

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

Date: Friday, July 9, 2010
Location: HSB – Room 166
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT (11): Shary Mason-chairperson, Carrie Rasmussen, Alan Catron (for Suzy Isham), Matthew Pearl, David Cummings, Judge Lorenzo Mejia, Don Darland, Steve Atchison, Margaret Semple (attended 10:00 to 11:30), Tonia Hunt (by phone), and Becky Smith (by phone)

MEMBERS EXCUSED (2): Robin Wright and Stacey Ayers

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED (1): Jeff Hershman

DHS STAFF PRESENT (2): Jan Slick and Heather Mowry

GUESTS (4): Debourah Rau-Parent Mentor with Morrison Kids; Michael Maryanov-CAMI Coordinator for Crime Victims' Services Division, Department of Justice; Celeste Bodner-FosterClub; and Lynn Travis-Travis Consulting

Michael has taken Stacey Liskey's previous position as the CAMI coordinator.

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

Introductions / Membership and Recruitment Status

Jeff Hershman-Oregon State Police and Debourah Rau-Morrison Children and Family Services will be joining the Task Force as members. Michelle Weber is preparing the appointment paperwork.

Angela Fasana-Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has declined membership to the Task Force. Therefore, we are still in need of tribal representation.

Carrie said she knows a tribal attorney from Coos County.

Action Item: Carrie will make contact with Pat Davis who is a Coos County tribal attorney.

Action Item: Shary will contact Cathern Tufts. She is a tribal attorney from the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and serves on the JCIP Advisory Committee.

We still need to recruit a health representative; this is a federally required position on the Task Force.

Shary asked Tonia if she was able to make any contacts regarding CJA Task Force membership from the health and/or medical community. Tonia said she contacted the Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers (ONCAIC) and asked them to identify someone who might be available but she has not received a response.

Action Item: Tonia will follow up with the ONCAIC when they meet next week.

At the 2010 CJA meeting in Virginia that Shary and Jan attended, it was stressed that it is important to fill all federally required member positions. It is required to include efforts made to fill required positions, in yearly reports.

Judge Mejia mentioned a doctor who might be willing to join the Task Force. The doctor works in Jackson County and previously worked at a community clinic but currently works at the Children's Advocacy Center doing most of the examinations related to child abuse cases. If we aren't able to recruit a health representative closer to Salem, he will follow up with a contact to this doctor.

April 9, 2010 DRAFT Minutes

The minutes will be finalized with the following corrections-

- Correct all notations referring to the DHS/Casey Partnership to include the Oregon Commission on Children and Families as a partner in that effort
- Shary suggested deleting the shaded areas on page 16 since they were unclear

Don made a motion to approve the minutes with the above corrections; Carrie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Shary shared that she was recently asked to join the Oregon Casey Team at the National Governor's Association and National Council of State Legislators mini-institute in Georgia. The Oregon Commission on Children and Families is also a member of the Oregon Team. Often, this initiative is referred to as the DHS Casey Project which has also been stated in our CJA Task Force minutes. We need to make sure our minutes refer to the Casey DHS OCCF Partnership.

Foster Care Subcommittee Report – Phase 3 Projects

PSU Trauma Training Project – Phase 3

Heather reported that she has not received a recent update from the PSU contractors because they have been on vacation. However, the contract ends in August which means we need to receive the final invoice soon after August 31, 2010.

Shary gave an overview of the trauma training project. Because the trauma training has been conducted in the eight Casey counties, Shary also gave an overview of the joint partnership between Casey Family Programs, the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Commission on Children and Families to safely reduce the number of children in foster care, by 20% by 2011. See the following sites for more information: http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2009/08/a_promising_partnership_to_hel.html and <http://www2.co.multnomah.or.us/OurCommissionOrg/EntryPoint?ch=b7a9e956c4882210VgnVCM1000003bc614acR CRD>

Shary heard from Washington County regarding their forum. County training organizers worked hard to get law enforcement to the training. Unfortunately, the trainer presented information that focused on traumatic

situations children have experienced but did not include any information about how those situations could be mitigated. Therefore, some felt their efforts were a lost opportunity.

The training ended up being condensed to an hour and a half, down from a full day of training that included the TIPS (Trauma Informed Practice Strategies) from the previous PSU project commissioned by the CJA Task Force.

Shary asked if, since law enforcement was one of the primary audiences we wanted to include in the training, we could do follow up work like getting TIPS sheets or the PowerPoint distributed to law enforcement, especially the sections related specifically to law enforcement.

Shary had the opportunity to review handouts from the Tillamook training and the TIPS sheets were not included. We might want to follow up on this.

Action Item: Jan will inquire with PSU if the TIPS sheets were handed out at the trainings and, if not, whether there is a mechanism to get those distributed.

Action Item: Heather will invite PSU to present a report on the Foster Care Subcommittee project, at the October 1, 2010 Task Force meeting.

FosterClub Publications Project – Phase 3- Celeste Bodner

Coloring Book for Younger Children

Don introduced Celeste Bodner and provided information about her work as an advocate for foster youth. He provided brief information about the development of this project. Additional information about the FosterClub is available at fosterclub.com.

This project was developed by the subcommittee to provide information to children, their caregivers and others, when children are removed from their home. The books will help children:

- understand why they are going into foster care
- understand their feelings and know they aren't the only one in foster care
- what their routine will be
- keep in contact with important people in their lives
- understand what a caseworker is
- understand what it will be like in court, etc.

Other helpful ways the books can be used are:

- during family visits
- family decision meetings
- when foster parents talk to children
- when judges talk to children

The work of this project has been a collaboration between the FosterClub and the CJA Task Force. When the publications are complete, CJA funds will be used to purchase copies for distribution.

Celeste handed out *draft* copies of the coloring book and teen magazine for members to review. Today will be the final review before printing.

The CJA subcommittee, along with youth, have looked at it and provided comments. Edits have been made and it has gone through two proofing stages from her office.

It is FosterClub's intention to sell these publications to other states so law enforcement can carry them in their cars, judges can have them on the bench, etc. FosterClub would like to make the publications downloadable, but asked for the Task Force's input. It will cost the FosterClub just under \$2.00 per book to print. There will not be separate publications for adult helpers.

Celeste asked the group to provide a list of names, any affiliation and/or logo, for the acknowledgment page.

Action Item: Heather will develop the information for the acknowledgment page and send it to the Task Force to review before it is sent to Celeste.

Celeste will circulate a final PDF version of the publications to the Task Force before they go to print.

Celeste said they are hoping to have both publications finalized and printed by the end of July.

Shary said these publications will be introduced at the next **Shoulder to Shoulder conference**, with a conversation about how they can be used by caregivers and others.

Heather discussed the FosterClub teen magazine with **Rosemary lavenditti**, Independent Living Program Coordinator. Five hundred (500) copies will be provided to Rosemary.

Shary mentioned that the **Model Court Day**, at the Juvenile Judges conference, will be August 10, 2010. It would be a good opportunity to provide a supply of the publications.

Alan asked if there would be an educational piece to guide people about how to use the publications. Celeste said they could provide something brief at the website that would say “how judges can use this”, or “how law enforcement can use this”, etc.

Carrie and Steve mentioned the **Advanced Prosecution Institute** as an avenue for distribution. This happens around the third week in October and is attended by experienced prosecutors. Steve said there would probably be a table available to display the books, but he isn't sure there would be time on the agenda to talk about them.

Judge Mejia suggested contacting the **Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association** (OCDLA). There will be Oregon seminars in September and October, Maui in November and the Winter Conference is in Portland, in December.

Tonia suggested distributing the books to all **MDT coordinators**, to be shared at monthly coordinator meetings. She also asked if there would be a **media release**. Gene Evans would be the person to contact regarding that. Shary suggested sending the publications to **child abuse assessment and advocacy centers**. Tonia said the centers could distribute some, but many of the children they see are not in foster care.

Shary suggested sending the publications to **child abuse assessment and advocacy centers**. Tonia said the centers could distribute some, but many of the children they see are not in foster care.

Jan proposed distributing to victim's assistance, in the **district attorney offices**, and of course, the child welfare offices.

Shary suggested that each **CJA Task Force member** could post to their **website** a short blurb about how to use the books, along with the FosterClub link to the publications.

Deborah asked if **Trillium and Morrison Center**, would be an appropriate place to have the books.

The **CASA Director's Network** will also receive a stock of books. Celeste said they are meeting with National CASA next week and will introduce the books to them.

Celeste said it would be good to provide copies to **Portland State University, School of Social Work**. The books would be good tools for new social workers.

Alan asked if, after the books are distributed, there would be a way to know how to order more. Celeste said they will ensure this information is available.

Teen Magazine/Quick Start Guide

The title has evolved and they aren't quite set on it; it was proposed and they received positive feedback about it, from older youth. Celeste said that because of all the technology teens are accustomed to, they are able to easily utilize a quick start guide.

Celeste said there are a couple of missing pieces:

- Journey through Foster Care
- The First 48 Hours

Action Item: Heather will distribute the most recent versions of the coloring book and teen magazine to CJA Task Force members this afternoon, so members can review one last time before printing.

Celeste said a lot of the content, for this teen magazine, has been taken from another publication they are distributing nationally called Foster Care 411. That publication was vetted through older youth.

Celeste said that it has been important to FosterClub All-Stars that pictures of real foster kids be used in their publications. They have photo releases from all the youth.

Debourah has heard from foster children that, after they went into care, they lost contact with sports teams or other types of clubs that they had strong relationships with, and was wondering if this was covered in the teen magazine. Carrie asked if it could be added to the section “Who’s on your team?” Celeste said it could be incorporated into the section “My Foster Care Plan”. Celeste added that this is somewhat addressed in the section “Circle of Support”.

During discussion, it was evident that the Case Plan Team and the Circle of Support are two different entities and should be kept that way in the book. Members agreed there should be a bridge between the two. Celeste will work on adding this to the magazine.

Action Item: Shary will send an example to Celeste that she saw in another publication (what you can say about why you are in foster care).

Carrie asked about having instructions, up front, about how youth can use the magazine, along with a mechanism for them to decide whether they want to share any or all information they put into it. Add information about how adults can help the youth as they go through the magazine.

Strategic Planning for Children’s Safety Subcommittee – Phase 3 Project – Shary Mason

Substance Abuse Summits Project – Heather Mowry

Heather reported that she has not received a recent update from PSU for this project either. However, the contract ends in August which means we need to receive the final invoice soon after August 31, 2010.

Heather will provide an updated report at the next meeting in October.

For new attendees, Shary provided a brief history about past neglect summits and how they evolved into the present substance abuse summits. The focus has been on how substance abuse affects children.

Each summit included a panel of representatives from mental health, addictions, recovering parents and others. During part of the summit, community members participated in developing action plans they would take ownership of and carry through to completion. The goal is for communities to sustain the work of the summits.

We will be receiving reports from PSU about action plans that have been developed in those community summits and data on the completion of the contract.

Action Item: Heather will invite PSU to present a report on the Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee project at the October 1, 2010 Task Force meeting.

Children with Disabilities Subcommittee – Phase 3 Project – Margaret Semple

The last project of this subcommittee focuses on the initial removal of children (with disabilities) from their home and how first-responders can better interview/communicate with these children to mitigate their trauma.

A contract was developed with Scott Modell, Ph.D., Professor at California State University to provide training called "Effective Communication and Interviewing Skills for Children with Disabilities".

Scott completed two, two-day trainings. Suzy Isham hosted the first session in Salem, at DPSST on June 10 (34 participants) and 11 (21 participants), 2010 and the second training was at the Rogue Regency in

Medford, on June 22 (22 participants) and 23 (9 participants). A third training was scheduled for June 14 (10 registered) & 15 (4 registered) in La Grande but was canceled because of low registration.

Because of the Eastern Oregon cancellation, it will cost Scott Modell an additional \$1,000 to travel back to Oregon for the third training.

Don made a motion to approve the additional \$1,000 for Scott to return to Oregon for the third training; Carrie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shary asked Heather if she had information that would explain the low registration for these trainings. Heather said she received the following comments:

- People may not have understood what the training content was.
- Either the DHS website was too difficult to maneuver or the site wasn't working, so people chose not to attend. Other folks weren't able to successfully register but they showed up and hoped they could attend.
- Government offices are experiencing budget reductions and aren't able to send staff to training, even though it is free.

Shary asked what members thought we should do differently for the third training, to get good registration. Margaret said:

- Market the training to say it is for practitioners who have a solid foundation in understanding challenges presented by doing interviews with people with communications difficulties.
- Describe the training as advanced with hands-on / role-playing.
- Leave out the Day 1 curriculum.
- Advertise heavily through the MDTs and Centers.
- Provide Day 1 printed materials even if Scott does not cover it.
- Do two separate days using Day 2 curriculum or an advanced, two-day training.
- Provide CEUs and CLEs?
- Don't limit the size of attendance to the advanced training.
- Carrie said it would be valuable to:
 - learn how to find experts who can interpret for disabled individuals (in court); and

- have curriculum that covers how to advocate for disabled persons in court.

Action Item: Michelle will contact Suzy Isham to see if DPSST has available space for a third training on September 9 & 10, 2010 or October 21 & 22, 2010.

Action Item: Heather will set up a conference call between Scott Modell, Margaret and Carrie.

Day one consisted of general information. Day two included in-depth, hands-on interviewing techniques and role-playing. Day one attendance was a pre-requisite to day two. Day two was specifically designed for individuals who interview children about alleged abuse and neglect.

Information from the training reviews revealed that folks would like to attend training that is practical. Most people understand basic information about disabilities and are ready to be trained in specific techniques about how to interview individuals with disabilities. Reviews were all positive.

Action Item: Jan said there will be discussion with Scott Modell about making adjustments to his curriculum.

Margaret said Nora Baladarian, who is well known in the same field of training, gave presentations in Portland, at the time Scott was here. Nora and a team at Alliant International University, Institute on Violence and Trauma received a federal grant through the Office for Victims of Crime to do similar kinds of education and training. This was piloted in Oregon. Margaret and Carrie attended and both believe that attendees are experienced professionals who need and want information that is more technical and advanced.

Action Item: Shary asked members to provide feedback about possible distribution channels for the extra materials that were printed for the Modell trainings.

OSM Subcommittee – Phase 1 Project – Shary Mason and Steve Atchison

Support for Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA) Conference

Steve reported that he spoke with Carolyn Norris and the conference will be on September 22 & 23, 2010, at the Comfort Suites near the DOJ building on Hawthorne Street, in Salem. It will be attended by approximately 40 deputy district attorneys and assistant attorneys general. The agenda is being finalized and will be distributed the end of July.

Action Item: Contact Carolyn Norris for a copy of the ODAA agenda.

Shary gave a brief overview of this subcommittee's work. The subcommittee is supporting the ODAA Conference because of issues related to assistant AGs, DAs and deputy DAs understanding the Oregon Safety Model (OSM), specifically differences in language between the OSM and statutes. Some of these issues were addressed during the 2009/10 JCIP Road Show, but it wasn't attended by the above listed folks. Malheur conducted an attorney training that included issues related to the OSM; DHS, the court, attorneys, CASAs and community partners attended. Judges Sullivan and Pratt recorded the training. Shary reviewed the recording and listed talking points. The last JCIP newsletter advertised that training and noted that DHS agreed to have someone from child welfare attend, if other Model Courts were interested in that training. Douglas County has since requested training. Shary and Rebecca Orf will be working with them.

Shary noted that Judges Sullivan and Pratt have been asked to give a presentation at **Model Court Day**, at the Juvenile Judges conference, on August 10. JCIP has agreed to provide funds for lunches.

Bylaws

Please refer to Page 4; 3.2.6 and Page 9; 10.1.3 and Page 10; 11.2.1A

Members discussed whether alternates or substitutes should:

- count as part of the quorum; and
- vote on behalf of members

Decision

Judge Mejia made a motion that “if a person is designated, by a CJA Task Force member, as their representative” they should be allowed to vote. Carrie seconded the motion.

Action Item: Heather will draft amended language and distribute it to CJA Task Force members for approval, according to Bylaws process in Article 14.

Establish Ongoing Training Fund

Our first step will be to develop a form.

Shary distributed draft examples of request forms-

- Alaska CJA application for scholarship funds and Report form
- Oregon JCIP scholarship request form
- Oregon CJA draft Request for Funding form

Usual CJA guidelines for funding include multi-disciplinary and geographic representation.

Action Item: Shary asked members to review the forms and send comments to her.

For example, the CJA form would be used to distribute funds to the Shoulder to Shoulder Conference.

Courts Subcommittee – Phase 1 Project – Lynn Travis

See handouts-

- Next Steps for CJA Relative Placement Assessment
- Instructions for use of the Relative Placement Bench Card / Oregon Law Relating to Placement with Relatives

The Bench Card is a one sheet, two-sided document for the court to use for individual cases. It lists questions to ask, either when they are looking at a

court report or talking to a caseworker or other parties in court, giving nine or 10 different issue scenarios where the case might have landed. For instance, if DHS says they aren't aware of any relatives, there are a variety of questions that can be asked.

- Before the hearing starts
- Questions to help the judicial officer decide if DHS has made diligent efforts to place children with relatives by identifying, locating and engaging relatives
- PowerPoint document was distributed to CJA Task Force members via email (7/8/10)

Lynn is an attorney and has been practicing in and around juvenile courts for about 25 years. She worked for Juvenile Rights Project (JRP), representing children and parents in dependency and termination proceedings and with children in delinquency proceedings. Lynn's clients have ranged from newborn babies to grandparents, to parents losing their parental rights, and from shoplifters to children who allegedly hurt or killed people, and everything in-between. When Lynn left JRP, she began working for the Judicial Department, with courts doing assessments of courts' ability to comply with juvenile court law. She also worked with local groups to make improvements in juvenile court practice. Lynn represented CASA programs in Multnomah, Washington and Lake Counties. Currently, she is part of Travis Consulting, with her husband.

Refer to PowerPoint document.

The Courts Subcommittee contracted with Lynn to conduct an assessment of Oregon's Juvenile Courts' ability to support relatives as foster care placements. The assessment includes a review of best practices in social work, as well as how other state laws deal and work with relatives. A statewide judicial and participant survey, in juvenile court, was done that focused on lawyers', CASAs', CRB members', caseworkers' and judges' sense of how their court practices supported or detracted from our ability to use relatives as placements or supports for children.

Lynn and her team visited six study counties: Coos, Baker, Yamhill, Polk, Marion and Washington. They watched court proceedings, interviewed judges and reviewed legal court files.

The Citizen Review Board provided information about children in foster care. Coordinators across the state provided interesting and specific data on over 1,000 children in foster care, within the last year. The information provided a good picture of what it is like for a child in foster care, in Oregon.

Next, they conducted participant interviews. They spoke to defense attorneys, trial court staff, caseworkers, and judges, all across the state.

Lynn has a lot of information about how we work with relatives and ideas about how it could be useful, within the next year.

Lynn stated this project came at a good time because DHS was in the process of writing administrative rules that would bring us into compliance with current federal law about working with relatives. What the new administrative rules will do for Oregon is really define for courts, caseworkers and participants what we mean when we say that the department is required to make diligent efforts to place children with relatives and to place them with their siblings. We have had that as a statutory requirement for a long time without a very good 'cookbook' or administrative process to guide folks in how that diligent effort needs to happen.

The good news is they were able to measure current practice without telling people they are doing it incorrectly because the administrative rules are changing. Now we can gauge where communities are, in working with relatives, as they begin to comply with the new administrative rules. Lynn said this project could not have been timed better.

What they found, through the review of best practices and social work literature, looking at existing relative placements-

- children tend to be more stable than when in placements in community foster care
- children tend to be safer
- children are less likely to be abused

This is not implying that folks doing community foster care are bad, but when you look at the abuse rates there is a connection and commitment that has meant that, statistically, children are less likely to be physically abused in relative foster care.

- children are more likely to develop permanent, life-long family connections

- children are more likely to be culturally and community connected
- children are more likely to be able to attend the same school
- Native American children are more likely to be connected to their tribe and culture

Based on relative placements, to date, we know there is a lack of benefits for children when they are placed with relatives. Here is the caveat: If we have an active federal law and new administrative rules that will make it easier for relatives to become placement resources, for their kin or kith, then it might mean that you are looking at a different body of family members and the outcomes might not be as ideal as the data looks now. That does not mean we should not try to place children with relatives; what it means is part of the change that needs to happen within the court, partners, the department, is looking carefully at how we can best support relatives who will be caring for their family members. Most family members, who are taking care of their kin, aren't doing it because they decided it was a way to give back to their community; they are responding to family crises. Folks come into that situation differently than community foster care and we need to think about how we support them in a different way.

What should we offer to our children and families with children in foster care, in order to support them being raised and cared for within a family network? We need to first identify family resources. We need to know who family members are for each child who goes into care, and then find them.

The third piece we are making a change to, in the current system, is the idea that relatives need to be engaged. Relatives need a place at the table to be able to actively be involved in children's lives. One of the intentions and values behind the new administrative rules is to shift DHS's focus **from** a department that was able to mark off consideration of relatives and move on to another case plan **to** a department that actively engages and seeks out ways for families to be involved with their children's lives.

What does engagement mean? It means an opportunity to be a placement. We want relatives to be available and have the opportunity to be both an emergency placement, short-term, as well as the place a child lands if their parents are not in a position to care for them. We need family members to have an opportunity to help in other ways: to be a visiting resource; to help parents if they need support to participate in treatment; to

be the folks who show up at soccer games; to do the kinds of things you expect relatives and families to do to support children, even if the children they are supporting are not living with their parents.

We need to provide and expect that family members will provide information to us so there is a two-way street of making sure that relatives, even if they live far away, know what's happening with their children in foster care; and similarly have an opportunity to contribute family history, medical details that will be important for children as they grow older, and for those who unfortunately need to grow up in foster care.

We need to provide a place at the table for relatives to participate in case planning that will unify or bring children to permanency.

David mentioned the Federal Fostering Connections Act requires (and it is incorporated into the new admin rule), when a child comes into custody whether through a court or whether it is voluntary, the department is required to notify adult members of that child's family that the child is in care and why. Even if a parent states they do not want a particular relative notified, it is still a requirement to contact them. Regarding placement, all information must be taken into consideration.

Jan said the adoption rules are also changing and will have a much stronger preference for permanent placement with relatives, as well.

Please refer to the PowerPoint document regarding:

- statutory framework for working with relatives and court oversight
- diligent efforts
- placement statistics
- APPLA statistics

Looking at statistics, there are about 500 children in Oregon that nobody shows up for and nobody is looking for people who care. This is one of the reasons for a concerted effort to look at children in permanent foster care and figure out if we can do better.

Part of what we could talk about is, if this group is interested in extending this project, how to incorporate the conversation about permanency for teens and link it to the information about search for relatives to figure out how we can join forces to support that effort to work for those children.

Please refer to the PowerPoint document regarding:

- Survey Response by Profession: What is your primary role in juvenile court dependency cases?
- The Relative Glide Path: How well do we do when it comes to asking about-
 - Relatives for placement
 - Relatives who could help in other ways
 - Other adults for placement
 - Other adults who could help in other ways
- How often do you ask parents about relatives who could be a placement?
- How often do you ask children - who are able to communicate - about relatives or other people important to them
- How often do you ask collateral contacts (i.e., teachers, treatment providers, neighbors) about relatives or other adults who are important to the family before the following proceedings:
 - Shelter
 - Dispo
 - RH
 - CRB
 - PH
 - TPR
 - APPLA
- Barriers to Relative Participation
- Search for relatives throughout the life of the case

Lynn recommends presenting some of this data and concepts, either regionally or locally, to model court communities so we have an opportunity to gather everybody together who works with our foster children, in the same room, to hear the information. Then, have some kind of opportunity to have these kinds of conversations whether it is through an interactive training, module or as you can see using graphs like the ones you see in the PowerPoint presentation. Lynn encouraged us to think about all the different initiatives or concepts that are floating around for reform within DHS and local communities that relatives have a natural place in. The Casey Initiative for Safe and Equitable Reduction of Foster Care is relying on relatives as a way to get children out of stranger, community foster care. Permanency for teens looks at our APPLA children, gets folks talking about

what permanency means whether it is legally or life-long connections for older children. Our crossover youth (the approximate 500 kids per year that nobody is showing up for) are drifting over into the delinquency or adult criminal system while still being involved in DHS. Can our family members, who haven't had support to be helpful, be available in a way that can keep those children safe and on the right track, as well as assisting in keeping our communities safe. In the continuing efforts of OSM implementation, we need to be able to talk about how we create plans and use community members, whether they are relatives or people who are important to family in other ways, to keep children safe at home and not bring them into care, at all. These are all things that could be tied into conversation that has family members, who are important to children, at the heart of the discussion. Even though this is judicially focused, there should be a particular concentration on folks who might have been less involved with the conversation about values around relative placements. These folks would be advocates, CASAs, lawyers, DAs, and mental health and treatment communities. The foster care, CPS and FBS consultants should also be included.

Shary added that a couple barriers that came up during the permanency roundtables were that attorneys and CASAs are supporting permanent foster care as opposed to looking at relative resources. There are misconceptions about Independent Living and Chafee funding and what children would be giving up if they left foster care.

At the Courts Subcommittee meeting, two days ago, members discussed what kind of a project to develop for the next year's funding. Considering all of this information, along with the new administrative rules, it might be a logical next step to develop it into a training, take it out to at least the Casey counties, to look at the information and plan around addressing some of the barriers, or having a better understanding of the values issues. There hasn't been money within child welfare to do this. We would use trainers from Family Based Services, permanency consultants, etc, to develop interactive training materials. There also needs to be training on the Bench Card.

Judge Mejia asked what the time frame would be to get the training developed. Shary said the Subcommittee should try to have the contract in place by Fall 2010. Shary said, at this time, we don't know who the contractor will be. We will need to have a conversation with the contractor

about how long it will take to develop training and materials. Then, there would be a conversation about the time lines for rolling out the training. The contract amount might determine some of these decisions.

Lynn added that this new project might be able to piggyback work that will be done by the Casey initiative.

Jan shared the following comments:

- When developing training and materials, and rolling out the training, we need to be aware of the charge of the CJA Task Force. Maybe we could combine funds from other sources to account for others helping to contribute for those areas that are different from the charge of CJA.
- The FBS consultants will have commitments to fulfill through January and February 2011.
- It isn't known when ORKids will go online; this will be a major shift for the field.
- If judges receive the Bench Card, folks who will be presenting in court should be prepared about what the Card is, how it will impact their practice and what judges might be asking them.
- Include counties that are not Casey counties.

The Courts Subcommittee will meet to further develop this project concept and bring it back to the full Task Force, at the October 1, 2010 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm