



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

Date: Friday, May 4, 2007

Location: HSB-137D

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT (10): Shary Mason, Steve Atchison, Becky Smith, Matthew Pearl, Kevin Dowling, Debra Markham, Steve Duvall, Una Swanson, Eva Kutas and Don Darland (via phone)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT/EXCUSED (4): Teri Shultz, Judge Douglas Van Dyk, Philip Cox and Stacy Liskey

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT/UNEXCUSED (2): Morris Blakey and Robin Wright

STAFF PRESENT (3): Janvier Slick, Stephanie Stafford and Wendy Elstun

GUESTS: None

Meeting called to order by Shary Mason, Chair at 9:05 a.m.

Introductions were given by all members present at the meeting. Note: It is Wendy's last day.

MINUTES:

Minutes from January 19, 2007 meeting were reviewed and Janvier Slick submitted one correction noting that funds for the Foster care subcommittee were not specifically allocated to the Child Centered Case Planning or Foster Parent training (Judge Abernethy's projects). \$50,000 in funds was allocated to the Foster care subcommittee for a project that is yet to be determined. The correction will be made and minutes noted as approved with the one correction.

ACTION ITEM:

Minutes will be posted to the web after revisions. There was a suggestion to send out draft minutes with agenda prior to meetings.

REUNITED VIDEO:

Stephanie: Gave a brief overview of the Reunited Video reproduction. Sixty (60) copies of the Reunited Video were purchased with CJA grant funds. Forty-nine (49) copies were distributed to Oregon Judicial Department, Court Programs and Services Division (CPSD). CPSD distributed the videos to treatment court and juvenile court judges. The remaining eleven (11) videos are for Task Force use.

Multnomah -4

Clakamas-2

Jackson-2

Lane-2

Marion-3

Washington-2

Deschutes-2

All other counties-29

OJD libraries-3

CJA Task Force-11 (to use as they decide). Three (3) of the eleven (11) videos have been sent to other states.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (NCCAN):

The conference was held April 16-21, in Portland, Oregon. CJA Task Force allocated \$60,000 in scholarships to be distributed to multidisciplinary groups and dispersed geographically throughout Oregon. A map was provided to show distribution of scholarships.

Not all scholarship slots were filled and \$500 for travel expenses was provided to some applicants. The remaining funds were used for volunteer coordination, management and recognition.

Kevin spoke about the wide variety of attendees and their positive perception of the different Oregon organizations and how they work together. Shary went to the reception for the steering committee and attended the conference. The National Conference organizers were very impressed with Oregon's performance.

CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC) PRINCIPLES:

Shary Mason introduced and read the CWAC principles and explained that CJA is a subcommittee of the CWAC. Becky Smith and Don Darland are members of CWAC.

Shary gave an overview and history of the CJA Task Force and its purpose for the new members. She explained the CJA three year plan, which consists of Oregon's three year assessment of the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases and recommendations for making improvements in these areas.

In conducting the assessment for this three year plan, CJA sent a survey to members of the Task Force who in turn sent it out to their individual statewide constituents.

The three currently active subcommittees: Foster Care, Children with Disabilities and Strategic Planning for Children's Safety, were formed to conduct further research on the areas identified in the survey as in need of improvement. The three subcommittees then made recommendations to the full Task Force about issues and recommendations. The Task Force reviewed and prioritized the recommendations.

The Task force submits a report every three years to the Federal Government (Administration on Children and Families) on the status of the recommendations. Teens, Systems and Neglect are three subcommittees from the previous three year report.

Shary suggested that the Task Force could formally adopt the CWAC principles as their own guiding principles to be used when making decisions or could decide to merely be aware of the CWAC principles.

Matthew: These are wonderful principles; we should be aware of and use them.

Becky: Confirmed Matthew's suggestion.

Stephanie: CJA funds are not allowed for prevention.

Debra: As a subcommittee of CWAC we should be aware of them.

Steve D: As a subcommittee we should at the very least recognize the principles.

Shary: When creating the three year plan, we should consider the principles and use them as guidelines.

The Task Force agreed.

COMMUNITY CHILD NEGLECT SUMMITS:

Becky gave an overview of the previous Neglect study and how it assessed statewide issues and how we can make a difference. PSU completed the study and recommended a plan for bringing the knowledge to the community and training multidisciplinary teams about child neglect.

Statewide summits are scheduled throughout the summer (2007). A list of the summits with dates and other information was provided.

Debra: Will results from these summits be shared with other counties?

There was a discussion of what the summits will cover. The facilitators will submit a final report and the Summit communities will submit a plan. Stephanie will follow up in one year with each summit.

Steve D.: Were MDTs involved initially?

Kevin: MDTs are involved in Multnomah's Summit.

Stephanie: Stacy Liskey will update MDTs and 'Yes' they are involved.

Discussed the criteria required for those who are holding a summit.

Becky: Why did funds fluctuate from Request to Awarded?

Stephanie: Explained how and why funds were adjusted. Some items (i.e., breakfast and breaks) not allowed in budget request. We allowed communities to add in printing costs for final plan.

TF Members names/contact information was provided to each summit coordinator and members will receive notification of summits.

TEENS PROJECT:

Shary: Juvenile Rights Project – July 31 training in Salem, Oregon. The training is to educate professionals on 'How to Work with Teens. It uses a train the trainer model.

10:00 a.m. Don Darland called in.

Shary: If anyone has names of those who would be willing to be trained to train others, they can send the names to amym@jrplaw.org.

ACTION ITEM:

Stephanie passed around a list for names and contact information. The list will be submitted to Amy Miller via email by Stephanie.

MDT NEWSLETTER:

Shary passed around the MDT newsletter that included an article about the CJA Task Force which she wrote.

DON DARLAND'S AWARD:

Don was recognized at the NCCAN conference with one of the Commissioners Awards.

Una spoke about the award.

-BREAK-

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES RFGP STATUS:

Eva: Gave a background on the Children with Disabilities subcommittee. She clarified the discussion about awarding contracts to an intergovernmental agency vs. RFP process.

Jan: Suggested we consider the options for future projects. If the Task Force chooses to go with an intergovernmental agency, then no RFP would be required. A contract can be awarded directly to an intergovernmental agency. This is an option we may want to consider in future projects.

Kevin: Pointed out we used this option for having PSU facilitate the Summits.

Shary: Clarified that for an intergovernmental agency no RFP process is required. If we post an RFP, then all applicants who submit a bid will be considered.

Member discussion.

Shary: Any action needed?

Jan: Decision on the table on how the TF proceeds regarding RFP for Children with Disabilities.

Eva: The subcommittee recommends opening up RFP and having larger base of applicants apply.

Shary: How long will it take to get an RFP issued?

Stephanie: RFP in contracts now.

Eva: A second phase is planned for this project. Bring in a higher specialized speaker for more fine tuned training.

Stephanie: There will also be a technology piece (web sites, CD rom). More development and delivery of trainings, multiple sites, with a maximum class size of 25.

The Task Force agreed to open up an RFP for this project. Stephanie will contact DHS contracts to proceed with the RFP process.

FOSTER CARE SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS:

Don: Gave an overview of the subcommittee, Judge Abernethy/Gail Wenig's project, Foster Care issues and trauma children face when coming into a stranger's home. 'Hands that Protect and Heal' is the piece that he recommends being used.

ACTION ITEM:

Stephanie will send out to all members 'Hands that Protect and Heal' via email per Don Darland's request.

Shary: Two (2) tracks-

Foster care committee:

Review: Child Centered Case Planning

Child needs vs. parents needs, Judge Abernethy discussed: fostering attachment, 0-3 year focus, and building the architecture of the brain. The 1st meeting in Marion County included information on training Foster parents on the importance of forming attachments. Judge Abernethy's suggestion was for Marion County to develop and deliver the training in Marion County and for the Task Force to deliver the training statewide. AJ Goins was concerned about duplicating state foster parent training. Judge Abernethy discussed in home training and support.

The Committee looked at how this could fit within the Task Force priority recommendations and parameters. They decided it was necessary to do some strategic planning to formalize their mission, determine how to spend their funds, engage in a planning process and define the goal or need.

Don: He believes the Fostering Attachment training does fit the criteria of the Task Force. He doesn't feel this would duplicate foster parent training. He would like more specifics on what training is currently being provided.

Shary: Clarified that they didn't decide that training was being duplicated. The next meeting will define where or if the 'Hands that Protect and Heal' does or doesn't duplicate the current foster parent training.

Don: Wants the subcommittee to only focus on the training.

Stephanie: We need to make sure the Foster care project fits within the three-year report priority recommendations.

Shary: Read the priority recommendations of the Foster Care subcommittee from the three-year report.

Una: Agrees with Don that the transition into foster care should be the focus of the training.

Jan: Also agrees. AJ Goins does have concerns about duplication of training for foster parents, case workers and law enforcement. Getting AJ involved will help eliminate duplication. This curriculum may be a basis for follow up training for foster parents on how to limit trauma of the child.

Debra: Agrees. Court orders serve the parent's needs. Sometimes the child's needs are not the focus. Court appointed attorneys for children would welcome specialized training on children's needs and development.

Steve D.: Agrees with Debra. The focus is on the parent. Training for law enforcement on the trauma and effects on the child and their future development would be helpful.

Steve A.: Also feels strongly that training is the key for understanding and reducing the trauma to children placed in foster care.

Shary: Would like the subcommittee to have a facilitator help them clarify and specify their plans for a project.

Stephanie: These funds must be allocated and invoices paid by September 30, 2008.

ACTION ITEM:

Jan: Determine if there is a facilitator within DHS that could work with the subcommittee to determine criteria for the funds.

STATUS OF SYSTEMS RESPONSE PROJECT:

Update on PSU project, issues.

Shary: The System Response workgroup has funded various training projects in the past. Two examples are judicial training on working with adolescents and TIE, a training integration endeavor which brought together several disciplines to share their various training products and determine if speakers and training modules could be shared across organizations. The project that is currently being funded centers on collaborations between parole and probation and the dependency system. JCIP had agreed to integrate this project into their model court planning sessions. However, some courts are currently feeling overwhelmed with training opportunities and JCIP has received a federal grant of their own to provide training. This required a revision in the Systems Response

project. Pilot sites are currently being sought to engage in a planning process to address collaboration with parole and probation throughout Oregon this summer.

Stephanie: They will also do a presentation for judges at the 'Through the Eyes of a Child Conference' in August 2007.

BUDGET:

Stephanie Stafford, Grants Coordinator, gave a short update of the budget.

There was discussion on the increased salary for the Grants Coordinator and Grants Assistant.

ACTION ITEM:

Kevin: Asked staff to provide an overview of funds currently allocated to staffing and the responsibilities of each position.

-LUNCH BREAK-

METHAMPHETAMINE/CRAWFORD SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS:

Methamphetamine-

Stephanie: Asked if we should continue these subcommittees? After discussion, the Task Force recommended folding the methamphetamine subcommittee into the Strategic Planning for Children's Safety subcommittee.

It was noted that methamphetamine labs are reduced. Children's exposure to methamphetamine is coming from their parent's use.

Crawford-

Steve A. gave an overview on the Crawford court decision involving hearsay evidence, child victim statements, and facing accusers.

Steve D.: Recommended waiting until supreme court/Oregon appellate court decisions are rendered prior to continuation with this subcommittee.

A decision was made to suspend the subcommittee until a decision is rendered.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Added Steve A. to the Children with Disabilities subcommittee. Added Steve D. and Debra to Strategic Planning for Children's Safety subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM:

Update subcommittee list and send out to Task Force – Stephanie.

BYLAWS:

Shary: Becky, Shary and Stephanie met to revise the bylaws in April 2007. Stacy, Eva and Jan have also met and provided input on bylaws.

Discussion of the bylaws followed.

Steve A.: Suggested that terms of the chair and vice chair should be on a staggered basis.

Eva: Raised the issue of whether a DHS employee could serve as chair or vice chair.

ACTION ITEMS:

Bylaws will be reviewed by members via email. Stephanie will send these out once current edits are made.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Meeting dates to be scheduled via email.

ACTION ITEM:

Stephanie to send out email for meeting dates for the next year and provide members with contact information for Wendy's replacement.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.