus, the subcommittees need to be talking about this information. We can only come up with new needs if we have already met all the original needs we stated in the beginning. Our allocation is based on the population of children under the age of 18 in Oregon, and depends on how many states apply for a grant.

In discussing the State assessment for the next three-year plan, Judge Van Dyk said we have brought in an expert at times and suggested we meet in July or so to examine left-over priorities, and then in October to further assess. He thinks this committee has a large breadth of expertise about our State needs for funding. Becky said the CFSR team has done some statewide surveys and maybe we could use that information for our statewide assessment. Don agrees that the CFSR research should be used and suggested that we bring in people who are involved in the CFSR processes. He stated that past work, by task force members to do this assessment, really didn't give us valuable information. Stacy Liskey asked about what other states do to gather information. Shary will send out an email to the CJA ListServe asking this question.

We could give summit attendees a needs assessment form in their packet.

We could also ask for this information at the statewide CAPTA meeting.

The CRB conference will happen in April 2008, and the CASA conference will be in April 2008. These conferences offer other opportunities to gather information.

Members discussed drafting some common language for all to use.

### **Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) / Program Improvement Plan (PIP) Update**

Cases were be pulled and reviewed in three branches. Those branches were Multnomah, Marion and Deschutes this year.

Becky Smith, Shary Mason, Stephanie and Una were at the PIP meeting. We haven't received a final report from the feds, yet.

There were six priority themes that the PIP will address. The feds and DHS determined these themes, based on the review. They were:

- in home safety
- quality and timeliness of caseworker visits with parents
- involvement of child and family in case planning
- concurrent planning
- service array and accessibility to address needs of children and families
- recruitment and retention of foster/adoptive parents.

Another CFSR PIP meeting has been scheduled for February 4, 2008. In the interim, child welfare will meet to do planning regarding organization of the workgroups, in preparation for the February meeting.

These six themes could be used as a focus for our Task Force priorities.

### **Unscheduled Business**

Shary looked at the Teen Project website. She said it is wonderful and suggests that other task force members take a look at it. Stephanie Stafford will try to get a copy of the materials on the website so the CJA

Task Force doesn't lose this information when the PSU Child Welfare Partnership no longer hosts the website.

Stephanie reminded the membership that it is a requirement to have a parent member on this Task Force. Our members will make some contacts and will submit their letters of recommendation.

Next September, the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) will bring their conference to Portland, Oregon. Don Darland will send us more info.

Subcommittees need to set a date for their next meetings.

Kevin Dowling noted that considering our mission, do we want an update on Karly's Law, in a future meeting?

Amy Miller left JRP to take a position with Metro Defenders in Portland, but will continue to serve on this Task Force.

Meeting adjourned at Noon and the subcommittees convened to set their next meeting.

***Future Meeting Dates: April 4, 2008, July 11, 2008 and October 3, 2008***

***Subcommittee Meeting Dates: None Scheduled***

***Future Topics:***

I:\GRANTS\CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT CJA\CJA TASKFORCE\CJA TF MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES\CJATF MINUTES & AGENDAS 2008\JAN 2008\CJA TASK FORCE MINUTES - JAN 4 2008.DOC