

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

Date: Friday, April 10, 2009
Location: HSB – Room 137 C
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT (12): Shary Mason, Chairperson, Steve Brinlee, Don Darland, Becky Smith, Judge Lorenzo Mejia, Steve Duvall, Robin Wright (by phone), Stacy Liskey, Matthew Pearl, Teri Shultz, Suzy Isham (by phone) and Tonia Hunt

MEMBERS EXCUSED (2): Amy Miller, Margaret Semple and Steve Atchison

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED (2): Stacey Ayers and Mark Held

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

GUESTS (2): Angela Rodgers and Rebecca Orf

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

Membership Report and Introductions

Action Item: Recruit for the positions that Judge Brady, Judge Van Dyk and Debra Markham vacated. The Task Force continues to recruit for tribal representation.

Stacy Liskey suggested contacting the MDTs for these positions. She will contact the Hood River MDT to recruit for a prosecutor.

Stacy Liskey said the Harney MDT works with the Burns Paiute Tribe.

Steve Brinlee will contact the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to recruit for a tribal representative.

Action Item: Becky Smith will contact the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Action Item: Heather will provide information about what is necessary to add an individual to the CJA Task Force membership.

Stacy Liskey commented that the Task Force should have federal representation; although, she wasn't sure of the area of representation.

Action Item: Heather will research and clarify the federal representation.

Action Item: Judge Mejia will contact Rebecca Orf to see if she has a recommendation for replacing either Judge Van Dyk or Judge Brady.

January 9, 2009 Minutes

Steve Duvall made a motion to approve the Minutes. Don Darland seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved with suggested edits.

PSU Presentation – Foster Care Subcommittee Project – Reducing the Trauma of Initial Placement in Substitute Care

Angela Rodgers presented information about:

- what's happening as far as the folks who have been contacted
- how the information has been received
- who has been training
- how the dissemination is going
- how the curriculum can be utilized

The following handouts were distributed and discussed:

- Full copy of the curriculum (binder)
- Green sheet (first few pages of curriculum)
- CJA Dissemination and Training: Progress Report by Sector

Linda Bello, Core trainer for new caseworkers, and Kris Villanueva, Foster Parent trainer, use this same type of template.

PSU hired a curriculum writer who is an expert in adult learning. Therefore, the curriculum is interactive. It is strength-based and draws on the expertise of the audience. There is a word by word script that goes with the PowerPoint. This enables anyone to use it.

Linda Bello wrote a section in the curriculum called 'the supplement' which is specifically for caseworkers. She plans to give this training, along with the supplement, at the CPS Quarterlies. Linda will also be available for consultation and advice. The curriculum requires 3 hours and the supplement activity requires 1 ½ hours.

Existing policy and procedures from the OSM, along with the eight essential elements of trauma informed case work practice from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network curriculum are used in this training. All worksheets are designed to address what needs to be changed/added related to policy to help reduce the trauma to children.

Angela noted that a professional is needed to do the video taping. PSU didn't have much money or staff to devote to it. The PowerPoint will have links to the video clips (Lisa's 911 call, and Leah's and Ian's story). The videos will be posted to a PSU web site. A trainer would need to download the videos before they began a training session. Angela offered to make copies of the DVDs for those who aren't able to download the clips.

Action Item: Angela will get back to us about how a trainer would access the videos.

Folks are excited about this information. However, they don't have available staff to do the training. PSU trainers (Linda Bello) are available to provide the training. Linda does not have a formal session when she talks about it, but she has been handing the information out at CORE training since last Summer and refers to it. This information will also be added to the ongoing foster parent training, and there are plans to adapt it to be a netlink training.

Question: Could the materials be self-taught?

Answer: There is a large amount of information, but it is possible. It was suggested that the materials could be broken down into sections and trained via conference call or VCON.

Kevin Dowling is using this material to work with the 19 statewide child abuse intervention centers.

Question: Are the materials culturally diverse? Cultural differences cause unique trauma, in addition to commonly experienced trauma.

Answer: Cultural Diversity is a weak area, although it is mentioned.

Additional points of discussion:

- Not every MDT has a training committee
- Tonia Hunt said Clackamas County would be very interested in providing training
- Stacy Liskey is interested in handing out these materials to MDTs
- Don suggested distributing the materials to child welfare supervisors
- Angela said the materials are distributed at supervisor quarterlies
- Refer to the Progress Report for additional spinoffs

Action Item: Angela will develop a guide that can be used along with the training materials.

Angela left three DVDs with Don Darland to review:

- Katie's story; use the second and fourth chapters of the DVD along with Katie's suggestion (total 15 to 16 minutes)
- Ian's DVD (it is very long; pick out what is appropriate)
- Leah's DVD (total 18 minutes)

Question: Angela asked where the Task Force wants her to focus her remaining time, during the last three months of the contract period? Should she be doing additional work on videos or making personal contacts to see if folks are using the materials to satisfy the evaluation component within the contract?

JCIP Presentation – Rebecca Orf

Rebecca became the Project Manager for Juvenile Court Improvement Project (JCIP) the first of February 2009. She was previously on the bench in Jackson County for 14 years. She spent the last several years as the primary judge handling all dependency cases.

JCIP is housed within the Judicial Department, has existed over 10 years, and is federally funded. There are JCIPs around the nation working to improve practice in dependency courts for children and families.

Like most other areas, JCIP is suffering from budget issues. Spending has basically been put on hold. As of Tuesday, they were able to proceed with planning the Through the Eyes of the Child Conference. It will be held in August at the Willamette Law School in Salem. The agenda hasn't been set yet. They plan to add a Model Juvenile Court Day at the end of the conference. Rebecca is considering how to incorporate the trauma information (from the work of this Task Force) into the "Eyes" conference.

Rebecca's main focus during the legislative session is to review legislation, prepare fiscal impact statements and work with partners when bill amendments are necessary. She is tracking a few bills very closely:

- OJD worked with Representative Gene Whisnant to amend HB 2897 which would require written findings when children are not placed with relatives.
- There is a pending bill to make grandparents parties in dependency cases. DHS is working on an amendment to this bill.
- She is monitoring a bill that would require child welfare to file a petition to terminate parental rights if a child has been placed out of the home more than three times.
- There is a bill that requires child welfare to file a petition to terminate parental rights if a parent is sentenced to more than 70 months in prison.
- On the delinquency side, there are a couple bills she is monitoring:
 - juvenile fitness to proceed
 - to adopt provisions of a uniform Interstate Compact for children who are placed out-of-state when they are on probation

The federal government, as it works with child welfare and others, has come up with their Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) that child welfare

must meet, in order for them to continue to receive federal funding. JCIP has historically played a big part in implementation of the PIP and Rebecca is working with child welfare to assist with implementation of the current PIP. Within the PIP, the biggest emphasis for the courts relates to permanency planning because it affects the whole dependency system. Rebecca has been reviewing the PIP for training purposes and anticipates that JCIP will be responsible for implementing some of the requirements.

The PIP includes a strong focus on reducing the number of children placed in Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (**APPLA**). APPLA includes children who, for a variety of reasons:

- cannot return home
- cannot be adopted, or-
- cannot be placed into guardianship

Three local Model Courts (small, medium and large jurisdictions that have large numbers of APPLA children - Multnomah, Coos and Jackson Counties) were chosen to implement a plan to reduce the number of APPLA children.

Other areas focused on by the PIP are:

- More timely reunification
- Achieve adoptions in a more timely manner
- Achieve permanency goals in a more timely manner
- More attention on relative placements
- Termination of parental rights in a more timely manner
- Better documentation of compelling reasons to move directly to terminate parental rights as opposed to working with parents
- Courts need to do a better job of monitoring the frequency and quality of caseworker visits with children, moms and dads
- Stronger focus of searching and engaging absent and non resident parents and relatives
- Emphasis on culturally appropriate services
- Emphasis on keeping children safely at home, as opposed to removing them
- Emphasis on providing more support to foster parents

Every Fall, after a legislative session, JCIP teams with child welfare to do a Road Show. The group travels around the state to provide information about new legislation and other training concerning dependency issues.

There are going to be three model sites for courts to review and determine the barriers that exist to courts filing termination of parental rights in a timely manner. Rebecca is working with child welfare to determine the three sites.

Rebecca said a crucial need for everyone is training. JCIP has limited funds through their grant that might possibly be available that folks could apply for. JCIP has a form available to request funds.

Shary said one of the CJA priorities, for the next three years, is training community partners about the Oregon Safety Model (OSM).

Action Item: Maybe the CJA Task Force could partner with JCIP around the OSM training. Rebecca suggested having a component in the Fall Road Show related to the OSM. Jan suggested convening the OSM Legal Issues Work Group to talk about how it can work with the CJA Task Force.

Another CJA priority for the next three years is specialized courts.

Action Item: Invite Nancy Cozine, legislative point person for treatment courts or Christina Jagernauth, State Treatment Court Coordinator to a CJA Courts Subcommittee meeting.

Shary said another judicial challenge mentioned in the CJA statewide survey is timely identification of relative placements. Rebecca said there will be information presented at the Juvenile Judges Conference about the **Fostering Connections to Success Act**. It is a federal law implemented in October which has stricter requirements for child welfare to identify and contact relatives.

Action Item: Share the CJA statewide survey with Rebecca related to the strengths and challenges of the courts.

Judge Mejia said training for judges and child welfare workers is important. Reports to courts must have appropriate information in order for a judge to make a finding.

Rebecca said David Cummings is pulling together a group to look at how OR-Kids will better document court reports. OR-Kids will be more flexible when putting information together for court reports.

Shary noted that we need to recruit for the positions that Judge Alta Brady and Judge Douglas Van Dyk recently vacated. Rebecca said diverse, geographical representation is important.

Action Item: Shary will send Rebecca an email regarding recruitment for these positions.

Budget Report – Michelle Weber

A budget document showing actual expenditures and projections for the October 1, 2007 grant was distributed. Members had additional questions and decided it would be helpful to form a Budget Subcommittee. Volunteers for this subcommittee are Becky Smith, Stacy Liskey, Shary Mason and Tonia Hunt along with staff Jan Slick, Heather Mowry and Michelle Weber. Stacy Liskey asked that we invite Ron Swenson to the meeting.

Action Item: Michelle Weber will schedule a Budget Subcommittee meeting and invite Ron Swenson.

Foster Care Subcommittee – Don Darland

The Foster Care Subcommittee needs to meet regarding Angela's question about how the subcommittee wants her to spend the remainder of her contract hours (video work or contacting people to see if the curriculum is being used).

There was discussion about whether the work of this subcommittee is coming to a close or if there will be future projects. The subcommittee will discuss this at their next meeting. Don will present current and future project needs at the July 10, 2009 CJA Task Force meeting.

Heather gave an update of contract development with the FosterClub to develop two publications for children going into foster care. The contract

will need Department of Justice approval. Heather will complete research to verify the FosterClub is a sole source.

Action Item: Heather will write the FosterClub contract to include printing and do research on language related to their rights to sell the publications outside Oregon.

Action Item: Make decisions about who will receive the FosterClub publications and how many they will receive.

Identify someone from each child welfare branch, CASA offices, courts, etc, to be the contact for the publications.

Projects

- 1) Continue with Modell training
- 2) Continue with the FosterClub publications

Strategic Planning for Children's Safety – Shary Mason

Jennifer Clark, PSU Child Welfare Partnership trainer, gave a presentation at the last subcommittee meeting and distributed a summary report of all the summits. PSU has reviewed all the Action Plans from the first 11 summits and the four most recent summits. They broke the strategies down into:

- Child-focused practices
- Parent-focused practices, and-
- Community-capacity building

PSU thought this was a useful way to look at the information and identify commonalities across the summits and to see how the most recent four summits differ from the first 11.

PSU will do four summits in the next three months focusing on drug courts.

Following is the schedule for the upcoming summits:

- Wallowa County – April 23rd in Enterprise

- Grant / Harney Counties – May 15th in Seneca
- Lincoln County – June 11th in Newport
- Josephine County – June 18th in Grants Pass
-

Dee Wilson will speak at three summits and Mary Ann Murphy will speak at one.

The beginning format will be similar to the previous 15 summits in addressing the dynamics and affects of neglect. There will be a treatment oriented action planning session in the afternoon.

Jennifer Clark suggested developing a form to be sent to the various work groups developed at the previous summits so they can report on the status of projects.

PSU will complete an in-depth follow-up on the most recent summits. PSU also completed a six-month follow-up on the 11 original summits, with more detailed information.

The meth summits evolved from the neglect summits which were held in Coos, Crook, Jackson, Lane, Malheur, Multnomah, and Wasco counties.

The first phase of meth summits (June/July 2008) was held in Clackamas, Deschutes, Douglas and Umatilla counties. There was followup completed for these summits but we want more current information.

The second phase of meth summits (April/May/June 2009) was held in Wallowa, Grant/Harney, Josephine and Lincoln counties. These counties will receive follow-up in six months.

We are currently planning where we would like to hold the third phase of meth summits.

If funds are available, the subcommittee would like to purchase the substance abuse videos developed in Southern Oregon.

Action Item: Michelle will send the link to the substance abuse DVDs to Task Force members. Will we get supplemental training materials and handouts with the DVDs?

Question: How would the DVDs be stored and/or distributed?

Answer: It was suggested that they could be:

- Distributed through the upcoming summits
- Posted to the CJA web site, along with any supplemental training materials and handouts; this would allow CJA Task Force members to refer their folks to that link for access
- Stored at Jan Slick's office to be available for check-out

June 8, 2009, 9:30 to 11:00 is the next Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee meeting to review the status of the current project.

Projects

The subcommittee will discuss whether there will be additional projects at the June 8th meeting.

Disabilities Subcommittee – Jan Slick, Heather Mowry and Shary Mason

There was discussion about the Scott Modell training. Scott is available the last two weeks in June. There would not be a registration fee.

Should we send out a survey to gather information about interest, availability, size of groups and whether they would need help with travel expenses?

If we offered to pay travel expenses, that would come out of the CJA training allocation.

Decision: Because of budget constraints and travel limitations, it was decided that we would put the training on hold until 2010.

Stacy Liskey made a motion to delay the training until 2010 and Becky Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This subcommittee will meet to decide how to proceed from here.

Projects

- 1) Scott Modell training in 2010

New Subcommittees

The following subcommittees will meet to discuss:

- What their priorities will be for the next three years
- Possible projects
- The timelines for projects, and-
- Training needs

Budget restrictions on government agencies and community partners, will impact subcommittee planning.

Karly's Law Subcommittee

- Stacy Liskey-Chair Shary Mason
- Steve Brinlee Jan Slick
- Steve Duvall Heather Mowry
- Suzy Isham Michelle Weber
- Margaret Semple

Courts Subcommittee

- Judge Mejia-Chair Shary Mason
- Amy Miller Jan Slick
- Matthew Pearl Heather Mowry
- Robin Wright Michelle Weber
- Becky Orf

OSM (Oregon Safety Model) Subcommittee

- Stacey Ayers-Chair Shary Mason
- Don Darland Jan Slick
- Teri Shultz Heather Mowry
- Tonia Hunt Michelle Weber

Budget Subcommittee

- Becky Smith Shary Mason
- Stacy Liskey Jan Slick
- Tonia Hunt Heather Mowry

- Michelle Weber

Action Item: Michelle Weber will schedule meetings for the above four new subcommittees and the current Foster Care, Disabilities and Strategic Planning for Children’s Safety Subcommittees.

Status of Three-year Plan – Heather Mowry

Heather asked if there will be additional projects for the current project phases

Each subcommittee needs to review recommendations from the last Three-Year Plan and provide information on the following:

- If the recommendation was completed, explain what was done; or
- If the recommendation was not completed, address why and/or what still needs to be done.

Report on CJA Meeting and NCAN Conference - in Atlanta, Georgia

Defer this presentation until the next CJA Task Force meeting.