

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

Date: Friday, July 20, 2007

Location: HSB-160

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT (12): Shary Mason, Robin Wright, Teri Shultz, Don Darland, Becky Smith, Steve Duvall, Philip Cox, Kevin Dowling, Suzy Isham, Matthew Pearl, Eva Kutas, Debra Markham

EXCUSED ABSENCES (4): Judge Douglas Van Dyk, Una Swanson, Morris Blakey, Steve Atchison, and Stacy Liskey

Staff Present (3): Jan Slick, Stephanie Stafford and Michelle Weber

GUESTS (1): Troy Lakey, PSU Child Welfare Training, Salem Center-CCC. Troy presented an update on the Teens Project

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

New members (Philip Cox and Suzy Isham) and staff (Michelle Weber) were welcomed, and everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Shary announced that Judge Jones has resigned from the Task Force, and read his letter.

Dr. Kristine Nelson, in a letter sent to Shary Mason, thanked us for the \$60,000 contribution to the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Stephanie brought back pens and pads from the Lane County Child Abuse Summit, to share.

Teens Project Update (handout)

Troy Lakey presented an overview of the upcoming July 31st Training Summit – 'Putting the Pieces Together'. The training will take place at the new Chemeketa Community College facility. Space is limited to 130 people. (See handout for descriptions of trainings and background of trainers). There will soon be a web site with comprehensive information about the training.

Action Item:

Stephanie Stafford will facilitate getting the Teens Project link posted at the CJA web site.

Minutes

Shary called for a motion that the May 4, 2007 minutes be approved; Debra Markham motioned to approve the minutes, and Steve Duvall seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Community Child Neglect Summit Update

Stephanie has attended three of the four summits (she missed Coos Co.) They have all been interestingly different, with very diverse groups of people (Crook Co. on June 1 had about 60 in attendance, and Malheur Co. on July 13 had 130+). Law enforcement has been actively involved at the Malheur, Coos and Crook summits.

Suzy Isham asked how law enforcement has been notified about the summits. There was discussion about how that could improve. It was also noted that the level of involvement will depend on the County's resources.

Jan and Stephanie attended the Lane County Summit on July 19. There were about 50 people in attendance, which included attendees from the faith community. The Commission on Children and Families has been involved in Lane, Malheur, Crook, and Coos Counties. A question was raised about follow through on the community plans; Stephanie will obtain follow up reports about this. There was consensus about the importance of the Task Force's continued involvement in neglect issues.

Other summits will be held on (see handout for additional information):

July 23 in Multnomah County

July 27 in Jackson County

August 2 in Wasco County

Shary explained that these summits were developed from recommendations made by the Neglect subcommittee, in collaboration with PSU.

Systems Response Project Update

The Systems group is a subcommittee of this Task Force.

The Systems subcommittee recommended a Systems Response Project. PSU will hold summits that are scheduled in Klamath, Yamhill and Washington Counties. Stephanie attended the Klamath Falls summit this week. The Yamhill County summit will be on August 9, and the Washington County summit will be the first week of

September.

These summits include developing a collaborative effort, involving district attorneys, defense attorneys, court staff, judges, parole and probation, and DHS staff. A concept of “bundling cases” is used. This means use of a 1 judge/1 family approach.

After the summit there, Klamath County will pilot a plan to keep a family with the same judge through the life of a case, and bundling their criminal cases with the same judge that oversees their dependency case. Only local defense attorneys showed hesitance about this plan. Stephanie talked about how these partners in Klamath all played significant roles and how they pooled their resources to develop comprehensive plans for families.

Jan clarified that the purpose of the summits is to assist these counties in planning how to make the concept, of bundling cases, work in their jurisdiction.

Debra Markham related there is a high level of involvement between partners in Yamhill County because they are a small county and have opportunities to see each other often.

-Break-

Children with Disabilities RFGP

Eva Kutas said the RFP was posted July 16, and will remain posted for 30 days. The proposal review team has been chosen. This contract will be used to develop interviewing guidelines and training for kids with disabilities. The CJA Disability Subcommittee will act as a consulting group to the person who is awarded the contract. The curriculum and training that is developed covers all children with disabilities who may need to be interviewed as a result of abuse or neglect.

Eva shared that the process for getting the RFP out was difficult. The RFP specifies that governmental agencies cannot submit proposals. There is a question about whether PSU can make a proposal, or not. Jan will ask for clarification regarding the Rule that restricts governmental agencies from submitting proposals. If needed, someone from the DHS contracts unit will be invited to a future meeting. Eva raised a concern about whether the whole RFP process will restart if someone protests.

Action Item:

Stephanie will email the posting of the RFP to Task Force Members.

Foster Care Subcommittee

Don Darland gave an overview of some of the things this subcommittee focuses on,

since our new people will be choosing which subcommittees they wish to serve on. Don said one significant issue they work on is how we can reduce the trauma that is caused when children are removed from their homes. Kids need consistency. Some of the trauma comes from kids getting passed around from worker-to-worker, foster parent-to-foster parent, and between multiple parties during investigations, etc. Just being in foster care is traumatic in itself. On August 8, there will be a facilitated meeting to determine what the subcommittee wants to recommend as a project. If you wish to serve on this committee, contact Don Darland or Stephanie Stafford.

Don Darland and Teri Shultz left at 10:00 to attend a special rates committee meeting.

Budget (handout)

The group reviewed the budget handout as Stephanie explained timelines for encumbering/paying expenses. We do not anticipate a surplus, going into the 2007 funding period (October 1, 2007 – October 1, 2008). Currently, the CJA Grant funds the Grant Coordinator and Grant Support positions. Because of accounting changes (in the way expenses have previously been posted to open grant periods as opposed to how expenses are currently being charged), there appears to be an increase in salary/benefits expenses. These salary/benefits expenses are no longer being carried across funding periods, to such a significant extent. Also, the Grant Coordinator's position was vacant for several months, in early 2006, before Stephanie was hired. Now that the position is filled, the projection for salary/benefits expense, in the 2006 and 2007 funding period will be more than during the 2005 funding period.

DHS is responsible to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), for administering the CJA grant funds. ACF also approves the DHS plan for spending the grant funds. The current grant award is approximately \$211,000.00 per year. The Task Force is charged with completing a statewide assessment; and, from that assessment, making recommendations, through the development of three-year plans. The Task Force then makes recommendations for projects that will implement those recommendations.

Currently, about 50% of the yearly grant award is earmarked for salary/benefits. The remaining 50% is available for Task Force project recommendations. In the past, the available funding would be split evenly between the subcommittees; at present, the funding is determined by the project needs of each subcommittee.

Kevin thanked Stephanie for the good job she has done with tracking the CJA grant budget.

Shoulder to Shoulder Conference

Dave Udlock requested CJA funds, through Shary, for the S2S conference. There was discussion about how much money the Task Force could offer as scholarships. This

conference brings together all populations to jointly learn. Most participants are involved primarily in dependency cases. The Foster Parent Association, along with other grants, funds this conference.

Stephanie recommended that scholarships be allocated on a statewide basis and equally to all organizations that would be interested in attending the conference. This could include court, judges, attorneys, DAs, law enforcement, CCF, CASA, DHS, CRB, tribes, MDTs, mental health, foster parents, etc. The CJA Task Force has an interdisciplinary focus and therefore tries to cover many disciplines with the projects they fund.

Steve motioned that we commit \$3,000 for (50) scholarships, to be used for tuition-only, on a statewide basis. Eva seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

CAPTA Funds

There are three CAPTA panels in Malheur, Multnomah and Jackson counties. These panels also make recommendations for reform to the child welfare system. DHS makes funding decisions about use of CAPTA grant funds.

CFSR/CJA Task Force Involvement (handout)

Angela Long was invited to discuss the CFSR process and whether Task Force members should be involved in it.

Angela explained that major child welfare reviews are done by the Federal Administration for Children and Families. The reviews are a federal/state partnership, with a focus on child safety, permanency, and well-being. There is an emphasis on collaborating with community partners. Angela went over a handout summarizing the CFSR process in Oregon. (See attached copy of handout)

The process is more complicated this year, than the first one was. There are three main phases. Angela noted that no state has passed, yet. The Review requires a 95% acceptance rate. The entire report for the first phase will be posted on our website (look under children & teen site); the report is about 165 pages. Workload, in general, was identified as a barrier to attaining the level of sufficiency we want. It was not taken into account during the first review. Section 5 of the statewide report addresses our strengths and weaknesses.

The next phase is case file review. About 50 to 65 cases will be reviewed. These numbers will be split between 40 foster cases and 25 in home cases. Areas identified, as needing improvement, will require a PIP (Program Improvement Plan), which includes timelines for implementation. The feds can impose financial penalties for not meeting the PIPs. Review teams for the next round have been selected. In August, ACF will train on the review tool.

DHS was limited to three community partners for the case file review; one for each site.

If Task Force members want to be involved in developing PIPs, contact Angela Long.

We will invite Angela to a future meeting to receive an update on how DHS is doing.

Bylaws (Adopt)

This will be carried over to a future meeting, as Ramona Foley has not had an opportunity to review them.

New Member Recruitment

We still need to recruit members from areas around the State (1 defense attorney, tribal representation, and a judge). We will get suggestions from Rick Acevedo about tribal representation. Our members will do some inquiring with other possible members.

Unscheduled Business

Becky reported that CASA and caseworkers developed a video, some years ago, called "CASA and Caseworkers, *Working Together for the Best Interests of the Child*", which was funded with CJA grant dollars. She has turned it into a DVD as she is still getting many requests for it. Becky wanted us to know that it is still in demand and being used.

Jan Slick asked the members to review their name tents and make any necessary changes before Michelle prints the final tents.

Philip Cox and Robin Wright will serve on the Foster Care subcommittee

Debra Markham will serve on the Strategic Planning for Children's Safety subcommittee

Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates: October 5, 2007, January 4, 2008, April 4, 2008, July 11, 2008, and October 3, 2008

Subcommittee Meeting Dates

Foster Care subcommittee meeting
Wednesday, August 8, 2007
HSB 251

10am-12pm

Strategic Planning for Children's Safety subcommittee meeting
Wednesday, August 8, 2007

HSB 251

1pm-2pm