

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

Date: Friday, April 4, 2008  
Location: HSB – Room 160  
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT ( 12 ):** Shary Mason-chair, Judge Alta Brady, Kevin Dowling, Stacy Liskey, Debra Markham, Judge Lorenzo Mejia, Amy Miller, Matthew Pearl, Margaret Semple, Teri Shultz, Becky Smith, and Robin Wright

**MEMBERS EXCUSED: ( 6 ):** Steve Atchison, Philip Cox, Don Darland, Steve Duvall, Suzy Isham, and Judge Douglas Van Dyk

**DHS STAFF PRESENT ( 3 ):** Jan Slick, Heather Mowry and Michelle Weber

**GUESTS ( 2 ):** Mark Held and Ruth Taylor

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Shary Mason at 9:10 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions and attendees shared their background experience, their role on this Task Force, and whether they have any other involvement in human services; this information will be especially helpful as we approach our Statewide Assessment.

Shary explained that the Task Force:

- assesses what systems are in place and working well, within Oregon
- identifies what is missing, and/or
- identifies major issues that need addressing

The Task Force uses this information to develop priority recommendations and plan for how the next cycle of funding will be spent.

**CJA Task Force Member Status/ Guests**

Reappointments

- Don Darland
- Matthew Pearl
- Shary Mason
- Teri Shultz
- Becky Smith
- Judge Douglas Van Dyk

New Members were welcomed

- Judge Alta J. Brady
- Judge Lorenzo Mejia
- Margaret Semple

Mark Held, who works for the Parent Mentor Project, at Parents Anonymous, is attending today's meeting as a potential parent representative on the CJA Task Force. Mark provides peer to peer support for men who have had their children removed from their home, due to substance abuse. He also teaches them how to navigate service systems and advocate for themselves.

Ruth Taylor is the director of Parents Anonymous which administers the Parent Mentor Project. Ruth submitted Mark Held's name as a potential CJA Task Force member.

Shary said we are still recruiting for a Native American tribal representative. We have sent letters to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, but have not received a response, yet. Shary asked the group if they know of a tribal member who might want to serve on this Task Force or someone we could contact for recruitment.

### **Minutes from January 4, 2008**

Task Force members reviewed the January 4, 2008 Minutes.

Kevin referred to page 2, under Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee, third paragraph, second sentence. Please correct the words too and gage. In the fifth sentence, please correct the spelling of Carol Chervenak's name. On page 3, first paragraph, please change the name Kevin Duvall to Kevin Dowling.

Debra made a motion to approve the Minutes as corrected; Stacy seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved with the above corrections.

### **Task Force Operation**

For the benefit of new members, Shary clarified some basic operations of the Task Force. There are always three activities happening at the same time. The first charge of the Task Force is to complete a statewide assessment. From the statewide assessment, common themes are identified, subcommittees are formed and recommendations are crafted. These recommendations are submitted to the full task force for approval. The Task Force determines their priority recommendations. Subcommittee recommendations and Task Force priority recommendations are submitted to the federal government which funds the CJA Task Force. The CJA Task Force Subcommittees submit recommendations to the full CJA Task Force about how they would like to use the funding. If the full Task Force approves the funding recommendations, 'projects' are crafted and contracts are developed and awarded. Projects are monitored by both the subcommittees and the full Task Force. The Task Force receives a grant every October and we have two years to expend the money. We currently have three subcommittees; they are:

- Foster Care Subcommittee
- Children with Disabilities Subcommittee
- Strategic Planning for Children's Safety

Each subcommittee is currently working on a project. Subcommittees will soon be taking their recommendations, to the full Task Force, for next year's funding of projects.

Our next three-year assessment is due in the Spring of 2009. After the three-year assessment has been completed, the Task Force will have a strategic planning session to look at all the information that was collected and common themes will be identified, at that time. 'Priority Recommendations' will be developed from those common themes. The Task Force breaks out into subcommittees to work on the priority recommendations by developing projects.

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

Shary is the chair for this subcommittee. The Task Force had been very concerned about child safety during the process of conducting the last statewide assessment. There had been several high-profile deaths that led to the Oregon Safety Model. Meth use and manufacturing was also an epidemic, at that time. The Task Force wanted to do planning related to child safety and pull communities together to help keep children safe. The Task Force discussed how they wanted to use funding with Ramona Foley, the CAF Assistant Director. She indicated their focus was too broad, considering the number of safety issues that existed. The Task Force worked with Ramona and decided to focus on child safety as it relates to meth. At the same time there was a Methamphetamines Subcommittee (now inactive). The two committees later merged. The subcommittee had a difficult time getting mobilized to develop projects and plan for how they would use funds. At that same time, the Neglect Subcommittee (now inactive) gave a report on some neglect summits that had been done statewide. Those neglect summits were well received, produced some good action plans, and had mobilized communities around the issue of neglect. So, the Methamphetamines Subcommittee decided to use the same planning process that the Neglect Subcommittee used for the neglect summits to craft projects that were specific to meth. Because PSU had the experience of facilitating the neglect summits, the Methamphetamines Subcommittee decided to work with them to develop a contract for the meth project. This project was named "Child Neglect: The Hidden Cost of Meth" and dealt with neglect because of drug use. Currently, we are funding a project that will involve five summits, giving preference to HIDTA (high intensity drug trafficking areas) counties. The eligible HIDTA counties were identified as Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas, Marion, Washington and Umatilla. It was also decided that the counties that had hosted the neglect summits would not be eligible for the meth summits. As of today, we haven't heard whether PSU has chosen the above five counties, or not. We will try to schedule PSU into the July 11, 2008 Task Force meeting so they can provide a progress report on the meth summits project. This project must be completed by August 15, 2008. Stacy shared that Douglas County is interested in hosting a summit. Douglas is a HIDTA county and has a newly formed drug court. Shary asked Stacy to refer folks in Douglas County to Katharine Cahn. Jan asked that Heather be included in correspondence related to projects.

The last Strategic Planning for Children's Safety subcommittee meeting was on January 28, 2008. The members reviewed which recommendations were still outstanding and how they wanted to use remaining funds. If there is a positive outcome from the meth summits, the subcommittee will recommend to the Task Force that a Phase 2 be funded to include additional counties, most specifically counties that are interested in forming drug courts. We know that Grant, Harney, Wallowa and Tillamook counties are interested. Shary said the subcommittee is interested in using a second phase to mobilize these four counties to:

- Have them look at substance abuse issues in their county
- Provide them with information about drug courts, and-
- Support them during their Action Planning process

If these things could happen, the subcommittee thought it would be a good use of funding.

The current project is \$45,000; \$2,000 of this total will be given to the community to bring people together. Possible expenses could be lunch or cost of sending notices, etc.

The subcommittee also considered using funds to follow up on Action Plans from the Meth Summits. Information was gathered – from counties that were involved in the Neglect Summits – about what they have accomplished related to their Action Plans. Some counties had done a lot of the work that was in their Plan; others hadn't been successful in completing anything in their Plan. One of the barriers that were identified was lack of funding.

Shary said another project the subcommittee talked about funding is to provide more general education to communities, which was one of the Task Force Priority Recommendations. Suzy provided the subcommittee with information about a variety of videos (from Jackson County) related to substance abuse that could be purchased and loaned out.

The subcommittee is also looking at training for foster parents that would be related to how they can help meet the special needs of children coming into foster care because of substance abuse.

Shary asked if anyone knew of a county that wants to develop a drug court. Judge Brady understands that, for the counties that do not have a drug court, there is interest to develop one.

Another possible project would be related to community mapping done by the Commission, to see if there were any issues that surfaced as a result of their comprehensive community plans.

### **Foster Care Subcommittee**

Don Darland, chair of the Foster Care Subcommittee is absent today so Shary will give the report. The last meeting was January 22, 2008. CJA funds must be used for the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect. One Priority Recommendation that was turned into a project deals with reducing trauma to children, during the initial out of home placement. The current project is for \$50,000, with PSU. There is a **research component** (best practice and what's being done to reduce trauma); then, PSU will convene a **statewide multi-disciplinary action and design group** that will look at the research and begin to give input about what a curriculum would look like that would promote best practice and address system barriers, in each of the multi-disciplinary areas. Next, PSU will **draft a curriculum** – based on the input from the multi-disciplinary group - and identify key competencies and skills (what does law enforcement need to know when they go out to a home/what does the foster parent need to know before a child comes to their home, etc). The next step for PSU will be to **develop approaches for how to conduct the training/curriculum**; should it be conducted as:

- Train the Trainer curriculum
- Individual multi-disciplinary curriculum
- Statewide curriculum
- Web-based

The subcommittee believes that curriculum, by itself, is not enough. How many curriculums have been developed and then never used? Phase 2 would be to look at an outreach to the individual disciplines to talk about how they can implement those competencies/skills/approaches to training, within their own curriculum, and how it could be sustained in their work. Adding to this would be providing technical assistance to help them implement the curriculum. They will also look at what system changes might be needed (policies, laws, systemic barriers, etc).

This Project (Phase 1) needs to be completed by August 2008.

Becky added that when PSU comes back with their approaches for how best to conduct the training, Phase 2 would be the implementation of that, if the subcommittee makes the decision to fund it.

Ruth Taylor said the Children's Relief Nursery in Portland received a federal grant to look at child trauma, as a result of removal. Ages of children they are looking at are birth to five. At the next Children's Relief Nursery Task Force meeting, Ruth will determine whether PSU works with this grant.

### **Karly's Law (HB 3328)**

Stacy Liskey provided an overview of the Law. She referred to the CAMI web site ( [www.doj.state.or.us/crimev/cami.shtml](http://www.doj.state.or.us/crimev/cami.shtml) ), under Department of Justice. There is a Powerpoint presentation and a copy of HB3328. The group discussed preliminary impacts of this law related to the new requirements. Stacy said she is part of a work group that is creating training about Karly's Law; it will be statewide as well as on the web. They are working to bring more awareness within the medical community about what their responsibilities are. Jan added that, other than updating the DHS Mandatory Reporter video, she isn't aware of other resources related to training for mandatory reporters. Shary said that mandatory reporting was a focus of our previous CJA Sytems Change Subcommittee. PSU completed a project for this subcommittee that was related to mandatory reporting.

### **Children with Disabilities Subcommittee**

The last meeting was March 18, 2008. Jan gave an overview of this meeting.

The current project is with CARES Northwest to develop curriculum that will be used to interview children with disabilities. CARES has proposed to do a one-day training instead of a one and one-half day training. The subcommittee is discussing that proposal to make sure our needs will be covered. This project must be done by the end of August 2008. The Subcommittee will be considering funding for a second phase to this project which would include implementing training from that curriculum. This is an interdisciplinary focus that would involve law enforcement, child welfare, etc. Some of the work will involve looking at what initial responders can do

and what they will need to identify that a child has a disability and then make some decisions about whether they will be able to do the interview or if they need to get the child to someone specialized to do the interview.

Kevin said CARES originally hoped to begin this project in October 2007, but weren't able to begin until January 2008 because of issues getting the contract executed. Kevin said curriculum is due to be completed in June 2008. The trainings would happen in July and August 2008. The audience is listed in the contract.

Jan said the original plan was to do four, one and one-half day trainings in Portland, Salem, Medford and Bend. If the trainings are shortened to one day each, CARES will do six trainings, with the addition of Eugene and La Grande. There might be an additional phase of this project that would include more trainings.

Jan said we need to think about how we can include the regional centers.

### **Update on Neglect Summit from July 2007**

The CJA Neglect Subcommittee implemented a contract with PSU to facilitate Neglect Summits in Coos, Crook, Jackson, Lane, Malheur, Multnomah and Wasco counties. Kevin Dowling reported on Multnomah County's participation in these Neglect Summits. At the Neglect Summits, multidisciplinary teams gathered to talk about how they, as a community, responded to child neglect. During the summits, PSU facilitated the development of Action Plans related to issues that meant the most to the community in terms of responding to child neglect. Communities were asked to take a leadership role in implementing their county Action Plans.

Kevin serves on the Multnomah County CAPTA (Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act – Public Law 93-247) Panel which meets quarterly. The Multnomah CAPTA Panel has been inviting the chairs from the various committees that were formed at that July 2007 Summit and will continue to do so. The Panel will involve those committee chairs in the discussion of some case reviews of child neglect. Some of the committees have been more successful than others. The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon has been involved in the Summit and will attend the May 2008 Multnomah CAPTA Panel meeting to participate in more discussion about child neglect.

Ruth said she has been involved in a group that was formed, from three of the Multnomah Summit committees. It has been focusing on the Rockwood area because of its high number of child welfare cases. This group has formed an action committee to support the efforts of this group. There needs to a champion that will follow through and carry the momentum which is difficult because folks are busy.

Jan added that the Jackson and Malheur CAPTA Panels have continued to do follow up work from their county Neglect Summits. Also, there were two representatives from child welfare, who were involved in one of the Neglect Summits, and who also attended a Seattle Neglect Conference, that was sponsored by the University of Washington, to look at evidenced-based practices in responding to neglectful families, to obtain information on what kinds of treatment would be helpful for neglect.

### **Subcommittee Membership**

Judge Brady will serve on the Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee. Margaret Semple said she will continue the work of Eva Kutas and serve on the Children with Disabilities Subcommittee. Judge Mejia will serve on the Foster Care Subcommittee.

### **CJA Draft Logo**

Shary explained that, during the last funding cycle, our CJA Task Force helped sponsor the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. To acknowledge our sponsorship, they wanted to put our logo on the conference materials. Because we didn't have a logo to give them, the Task Force began to discuss developing one. Steve Duvall has staff with graphic art experience, so he graciously offered up their time to work on a design for us. The Task Force reviewed several designs and decided on the State Seal, with 'Oregon Children's Justice Act Task Force' encircling it, and a child's hand inside an adult hand, at the bottom of the logo. The logo was submitted in color but we will use a black and white version, on our letterhead, to support DHS standards for color printing.

Robin motioned that we accept this as our official logo. Teri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **CJA Statewide Assessment**

Shary talked about the need to develop a statewide assessment. From the statewide assessment, we will craft our Priority Recommendations, develop subcommittees and decide how we will spend funding, for the next 3 years. The next assessment will be due in Spring of 2009.

We have completed past assessments in a variety of ways. We have facilitated focus groups at the SCAR Conference and one after a the Clackamas Child Abuse Conferences. Last year, each Task Force member sent out a survey to folks they represented. The survey had two questions:

- What do you think the most significant problems are, in the area of child abuse and neglect, that Oregon will face in 2005 – 2007?
- What ideas do you have for improving the current system?

We received about 90 responses back from the surveys. This information was used to complete the assessment.

Although the surveys were an easy way to gather information, there were concerns that it netted instances of only one or two people identifying a particular issue as being a problem. There were a couple of people who identified over-reliance on assessment centers as a problem. When we included that in the statewide assessment, it caused an unintended inaccurate representation of the State. We want to ensure this doesn't happen in the future.

Shary said this Committee started discussing, at our last Task Force meeting, how we wanted to complete the next statewide assessment. Members felt that, with the breadth of expertise within this Task Force, they have a good knowledge base of what's going on in Oregon. Shary asked members how they wanted to complete our next statewide assessment. Do we want to discuss this today? Do we want to use the information identified in the federal CFSR (Child and Family Services Review)?

From the CFSR, six domains were identified as areas needing improvement, within Oregon's child welfare system. There are committees, within the CFSR Review Team, that are working on these six domains.

Shary serves on the committee that relates to involving child and family in case planning. The six areas that need improvement are:

- I. Safety
- II. Timeliness and Quality of Caseworker Visits with Children and Parents
- III. Involvement of child and family in Case Planning
- IV. Concurrent Planning
- V. Service Array and Accessibility
- VI. Recruitment and Retention of Foster and Adoptive Families
- VII. Workforce

There are groups that are working on each of the above areas.

Jan is working with folks around safety issues. She said that CAF is in the process of writing the PIP (Progress Improvement Plan) which is in response to the federal CFSR. Folks are working hard to put together plans within short timelines. The PIP covers more than just child welfare; it will include community partners as well. All groups met this last week to pull together feedback received from Region X which will be used to complete the PIP. The draft PIP is due next week. Region X will review the draft and respond to us with their comments. We will then have about one month to take those comments and rework the PIP.

The federal government and this Department have learned that we cannot expect a significant difference by simply making some changes to policies and administrative rules. We need to be looking at a cultural change. In Oregon, some of these changes have already been started in our Safety Model. Some changes will happen within two years; some will be implemented within a five-year plan; and, some changes will be affected by the next Legislative Session and will depend on our ability to obtain funding to provide services.

Shary said she doesn't want us to duplicate efforts; and, although it makes sense to use information from the CFSR, it is difficult to see how some of the six areas of the PIP would fit into this Task Force's charge; that is, investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases. Shary asked the Task Force how they thought we should proceed.

Stacy suggested using information from a survey (using a survey monkey), along with expertise from the Task Force. Stacy will be willing to chair a workgroup to develop a survey. Work group to work on survey: Stacy, Debra, Kevin and Margaret.

Shary reminded that, in addition to the statewide assessment, we must also have our Priority Recommendations developed.

Because we have a year before our statewide assessment is due, Judge Brady suggested using a survey at the judges family law conference in October 2008.

Becky said that, at the beginning of the current CFSR, there were a number of assessment surveys, from many of our organizations, about the issues that we are all facing. She suggested that we begin with the information that has already been gathered in the CFSR. Programs begin to wonder if anyone is really listening to them when the same questions are asked over and over. Becky proposed inviting Timothy Travis to a CJA Task Force meeting to share some of the information that came out of the assessment group that began the CFSR process.

Jan said that the areas we gathered information about are limited to what Shary outlined; and, other than safety, she isn't sure that they have the same timeframes or focus that CJA has. CJA is limited to the initial CPS response / law enforcement investigation. Most of the other areas come after that. She said she isn't sure we would be getting information that fit our needs. Jan said she isn't involved with the JCIP projects; but, since they are related to judicial handling, it would certainly be appropriate to Timothy. Jan said if this Task Force could identify key areas we could hone in more with the Survey Monkey. The Survey Monkey is really a yes/no/or multiple choice type of survey which makes it difficult to ask broad questions. Jan suggests that we figure out a little bit more about what we want to ask before we try using the Survey Monkey format.

Stacy pointed out that you can ask open-ended questions, but you have to guide it; and, if we receive answers we would like to follow up with, to identify who and why, there are ways to identify that. Stacy said that we all use various listserves, so we could cast a broad net with the people at this table.

Robin suggested the use of listserves.

Debra shared that the DOJ and the ODA are planning a statewide training for AAGs and DDAs, who are doing dependency work, around the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

Stacy said ODAA is having a Summer Conference in Bend, the last week of July or first week in August.

Jan said we have three more full Task Force meetings before the statewide assessment is due; plus, there will be subcommittee work. We don't have as much time as it might seem.

Shary said that, for those who are new members, some of the past projects we have worked on are related to:

- Teens issues
- Systems issues
  - Collaboration between child welfare, courts, parole/probation
  - Eyes of a Child Conference
  - Tie project – brought all curriculum together
  - Visiting nurse practitioner project but it wasn't successful
  - Funded a child abuse assessment center

Shary asked if it would help the work group if people submitted ideas about what could be used in the survey?

Stacy said if they could get those ideas by next week, she will draft survey questions for the Task Force to review. She could set up the survey link for Task Force members to send out to their various distribution lists.

Shary suggested to Task Force members that they think about issues specific to their own areas that could be addressed in the survey.

Stacy said we could also break questions down into categories of investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of cases, and then ask question that are specific to each of these areas.

The group talked about what questions should be asked and then they worked on grouping the questions into key categories. **Timeliness in each of the categories was a key focus.** Key issues are listed below.

## **Investigations**

- \*Mental Health and Initial Assessments- child welfare, education and mental health systems intersect; what needs are not being met?
- \*Over representation (minority numbers)
- \*Early Intervention Assessments- child victims under 3 years of age
- \*Child Vulnerability- developmental delays like mental health issues (can affect prosecution)
- \*Medical Assessments (trauma to a child / pressure on a child to recant/ non-offending parents' support / parent mentors & support groups affect a child)
- \*Length of Time between child statement and law enforcement investigation (coordination and timelines of investigation)
- \*Karly's Law – training for medical personnel/photography
- \*Responding to neglect – different interview techniques to identify the neglect issues
- \*Identifying neglect and creating awareness to parents – engaging parents

## **Prosecution**

- \*Trauma to child
- \*Pressure on child to recant (non-offending parents' support)
- \*Parent mentors and support groups affect a child
- \*Victim advocates (this also is related to investigation)
- \*Identify ongoing and supporting relatives

## **Child Fatalities**

\*Support for county review teams

\*Timely review and education

## **Child Disabilities**

\*Interpreter services

\*Identifying MR/DD needs (also related to investigation)

## **Judicial Handling**

\*Identification of placement resources prior to shelter hearing (helps to identify placement resources with relatives and friends)

\*Priorities of cases involving children (holding off on counseling until trial)

\*Child testimony

\*Revisit Crawford Ruling – Supreme Court Decision (about four years ago)  
Members discussed this ruling.

\*Trauma to child

\*CASA appointments

\*Fostering attachment (Judge Abernethy – 0 to 3)

\*Drug courts

\*Supports for drug and alcohol affected parents

\*Focus on child's needs (child-centered case planning)

Debra wonders if this Task Force could support something around Karly's Law or what other areas are doing in the way of training for law enforcement.

Ruth said because it is difficult for people to attend training, it would be helpful to have a one-day that includes everything.

Debra is involved with the first 60 days of a case, but a lot is focused on the parents: what can we do to support and help them? It is more difficult to know how to help the very young children who can't talk. Children should be the center of the case planning.

Amy agrees that identifying the needs of the children should happen immediately.

### **Unscheduled Business**

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

***Subcommittee Meeting Dates: Members met to decide on the next meeting date. Appointments will be sent out to subcommittee members.***

***Future Topics:***

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:15**