

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

Date: Friday, October 1, 2010

Location: HSB – Room 166

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT (12): Shary Mason-chairperson, Carrie Rasmussen, Judge Lorenzo Mejia, Stacey Ayers, Don Darland, Matthew Pearl, David Cummings, Suzy Isham (by phone), Michael Maryanov, Becky Smith (attended 9:00 to Noon by phone), Steve Atchison, Robin Wright (by phone)

MEMBERS EXCUSED (2): Margaret Semple and Debourah Rau

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED (1): Jeff Hershman

DHS STAFF PRESENT (2): Jan Slick and Michelle Weber

GUESTS (8): Marthe Lowrey, Linda Bello, Kris Villanueva, Jennifer Clark, Angela Rodgers (by phone), Marisa Lara, Lynn Travis and Mickey Serice

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

Introductions / Membership and Recruitment Status

Put recruitment on hold until we determine what the next steps will be for the CJA Task Force.

July 9, 2010 DRAFT Minutes

Mike Maryanov asked that his Division name be corrected from Crime Victims' Assistance Section to Crime Victims' Services Division.

Don made a motion to approve the Minutes with the above correction; Carrie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Children with Disabilities Subcommittee – Phase 3 Project – Jan Slick, on behalf of Margaret Semple

Scott Modell will be coming to Oregon on October 28 and 29, 2010 to present two, one-day trainings on interviewing children with disabilities.

The 29th is set aside specifically for prosecuting attorneys. We have been working with Carolyn Norris, Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA) State Coordinator to set that training up. It will be held in Salem at the ODAA office at 610 Hawthorne Ave SE Ste 210.

Action Item: Jan will follow up with getting information to the AG's office and developing a flyer for the ODAA training.

The 28th will be advanced training for CPS, law enforcement and assessment and advocacy centers, particularly for those who actually interview children around child abuse and/or neglect. This training will be at the DHS/Cherry Avenue Training Center.

Action Item: Jan will send information to Mike so he can get it to MDTs.

Action Item: Michelle will re-send information to CJA Task Force members about the October 28th training. Task Force members will share this information with their own disciplines.

Foster Care Subcommittee Report – Phase 3 Project

PSU Trauma Training Project – Phase 3 - PSU

For details of project see: http://www.ccf.pdx.edu/trauma_project/pgTrauma.php

Kris Villanueva

Main points of the presentation-

- PSU completed eight trainings and had a total of 374 participants

- Trauma Informed Practice Strategies - Counties: Deschutes, Jackson, Malheur, Washington, Tillamook, Multnomah, Coos and Marion
- Folks involved in the Casey Project helped by doing recruiting, marketing and locating facilities
- Trauma Informed Practice Strategies participant evaluations indicated folks want the summits to go longer. Evaluation ratings were 3.5 on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being highest
- Trauma Informed Practice Strategies participants enjoyed the videos and activities, and appreciated the multi-disciplinary approach
- PSU has received requests from around the nation for this information (Michigan Supreme Court, West Coast Children's Screening Clinic, Children's Relief Nursery, and other informal inquiries)
- Participants included child welfare caseworkers, supervisors, social services assistants, managers, judicial, law enforcement, mental health, Head Start, public schools, child care agencies, drug and alcohol programs, Healthy Start, medical and health programs, parent training programs, CASAs, domestic violence programs, CRBs and others
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Linda Bello

Main points of the presentation-

- The Trauma Informed Practice Strategies sites were gracious about providing a site and inviting folks in to train
- Participants appreciated trainers explaining how they could become engaged
- In the smaller communities, it was more challenging to gather together a diverse group than in the larger communities

Linda will be incorporating information from this training into the In-Home Training she is creating for DHS, and into Kris' training that is given to certifiers and adoption workers, statewide. Marthe Lowrey said this is part of the Child Welfare Partnership's commitment to ensuring sustainability of this training content, over time.

Marthe reviewed DHS' Strategic Plan and identified key training areas that would support the Strategic Plan and Mission of DHS. Marthe sited this

training as one of those key areas. Something we have not done previously is to open an advanced training to community partners; this would enable us to bring care givers, DHS employees and community partners together. Care givers weren't part of the recent Trauma Informed Practice Strategies trainings. Marthe doesn't know if her recommendation will be accepted, but she wanted this Task Force to know she is advocating on behalf of the work that has been done on this CJA project.

There is a new piece that Angela Long could speak to better than PSU, but the federal regulations for IV-E match have been changed to enable recipients to obtain IV-E match on training for community partners which opens up more access to work with community partners.

Shary Mason said she attended the Tillamook Summit. Attendees appreciated and enjoyed the training but would have liked it to be longer than 90 minutes. It would have been helpful if attendees could have received copies of the individual T.I.P.S. (Trauma Informed Practice Strategies) for different disciplines (caseworkers, foster parents, law enforcement, parents, educators, medical examiners, judges, etc), even if there isn't time to review them. The T.I.P.S. could have helped attendees understand how the training pertained to them and how they could move forward with what they learned. Perhaps the T.I.P.S. could be shared with the Casey Teams so they can distribute to community partners. Kris noted that the T.I.P.S. are on the PSU website.

Angela Rodgers

Angela said that, in addition to the T.I.P.S., there are various videos of client experiences, resources for educators, etc. on the PSU website.

Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee – Phase 3 Project

Action Planning Summits on Substance Abuse and Child Neglect Project - PSU

See final report

Kris Villanueva

Main points of the presentation-

- There were five sites (Klamath Falls, Gold Beach, Hood River, Baker and Jefferson County) with a total of 373 participants. Jefferson County was the fifth site to be set up and they did a good job of pulling community partners together in a short amount of time. Thirty-four Action Plans were proposed during the summits.
- Klamath Falls (April 15th) had a total of 108 attendees. The tribes and business community were well represented. Many community agencies provided materials for attendees.
- Gold Beach (May 14th) had a total of 71 attendees. This was an impressive representation considering there are many unknowns present for Curry County, in regards to county sustainability due to the economy.
- Hood River (May 25th) had a total of 86 attendees. There was a strong representation of Spanish speaking folks which ended with some positive outcomes for that population. A parent mentor gave a powerful presentation. Carrie Rasmussen spoke at the summit. She encouraged folks to take what they learned and share with others outside their areas.
- Madras (June 28th) had a total of 70 attendees.
- Baker City (June 30th) had attendees from a previous summit in Wallowa County who work cross counties. There were good networking ideas of how they could pull community partners together.
- Some sites looked at what worked during previous summits and incorporated that into their planning which created better action plans and overall success.

Next PSU Project: Kris said there are counties interested in having a summit, if this project is continued. Those counties are La Grande, Gilliam, Union and Lake. In addition, counties that weren't able to pull a summit together this time are also interested; those areas are District 1 coastal communities and Polk County.

Jennifer Clark

Each Action Plan was a separate document that Jennifer forwarded back to each community. Following are a few examples of Action Plan activities:

- Baker County took information from the Child Abuse Summit, about how communities can look differently at the way they focus on child abuse and neglect cases, and how communities respond to them. They took that information and combined it with information from this

Neglect Summit and developed an Action Plan. There is an awareness piece to the Action Plan combined with efforts to pool community resources to maximize what is available.

- Hood River highlighted parent mentoring. Carrie said there was a lot of momentum, but it's important for:
 - participants to know who to follow up with or for someone to follow up with project leaders (within three months), and-
 - participants to have guidance along the way

Carrie shared an activity that was done at the Summer Oregon District Attorneys Conference and suggested it could be done at these summits. One of the Conference organizers had an idea of adopting a local DV shelter in Seaside for the day. The next part of that was to send an email, prior to the conference, asking attendees to bring a toiletry that would be donated to the shelter. Carrie also mentioned the newsletter that Juliette's House (a child abuse assessment center in Yamhill County) distributes. The newsletter lists things that folks could donate that would help their program.

Action Item: Kris will email the final Full Reports and Action Plans today.

Angela Rodgers-Action Plans from 2009

Angela reported that little more than 50% of the 2009 Action Plans had some level of follow through, which is typical in these types of projects. A common denominator in all Action Plan success is having someone with passion for the work and a champion to push forward. Usually these folks are part of an agency as opposed to volunteers.

In Wallowa, Building Healthy Families was key to some of their Action Plan success. The executive director of that agency was a driving force behind their Plan. Their focus was around parenting education and home visiting programs. He was good at writing grants and obtaining funding that helped sustain the momentum.

In Harney County, the Oregon Food Bank expanded their ability to get food to children and schools. They started the Backpack program for sending food home with children, for the weekend. Folks had to work through issues of pride in the community that often prevented families from asking for help.

In Josephine County, there was someone from Coalition for Kids who had an idea for a community resource guide. She was a good leader but ran into funding issues. Eventually, another organization was able to obtain funding to create a website for that resource guide. The idea behind a website was to sustain a resource without having to continually update a printed guide.

Common barriers, especially in small communities, were too few people to draw from, time and scheduling, or funding.

Lincoln County struggled with follow up which resulted in none of the plans being successfully achieved. There were huge budget cuts after the Summit that overwhelmed and discouraged folks. Even so, participants appreciated learning about issues around substance abuse and benefitted from connecting with others from their community and learning what each other does and how they could work together. Folks are more aware of community resources and want to build on relationships they developed.

Aside from Action Plans, participants appreciated information about child neglect and many have incorporated what they learned into their work and training.

Carrie said it would be good for all Summit counties to receive information about what other Summit counties have done with their Action Plans. Hood River is currently working on Action Plans that were started a few years ago.

Marthe said that, through these projects, they are learning and working on how they can empower and support communities to do different things together than they have done before. Two themes that are apparent are bringing people in from outside the helping profession (churches, businesses, etc), and the importance of building in an accountable follow through piece, in Action Plans, so that work is carried through to completion.

Shary said many times the work of the Task Force isn't known outside the Task Force. How can we get information out to folks so efforts aren't duplicated?

Carrie suggested including the Summit work in the PSU Quarterly and maybe the Oregonian.

Marty thanked the CJA Task Force for funding this project and trusting them to do the work.

Next Steps for CJA – Mickey Serice, CAF Deputy Assistant Director for Program and Policy

At present, CAF has three main program areas: child welfare, self sufficiency and vocational rehabilitation. Mickey talked about some of the changes happening within the Department and how they could affect the way the CJA federal grant will be administered.

Roles are changing as we speak. There will be a new DHS, at least by June 30, 2011, with the creation of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). With this restructure, DHS will consist of CAF and Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD). Most medical components of current DHS divisions will move to the OHA, with the exception of eligibility which is still being discussed by DHS and the federal government.

CAF administration will be making a proposal to the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) about assuming the charge of the CJA federal grant program. The CWAC is a 21-member, statutorily mandated (see ORS 418.005 - <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/committees/cwac/ors.pdf>) committee that meets regularly. It is charged with looking at child welfare practice, making recommendations, and advising the Division about policy, rules or practice and statutory changes, if needed. Many of the designated CWAC member slots mirror CJA representation. Don Darland is a member of CWAC and has been the liaison between CWAC and the CJA Task Force. Since 2000, CJA has been a standing Subcommittee of the CWAC.

About two years ago, when budget difficulties became apparent, a series of Cost Containment ideas were implemented within CAF. Initially, those implementations were areas that were easily controlled and mainly administrative costs, such as travel and supplies. When the economy worsened and budget issues became paramount to all State agencies, additional cost containments were needed. For example, DHS has implemented a hiring freeze, with limited exceptions. This week alone, four requests to fill positions were denied by Mickey.

This morning, a newsletter from a legislator said we will enter the 2011/2013 biennium with a \$4 billion deficit, assuming the revenue forecast doesn't show additional deficit. Whether this figure holds true, we will certainly have difficulties in the next biennium with balancing the budget.

In or around November, if a new revenue forecast continues to be negative, we will probably be looking at additional layoffs and more cost containment.

For several months, CAF has been prioritizing workload issues. Although the Division has done this in the past, we will be scrutinizing more than ever before. Our staff has difficulty stopping work they have been doing, even if it isn't mandated. We are at a place where we need to begin looking at things we do that aren't mandated so we can devote efforts to the services that are absolutely necessary for clients.

Erinn Kelley-Siel has charged CAF deputies and administrators with looking at CAF, across the board, as well as the new DHS, to determine how we can do the same amount of work with fewer resources, how it can be done efficiently, and how it can be done well. Some of the questions being asked are:

- Would the change(s) adversely affect clients?
- What can we change administratively that wouldn't require legislation?
- If we eliminated, reduced or consolidated work, in a particular area, what kind of program implications would it have? We need to ensure we meet requirements for the program if we are receiving outside funding.

In researching the work of CAF committees, we realized that CJA is a formal subcommittee of CWAC, although it hasn't been as active as other subcommittees. Mickey met with the standing CWAC subcommittee called Futures Work Group. Mike Balter is the chair of CWAC and this subcommittee. This subcommittee determines what agenda items will be, at CWAC Advisory Committee meetings. Mike ensures that, if decisions need to be made, members of the Futures Work Group understand the issues so they can explain, discuss and make recommendations about what needs to be resolved.

Please refer to the draft CJA Action Proposal that will be given to the Futures Work Group; that group will meet on October 13. The Futures Work Group will take the proposal to the regular CWAC meeting in November, for a discussion and decision.

The federal government approved the proposal and said funding would not be jeopardized by it.

Mickey noted that the CJA Task Force has done superb work that goes beyond what the federal government requires. CAF has enjoyed the success of this work and wants to consider moving back to this process when there is an opportunity to do so.

We are confident the proposed changes can be managed within CWAC while maintaining federal funding and the direction that CJA needs to go, as a group, assuming CWAC agrees to the proposal. Processes would probably change, but outcomes would mirror past work of the CJA Task Force. The CWAC would have opportunity to make changes to projects. It appears current CWAC membership meets federal CJA requirements, except for the medical/health and prosecuting attorney representation. We will review representation again. Additional members can be added to the CWAC as vacancies occur.

Michael Maryanov, CAMI Grant Coordinator with Crime Victims' Services Division (CVSD)/DOJ expressed an interest in staying connected with the work of DHS and CJA, either through him or Cynthia Stinson. CVSD received a grant through the Office of Adolescent Health and will be working with child welfare and self sufficiency offices, Public Health Authority, along with Oregon's non-profit domestic violence/sexual assault (DV/SA) programs, to outstation DV/SA advocates in DHS child welfare/self sufficiency offices.

Don gave examples of some past CJA projects and asked how future projects would be implemented within the CWAC.

Mickey said they hadn't gotten to that level of detail yet, but project work will need to be pared down. The CJA Task Force has been doing more than what is federally required. With budget issues, growing workloads from the hiring freeze, retirements, etc, we need to re-examine what we are

able to accomplish with existing or reduced resources. When it's feasible, work can be expanded.

The next Futures Work Group meeting will be on Wednesday, October 13 from 9:00 to Noon, and CJA members are invited to attend. Mickey also offered to take suggestions to the meeting if CJA members could not attend.

Mickey said we could have a conversation with Mike Balter about developing a transition plan to implementing the Proposal.

Shary thanked all of the Task Force members for the great work they have done over the years and for their commitment to meeting the needs of the children and families of Oregon.

Courts Subcommittee – Phase 1 Project – Judge Mejia

Assess Oregon's Juvenile Courts' Ability to Support Relatives as Foster Care Placements - Lynn Travis

The Oregon Judicial Guide to Working with Relatives in Juvenile Court Bench Card was shared with members. It was developed for judges to have with them, on the bench. It looks a lot like the "Oregon Sentencing Guidelines Grid".

Lynn explained that when using the Guide, directions to the court is to consider information received by DHS about diligent efforts to locate and use relatives and to place siblings together, and to **use the color-coded statements on the far, left-hand column** to generally eyeball what the status of the relative search is, at that point:

- Are there no relatives identified?
- Have relatives been identified, but children have not been placed with them?
- In the past, there have been no suitable relatives.
- Children are placed with relatives.

Columns to the right of the color-coded statements help judges hone in on more specific issues that might be involved in the case. **White areas** help judges:

- Pull additional information from the court report, or
- Inquire directly to caseworkers in court.

The subject areas tracked the best practices research Lynn did that were primarily changes in administrative rules for working with relatives.

When the document was completed, Lynn realized it was truly a cheat sheet and needed additional information, in case courts had more questions. Therefore, in addition to the Bench Card, courts received an electronic copy of a supplement that is 20 to 25 pages, providing a rationale for the questions for different issues. In addition, judges received the best practices and research summary memo, along with a copy of the administrative rules and portions of the child welfare practice manual. Other information sent to courts was examples of different relative search strategies, (family tree charts, information from Family Finders, etc).

Lynn has received some helpful edits that could be implemented into the card, if this project is renewed.

They presented this to 55 judges, at the August JCIP Conference. Lynn also presented to the Child Welfare Partnership training staff, and they now have the Bench Card, along with the attachments.

Lynn will be presenting to DHS district and program managers next week, and incorporating some of the information into training for CASAs in Eastern Oregon, for Union, Malheur and Baker Counties. Later this month, Lynn will present to the Family Finders Consortium. This will enable programs across the State to be actively involved in doing relative identification for DHS. Lynn also presented to the CRB field staff meeting.

Work is shifting from how we are doing and what is our level of commitment, on a community basis, to working with relatives and supporting them as placements and service providers.

Lynn stating she believes this project has supported a good tool or instrument to assist in shifting court and community attitudes towards diligent efforts findings.

Lynn went back to the study counties and reviewed the data with them. Counties also received preliminary drafts of Bench Card. Folks understood that administrative rules have changed.

Don asked if the Bench Card is functional enough for child welfare workers to understand and use in court.

David said the Bench Card is a tool, and workers need to follow the Administrative Rule. It wasn't meant to shape practice and policy.

FosterClub Publications Project – Phase 3- Jan Slick

Coloring Book for Younger Children and Teen Magazine/Quick Start Guide

We have received both publications from the printer. Five thousand of each publication went to the State Distribution Center and the other five thousand was shipped to the Oregon Foster Parent Association, in Salem. There are 100 publications to a box. Through the State Distribution Center, we will get a supply to all DHS Child Welfare offices.

Both booklets were distributed at today's meeting.

Shary provided a supply of both booklets to her statewide staff meeting yesterday (9/30/10) that included field managers. They took them back to their individual counties to give to court folks (judges, attorneys, etc). Many of the courts have projects on consulting with children and the publications could be a helpful tool for them.

Becky said she took a supply to her statewide CASA meeting; about two-thirds of the CASA Directors received them. They were well-received and Becky plans to ask for another supply of them.

FosterClub will present a workshop, at the Shoulder to Shoulder Conference on November 16th, about how to use these publications with children.

Shoulder to Shoulder Conference – November 16, 2010

Shary asked members to get word out about the conference and that the CJA Task Force has been funding an average of 50 slots the past several

years. The slots are multi-disciplinary and represent the State geographically.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm