

**Oregon CAPTA Panel
Annual Report**

Jackson County Report

2011 Annual Report

July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011

Panel Members

<i>Chair:</i> Lisa Smith	Program Manager, CASA
<i>Support Staff:</i> Michelle Wilson	Development Director, Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC)
Josh Miller	Intake Supervisor, DHS Child Welfare
Mary-Curtis Gramley	Executive Director, Family Nurturing Center
Diana Hamilton	Program Manager, Jackson County Victim Witness
Jennifer Mylenek	Executive Director, CASA
Marlene Mish	Executive Director, Children’s Advocacy Center
Michelle Pauly	Deputy District Attorney, Jackson County
Rene’ Wold	Program Coordinator, The Job Council
Melissa Wolff	Branch Manager, DHS Child Welfare
Mary Chambers	Manager, DHS Child Welfare

Alternate Members:

Rosemary Jernigan	DHS, Child Welfare
Violeta Ibarra	DHS, Child Welfare
Jody Matheny	DHS, Child Welfare

Meetings

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Tuesday, August 16, 2011	3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	CAC
Tuesday, September 20, 2011	3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	CAC

Activities

1. Teen training – A training was held for DHS Child Welfare workers and CASAs on teen development. It was held Monday, July 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Three speakers presented on the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of teenagers. Two therapists and one pastor spoke and approximately 50 people attended.
2. D2L training scholarship – Our CAPTA panel paid for Lisa Smith, who is the Program Coordinator for CASA and also the chair of our committee, to take the Darkness to Light Stewards of Children child sexual abuse prevention training to become a facilitator. She will present this training to

all new classes of CASAs. She will also make it available to child welfare workers and current CASAs.

3. Case review – Our panel reviewed one case during the summer. It involved a single mother with two young children. The mother has both mental illness and substance abuse issues. The family has been involved with DHS child welfare for several years on and off but the children have never been removed from the home. DHS said that the concerning issues never rose to the level of instability that would lead to removing the children, but they continue to be involved with the family. The case worker stays in touch with the therapist who is working with all three and works to provide referrals to other agencies and services in the community. The panel raised questions concerning when and how DHS will know to close the case and the prognosis for the children in the long term. The case worker said they may stay involved until the children leave the home, if needed. She said the son is doing well but the daughter has eating disorder issues and is showing signs of instability like her mother. The panel recommended that DHS stay involved with the family and continue to provide close monitoring and referrals to outside resources, given the mother’s instability and dual diagnosis of mental illness and substance abuse issues.
4. Purchase of educational materials – Our panel chose to expend the last of the CAPTA funds on training materials for new DHS workers, including books and workbooks. The DHS staff gave suggestions on types of training materials they would like to have and these were purchased and delivered to the office.

Recommendations

- 1) Our panel recommends that DHS/Child Welfare continue to offer training opportunities to new case workers, particularly with the high turnover of workers and the high number of young case workers with little or no experience. The training materials provided by our CAPTA panel are intended to be used as part of their library of resources for child welfare workers.

DHS response: DHS was very grateful for the training offered in the summer and for the training books which were given to the department. They have many new workers and very limited training funds, so the training in the summer was helpful for both training purposes and also having new workers meet therapists and CASAs who are part of the network of professionals supporting at risk youth in the community.

- 2) We recommend that DHS/ Child Welfare encourage all of their case workers to take the Darkness to Light Stewards of Children child sexual abuse prevention training. It will be offered at CASA and is also offered twice a month at the Children’s Advocacy Center. We also recommend that the case workers take advantage of the knowledge CASAs have on sexual abuse from taking the training, particularly if the case worker has not taken it.

DHS response: DHS is grateful for all additional training community partners receive. The CASAs are very important advocates for youth in foster care, and having this training available for all

new CASAs and also for current CASAs and child welfare workers will give everyone a stronger base of knowledge for keeping children and teens safe from sexual abuse.

- 3)** We recommend that DHS continue to monitor families where instability is an ongoing problem and to refer these families to outside resources whenever possible, particularly to agencies which can help to monitor families where there is a danger of increased instability and abuse.

DHS response: The case worker for the case we reviewed and her supervisor said they were grateful for support on this case, which involves a family with a history of instability but not a clear enough level of child endangerment to remove the children from the home. They will continue monitoring the family and will look into referring the daughter to the mentoring program of the Children's Advocacy Center, which was a suggestion of the panel. This will offer another group of people monitoring the family dynamics and the girl's behaviors.

Looking Ahead

We are sorry that the funds for CAPTA have been closed. If funds are available in the future, we would be very happy to reconvene and begin offering our panel's insights, expertise, and resources to the DHS Child Welfare community.