

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

Date: Friday, October 5, 2007

Location: HSB-137A

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT (12):** Shary Mason, Robin Wright, Teri Shultz, Don Darland, Steve Duvall, Philip Cox, Kevin Dowling, Matthew Pearl, Debra Markham, Judge Douglas Van Dyk, Stacy Liskey and Amy Miller

**MEMBERS EXCUSED (5):** Becky Smith, Eva Kutas, Suzy Isham, Steve Atchison and Una Swanson

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

**GUESTS (3):** Stacey Daeschner on behalf of Una Swanson, Katharine Cahn and Marty Lowrey from PSU Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services/Child Welfare Partnership

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

**Introductions/New Members/Recruitment Status**

New member Amy Miller was welcomed, and everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Judge Carol Jones could not attend today's meeting, but she is still considering serving on the Task Force, per Debra Markham. Shary Mason spoke briefly to Ron Hudson, from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, regarding serving on the CJA Task Force Committee.

**Action Item:**

Stephanie Stafford will follow up with Ron Hudson and other tribal representatives.

Some members' terms are expiring soon, which might open opportunities for new appointments. These members will need to make decisions about whether they want to continue to serve on the Task Force.

## **Minutes of July 20, 2007**

Shary asked that paragraph 6 on page 3 be deleted, as it was already stated on page 4. She also asked that the word "Implementation" on page 6, paragraph 2 be corrected to read "Improvement", related to the PIP.

Kevin Dowling asked that Dr. Kristine Nelson's name be corrected.

With the completion of the above corrections, Shary Mason called for a motion that the July 20, 2007 Minutes be approved; Debra Markham motioned to approve the Minutes and Steve Duvall seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Shary asked that, in future Minutes, Task Force member absences be defined as excused or not excused.

### **Report on Teen Project (Katharine Cahn and Amy Miller)**

Amy Miller provided the following information. Juvenile Rights Project (JRP), Inc. received funding from the CJA grant for the Teens Project, which included a "Train the Trainer" (Putting the Pieces Together: Supporting Adolescent Success) event. JRP partnered with PSU to develop the training. Five curriculum sessions were held covering Brain Development, Building Relationships, Cultural Considerations, Unique Needs, and Transitions. Participants reported a high satisfaction with the conference event. One hundred twenty people attended the July 31, 2007 event. Participants represented a wide variety of disciplines. Foster Club All Stars, geographically located throughout the U.S., co-lead the day with emphasis on their belief that family ties are important. Most of the participants reported that the highlight of the training was the involvement of the former foster youth (Foster Club All Stars). PSU video taped interviews during several sessions. Permanency was featured in the interviews and those videos will soon be available as a training tool with caseworkers, at the following web site: <http://www.cwpsalem.pdx.edu/teen/>. The conference planners also focused on a sustainability plan. How can the work from this conference be used long-term? This project concludes the work of the Teens Subcommittee.

The Task Force discussed future planning. Is there an interest in sponsoring additional training events and/or evaluating longer-term impact of projects by determining if the curriculum is being used in practice? Jan Slick agreed that including teen issues in the next Program Improvement Plan (PIP) is something we should investigate.

## **Systems Response Grant (Katharine Cahn and Marty Lowrey)**

***Project #1 Summary:*** *Provide statewide training and support to the juvenile court community on child welfare issues. The training should provide a particular emphasis on judicial education to increase their knowledge and understanding of adolescent development and effective services available to this population.*

PSU provided training at the Juvenile Court Improvement Project (JCIP), "Through the Eyes of a Child" conferences in August 2006 and 2007. For more detail refer to the 2007 Program Performance Report and Grant Application that is posted on the CJA website.

***Project #2 Summary:*** *Develop innovative projects that will promote courts engaging in collaborative models with parole and probation with the goal of coordinating services and expectations as well as sharing information about family members involved in a dependency case.*

PSU provided multi-disciplinary action planning seminars that increased collaboration between parole, probation and dependency court.

Katharine Cahn said the opportunity to host a seminar was presented to all Juvenile Court judges by means of an invitation letter distributed through the Juvenile Court Improvement Project. Three counties applied, and all were selected. Seminars were completed in Klamath (July), Yamhill (August) and Washington (September). For a full summary of the project, see the final report "Systems Response Project October 2006-September 2007" by Child Welfare Partnership.

Klamath County probation officers, who work with case workers, developed an action plan that they will pilot.

Debra Markham reported that participants in the Yamhill County seminar followed up with their child abuse multidisciplinary team about how they will continue with this work.

Having The Department of Corrections involved is very helpful. Shary mentioned how Yamhill County motivated participant interest in their projects by using fun names.

Washington County has a small number of judicial officers for the number of cases they handle. Judge Jim Fun said they focused on release

agreements. Martha Strawn Morris worked on this and participants reported that the seminar was very helpful.

***Project #3 Summary: Research on under-reporting of abuse and neglect by the medical community and how best to engage medical professionals in improving their understanding of child abuse and neglect dynamics and increase reporting in accordance with statute. Grantee shall facilitate a process with the Children's Justice Act Task Force to develop a plan of action to reach out to the medical community on this issue.***

Marty presented information about the project. It began as a training on mandatory reporting on child abuse and neglect for physicians and educators. As work progressed, the focus shifted to only physicians. Training development was based on the belief that there is under reporting of child abuse and/or neglect by physicians. The project focus was revised to conduct research to determine whether there is evidence of under reporting by physicians; and, if so, why this occurred. The research identified three barriers relevant to under reporting by physicians; they are: Lack of Information, Systemic Issues, and Human Issues. Strategies and Considerations were provided to address each of these three barriers.

There was discussion about continuing this effort. Kevin Dowling discussed CAMI funding in Oregon's 36 counties and how that funding supports the regional training centers. These training centers provide an infrastructure for training medical providers about child abuse. One activity of the Regional Centers is to bring interviewers from advocacy assessment centers in that region together to review interview tapes and have dialog.

Don Darland inquired about what kinds of questions are appropriate to ask and are they appropriate for every child? Marty Lowery asked how we can coach supervisors to work with their caseworkers. Katharine Cahn asked how we can get physicians to these trainings? Hopefully, HB 3328, known as Karly's Law, will provide clearer guidelines related to child abuse investigations by medical professionals and all other mandatory reporters. Teri Shultz asked how nurses, educators and other front line professionals could be involved. Often, by the time an abused and/or neglected child is seen by a physician, much damage - such as malnutrition, lack of growth, bruises, and other developmental issues - has already been done. Katharine stated the logistics, of how in-service dates for educators are scheduled, make it very difficult to pull those folks into trainings.

How does the CJA Task Force want to address these issues? Shary explained that some of these projects began three years ago and have

evolved as we are learning how to bring people together to work on these issues. Time is of the essence related to funding projects, as we have to expend grant funds within specific time periods.

This project concludes the work of the Systems Response subcommittee.

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

Shary presented information on additional neglect summits with a focus on parental use of methamphetamine. The Task Force agrees that the project is in the scope of Strategic Planning for Children's Safety.

There was discussion on how to allocate funding.

Robin Wright suggested a follow up project to the original neglect summits.

Jan Slick suggested funding for seven counties to follow up with their action plans.

Steve Duvall suggested targeting High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) in Oregon with new counties.

Shary agreed with targeting High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) counties.

Judge Van Dyk suggested increasing the number of summits or building on previous summits. Funding is available for three years.

The Task Force agreed to contract with PSU to facilitate a Neglect Methamphetamine Summit in four counties. A letter will be sent inviting counties to apply, and preference will be given to HIDTA counties that have not had a previous Neglect Summit funded.

PSU will send a formal proposal for this project.

#### **Action Item:**

Shary Mason and Stephanie Stafford will meet with PSU to discuss the project and determine next steps to move ahead with it.

### **Foster Care Subcommittee**

Katharine Cahn presented a brief oral summary of the proposal for the Foster Care Trauma project.

The Subcommittee previously identified the need to address the trauma to children associated with the investigation of suspected child abuse/neglect and the initial out of home placement. There will be three activities to the project, including:

- Review and Research-defining and achieving an understanding of the nature of this type of trauma and identifying ways to reduce it;
- Needs Assessment-sharing the information with child welfare, law enforcement, child mental health, medical and judicial systems in a collaborative effort toward planning for education, training, and changes in protocol with the goal of reducing trauma to children; and
- Dissemination-the information gathered during the first two activities will be shared using written materials and/or power point presentation, Child Welfare Partnership training curricula, and a statewide symposium.

The subcommittee recommends development of tools for child welfare and law enforcement, as part of the project.

Judge Van Dyk suggested including members of the medical community in this project.

Philip Cox recommended the project focus on initial removal, not moving from foster home to foster home.

Matthew Pearl said these recommendations fit within subcommittee recommendations.

**Action Item:**

Katharine Cahn will submit a draft proposal, from the PSU Partnership, for the Foster Care project.

We will begin sending the subcommittee minutes to the Task Force members.

-Break-

**Notebooks**

Stephanie Stafford gave an overview of the contents of the CJA notebooks that were distributed to Task Force members. There are eight sections to the notebooks (CJA Intro/Overview, Funding Process, Membership, Meeting Info, Sub-Committees, Applications/Reports, Current Projects, and Bylaws).

### **Children with Disabilities Project Update**

A Request For Proposal (RFP) was posted in July 2007, and one response was received from CARES NW. CARES NW was awarded the contract, and it is currently being developed. Kevin Dowling gave an overview of this project, which is to develop curriculum and to do four (4) one and one-half day trainings around the State, for people who are first-responders to child abuse reports and working with children with disabilities. Part of the training is how to recognize disabilities. Fifteen to twenty per cent of the kids who CARES works with have some type of disability.

Shary suggested that Kevin Dowling contact the CJA network (list serv) during their research phase of this project.

Judge Van Dyk talked about Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), borderline IQ disability and how some kids cannot process information like a normal child at the same age. How are we going to assess a disability? Kevin says that developing a curriculum will hopefully clarify this issue.

Don Darland is hoping the curriculum will teach people how to work with kids who suffer with ADHD and other developmental disabilities.

Stephanie Stafford stated that when this project was first launched, the intent was that there will possibly be a second and third phase to it.

### **Bylaws (Adopt)**

The DRAFT Bylaws were distributed electronically to members for their review on September 28, 2007. There were no changes made by Ramona Foley.

The Committee discussed the Letter of Appointments, which are effective for three years. Bylaws limit each member to two terms of service, or six years, unless an exception is made. There was discussion about terms of service and whether the language should state "may" or "will/shall" be staggered.

### Changes that need to be made to the bylaws:

Article 6.1.2 should refer to Article 5, not Article 4.

Article 7.1 should read “terms may be staggered”, instead of will or shall.

If an appointment is made to finish the term of an outgoing member, the first official term will not begin until after the outgoing member’s term is complete.

If any member’s term will end, as a result of the adoption of the Bylaws, we will apply for the exception to reappoint the member(s) to ensure continuity of this Task Force.

Judge Van Dyk motioned to adopt the Bylaws; Philip Cox seconded the motion. The Bylaws were adopted.

### **Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Fund Allocation**

We have not received an award letter. Award letters are generally sent in mid September. Discussion continued to next meeting.

### **CJA Logo**

We don’t have a logo. We use the State of Oregon logo. Does the Task Force want to develop one? Stacey asked what other states do. Stephanie will look on the web to see. Steve Duvall has access to graphic design expertise in his office. Steve will have his staff do a mock up for the members to consider.

### **Unscheduled Business**

Shary discussed the Shoulder to Shoulder conference. CJA provided \$3,000 for scholarships, to benefit all disciplines interested in attending the conference. Dave Udlock provided information about how the \$3,000 was being distributed. Task Force members felt it was too narrow. Shary spoke to Dave recently and he said there wasn’t any kind of formal application for the scholarships. The intention was to award a scholarship on a first-come, first-served basis. Most of the scholarships have been awarded to CASAs, as of this date.

Don Darland shared that the Oregon Foster Parent Association (OFPA) will award 50 scholarships. Shary was given information that the OFPA would provide 110 scholarships. There is conflicting information that needs to be clarified.

Task Force members discussed the need to have a protocol/standardized application for distributing scholarships. Shary will share a protocol that has already been developed.

Stephanie stated that DHS hasn't advertised the Shoulder to Shoulder conference, yet.

Don Darland asked about an electronic copy of the Shoulder to Shoulder brochure.

**Action Item:**

After contacting Dave Udlock to clarify scholarship distribution, Stephanie Stafford will forward that information to the Task Force.

**Future CJA Full Committee Meeting Dates:** January 4, 2008, April 4, 2008, July 11, 2008, and October 3, 2008

**Subcommittee Meeting Dates**

There are no subcommittee meetings scheduled, at this time.

**Future Topics**

CJA logo

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**

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