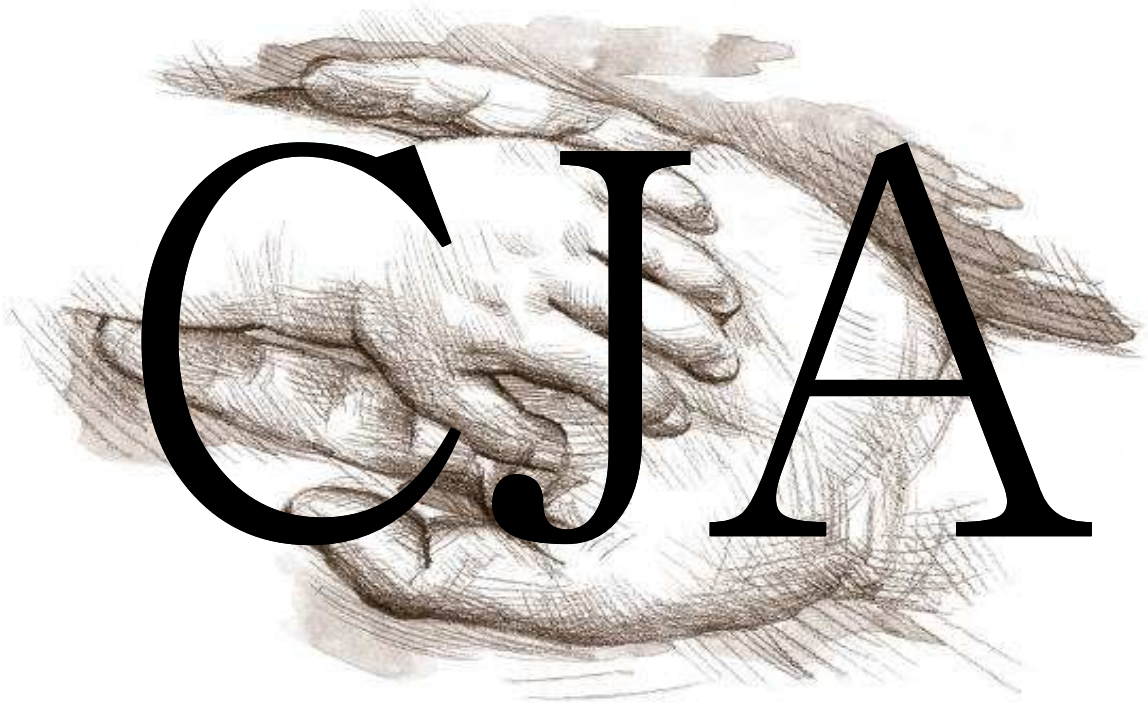
Oregon



CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT

Task Force

Three-Year Report

June 2006

Upon request, this publication will be furnished in a format for individuals with disabilities.
Available formats include:
Large print, Braille, audiotape recording, electronic format and oral presentation.

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On behalf of the Oregon Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force, it is my pleasure to provide this 2006 CJA Task Force Report to the citizens of Oregon.

Oregon has maintained a Children's Justice Act Task Force since it was first established by federal legislation in 1987. An interim legislative Task Force became an agency-appointed, ongoing Children's Justice Act Task Force in 1993. Three-year reports were issued in 1995, 1997, 2000, 2003 and now 2006. These reports contain recommendations in each of the areas mandated by Section 107(e) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

The Oregon Children's Justice Act Task Force is a subcommittee of the Children, Adults and Families (CAF) Child Welfare Advisory Committee. CAF is the section within the Department of Human Services that is responsible for providing child protective services in Oregon. Several members of the Child Welfare Advisory Committee are also members of the CJA Task Force. This dual role provides direct access to leading policy makers regarding child protective services.

This document provides you with an update on the Oregon Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force. The Task Force completed a three-year comprehensive evaluation process required by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

This report and its issues, recommendations and course of action will be available to members of the State Legislature, administrators, policy makers, judges and other professionals who deal with victims of child abuse and neglect. In this way, it is hoped that the report will be used to develop key strategies to improve and reform the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases involving child abuse.

Sincerely,

Shary Mason

Shary Mason
Chair, Oregon CJA Task Force

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Oregon

CJA

Children's Justice Act

Task Force

Three-Year Report

June 2006

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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Task Force Mission and Funding Guidelines

Every three years, the Oregon Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force is required to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the State's systems related to the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of child abuse, neglect and exploitation cases and child maltreatment-related fatalities. Once their evaluation is complete they are required to make recommendations for improvements to those systems.

CJA Planning Process

In accordance with these guidelines, the CJA Task Force developed its priority recommendations for the three-year assessment by conducting a statewide survey. The information generated from the survey was then used to generate recommendations that were finalized in a facilitated Task Force meeting.

CJA Survey

The Oregon Children's Justice Act Task Force distributed a survey to child welfare staff, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Citizen Review Board staff and volunteers, juvenile court judges, law enforcement, district attorneys, foster parents, constituents represented on the Task Force and other community partners.

Survey responses relating to problem areas in the investigation, prosecution and administration of child abuse and neglect cases were identified and categorized into the following issues:

- Limited resources (lack of prevention, assessment and treatment services, lack of child welfare staff and training for existing staff, lack of law enforcement officers, and lack of sufficient, well trained, supported foster parents).
- An increase in risk factors such as teen pregnancy, poverty, mental health issues, etc.
- An increase in the use of methamphetamines and a resulting increase in neglect and sex abuse cases.
- Staff turnover in child protective services and law enforcement.
- Over reliance on child abuse assessment centers (field interviewing has been replaced with assessment center interviewing).

- A need for greater statewide consistency in the execution of policies and procedures.
- Issues with moving cases though the juvenile and criminal court processes, insufficient funding for judges and courts and a need for additional dependency drug courts.
- Lack of "teeth" in sentencing and punishment for offenders.
- A need for more District Attorney and Attorney General Representation at hearings.
- A need for additional safety precautions when children return home.
- A need for more training for mandatory reporters and more consistent reporting by those who are mandatory reporters.

Possible solutions were identified by survey respondents in the following categories:

- Foster Care Issues
- Safety Issues
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Issues
- Child Welfare Staff Issues
- Support for Children and Families

Information from the survey was used in a facilitated meeting at which the Task Force developed their three-year areas of focus. Task Force members were assigned to subcommittees, which further researched each focus area and used survey data to complete and prioritize subcommittee recommendations. The full Task Force compiled and reviewed subcommittee recommendations to ensure that issues were adequately addressed in accordance with Task Force guidelines.

2006-2009 CJA Task Force Priority Recommendations

2006 Priority Recommendations

The Task Force determined the following priority recommendations to address in 2006, the first year of the three-year cycle:

>Priority Recommendation 1:

Training

Provide accessible training on specific issues related to child abuse targeted at those professional groups who have a demonstrated need.

Recommendation 1

Foster Care: Reduce trauma to children during investigation and initial out of home placement. Provide training to law enforcement, foster parents, caseworkers, judges and other parties to specifically include training on child-centered case planning.

Actions

- Develop RFP
- Identify resources (people, research, current training)
- Develop curriculum and format
- Plan and execute training
- Evaluate success and follow up on needs

Progress

Training for Judges and other Court Staff currently includes the following:

- The State Court Administrator's Office provides a yearly comprehensive orientation training for all new judges that includes a component on child abuse and neglect
- The Juvenile Court Improvement Project (JCIP) sponsors a three day juvenile judge's conference annually
- The JCIP, in collaboration with the Citizen Review Board and Department of Human Services (DHS), provides training in each county

statewide on dependency law updates or changes after each legislative session.

- A conference on family law is sponsored annually by the State Family Law Advisory Committee and the Domestic Violence Subcommittee.
- Guidelines, manuals, tables and information packets are available for judges and other court staff. These are prepared by the Court Programs and Services Division.
- Education for tribal judges on child welfare issues is coordinated through the JCIP and the DHS Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program Manager.
- Integrated family courts have been developed throughout the state to coordinate criminal, juvenile and family law issues.

Training for law enforcement currently includes the following:

- The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) provides 16 hours of child abuse investigation training in the Basic Police Academy and 8 hours of training in the Career Officer Program. The curriculum is designed to meet the mandated training criteria for police officers, and cover risk assessment, child development, and age-appropriate interviewing techniques.
- During 2004, 284 officers received instruction as part of the mandated Basic Police Academy and 50 were trained in the Career Officer Program for a total of 5,344 hours of training.
- The Basic Academy Child Abuse curriculum and the Career Officer training were both updated, adding training on Mandatory Reporters, Responding to Missing and Abducted Children and Amber Alert.
- DPSST receives state general funds to provide ongoing training for law enforcement officers. This training effort is coordinated by the Child Abuse Training Committee of DPSST. Membership on the Committee includes representatives from child protective services, prosecuting attorneys and others involved in the systemic response to the investigation of child abuse.

Training for foster parents currently includes the following:

- The Child Welfare Training Committee has approved a new curriculum for the first two years of foster parent training.
- The Foster Care Program is developing new/revised rule on Placement and Placement Matching, which will provide rule on casework activities at time of placement and will also provide more information as to specific expectations of caseworkers during child placements. The

revised visitation rule also provides direction in promoting contact and visitation with child/parent.

Training for caseworkers currently includes the following:

- The Portland State University Child Welfare Partnership provides initial training for all child welfare caseworkers and provides additional training required for those workers that provide child protective services assessments.
- The Partnership is currently in the process of revising this initial training to make it more comprehensive and inclusive of materials related to child centered case management.

Recommendation 2

Children with Disabilities: Make specialized training (including best practice interview protocols) available to professionals on interviewing skills for children with a variety of different disabilities.

Actions

- Research training curriculum currently available to identify those that are consistent with Oregon laws and administrative rules. Determine whether any currently exist that can be adapted for use in Oregon.
- Write RFP; search for specialist.
- Identify training specialists to review currently available curriculums and select one to provide training on interviewing skills for children with a variety of disabilities.
- Design or modify training as appropriate for Oregon's specific needs.
- Present training at regional and statewide conferences on child abuse and neglect.
- Coordinate with Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to make training available at law enforcement trainings and conferences
- Coordinate with the Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers and the 4 regional child abuse assessment centers to make training available to child abuse interviewers working in local child advocacy and assessment centers.
- Make training curriculums available on CD rom and DHS Child Welfare and Department of Public Safety Standards and Training websites.
- Conduct a follow up survey to determine use of websites.

Progress

Training for those that investigate child abuse on interviewing and other issues related to investigation of abuse of children with disabilities has been provided in the past at statewide conferences. These were sponsored jointly by DPSST's Child Abuse Training Committee and the Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention (CAMI) Program.

>Priority Recommendation 2:

Strategic Planning for Child Safety

Develop a strategic planning process that will be used to mobilize communities in developing local community-based solutions that will address child safety issues related to parental use of methamphetamines.

Actions

- Identify organizations who want to collaborate.
- Assemble focus groups.
- Have a pre-bid process for identified contractors.
- Develop and award RFP.
- Investigate and plan for other resources.

Progress

This is a new approach to addressing child safety issues so no progress has been made in this area.

>Priority Recommendation 3: (Continued from previous year)

Teen Victims

Ensure a continuum of services and resources for teen victims that are appropriate, adequately funded and designed to meet the specific needs of teens.

Recommendation 1

Monitor objectives and accountability of the currently funded Teen Project, designed to address CJA Teen Issues through the following activities.

Actions

- Perform regular project reviews

- Identify progress and gaps
- Report progress to CJA Task Force
- Make recommendations for possible additional funding.

Progress

Providers have been selected to carry out this project. The Portland State University Child Welfare Partnership will work jointly with the Juvenile Court Improvement Project to provide training to judges on issues related to teen victims of abuse.

>Priority Recommendation 4: (Continued from previous years)

Provide support for annual juvenile judges training.

Recommendation 1

Provide financial assistance to the Juvenile Court Improvement Project for its sponsorship of the annual three-day juvenile judge's conference.

Progress

This recommendation is being implemented.

Subcommittee Recommendations

These are the recommendations developed by each of the subcommittees based on findings from the CJA survey and from additional research inquiry done by subcommittee members.

Foster Care Subcommittee:

1. Support the development of policy, procedure and training to further the utilization of child-centered case planning.

2. DHS, CASA, the court, foster parents and CRB work cooperatively to actively seek ways to obtain a CASA for every child

3. Reduce trauma to children in how cases are handled during investigation and initial placement by providing training to law enforcement, foster parents, caseworkers, judges and other parties.

Children with Disabilities Subcommittee:

1. Make specialized training (including best practice interview protocols) available to professionals on interviewing skills for children with a variety of different disabilities. (For example, recognizing and understanding the difference between interviewing children with developmental disabilities versus behavioral disorders.)

2. In order to maximize resources, develop a coordinated system's response protocol in each geographic area of the state on how to respond to abuse of children with disabilities. Use Multidisciplinary Teams to coordinate the development and ongoing implementation of this protocol. (Committee decided this should go to the Department of Justice for action.)

3. Develop and institutionalize different tiers of training for the evaluation of child abuse in children with disabilities. Begin with a basic "101" training for the majority of professionals. This type of training could be web-based and available on an ongoing basis. Develop advanced training for a smaller number of specialists such as law enforcement, child welfare, health, and child intervention centers by geographic area.

4. Include provision of appropriate services to children with disabilities as part of the operating principles for all child abuse intervention centers in Oregon. (Committee decided this should go to the Department of Justice for action.)

5. Develop DHS specialized units with expertise in residential treatment to investigate allegations of abuse involving disabled children in residential treatment programs. Individuals staffing this unit need expertise in various treatment models and behavior management techniques for various disorders.

Teen Victims' Subcommittee:

1. Advocate for an appropriate, adequately funded continuum of services designed to meet the specific needs of teens including:

    a. Clarification of roles and service responsibility between the Commission on Children and Families, child welfare, and the juvenile justice systems.

    b. Information sharing across systems to better coordinates service planning and delivery.

    c. Develop a statewide resource directory of available services for teens in communities and make these services known and easily accessible by both teens and service providers.

2. Work with the District Attorney's Association to form a workgroup to identify gaps and potential legislative and administrative solutions to assist in effective prosecution of cases involving teen victims.

3. Previous dependency court information should be included and considered when teens are brought before the court on subsequent delinquency matters.

Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee:

1. Develop a statewide strategic planning effort to mobilize communities to address safety issues related to methamphetamine.

2. Gather and distribute factual information about the known effects of methamphetamine in each county, i.e., number of children in care, number of arrests, availability of treatment, etc.

3. Develop and distribute community education materials such as a public service video on the effects of methamphetamine from the eyes of a child, or taped interviews with recovering addicts.

4. Develop a resource list of trainers that can provide factual information on methamphetamine for communities to use.

5. Compile information from the community plans to include a map of current community resources to address the issue (drug endangered children) and resources that are lacking.

Methamphetamine Subcommittee:

1. Review work completed and information developed by the Governor's Task Force on Methamphetamine.

2. Support the Governor's Task Force recommendations for the introduction of new legislation, such as the following:

- Create the crime of possessing or disposing of methamphetamine manufacturing waste.
- Provide immunity in certain circumstances for person reporting possession of or transactions involving precursor substance.
- Require manufacturers, wholesale drug outlets and pharmacies to create and maintain records on each sale or transfer of prescription drug except to final consumer.

3. Include costs for training, education, and awareness when funding methamphetamine initiatives.

4. Develop a resource guide to assist MDTs in responding to meth cases when children are present. The CAMI Program could provide training.

Crawford Decision Subcommittee:

Wait for developing case law before continuing to work further on this issue.

Neglect Subcommittee:

The neglect subcommittee is working with the Portland State Child Welfare Partnership to complete the project that was funded through the last funding cycle. They do not have any new recommendations for this cycle.

Task Force Oversight of Recommended Projects

Based on experiences in developing and monitoring projects in the previous year, the Task Force decided to take the following steps for future projects.

CJA Task Force Actions for all Projects:

- Create an oversight committee specific to each project or grant
- Perform frequent project reviews
- Identify progress and gaps
- Report progress to CJA Task Force
- Recommend possible future funding

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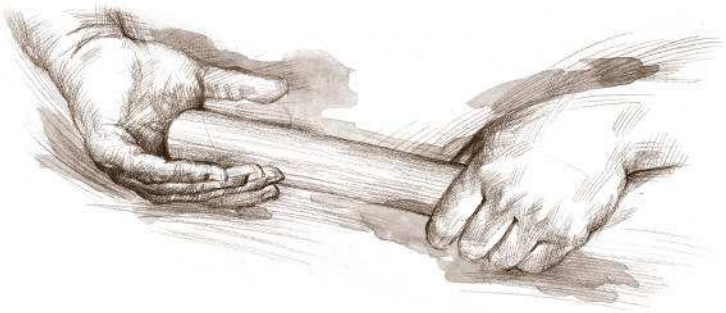
PROJECTS



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PROJECTS

Current Projects

Three new projects were identified for two Children Justice Act Task Force priority areas: Teens and Systems Response. Request for Proposals were offered in these areas and the following is an overview of the projects selected for each area and the services that will be provided.

Teen Project

Teen Project: Develop training curriculum and provide training on teen abuse issues. Develop & disseminate a model protocol and self-assessment tool to multidisciplinary child abuse investigation teams.	CJA Area (a) and (c)

Grant Funds Awarded: $105,000

Purpose

The Task Force identified the perception that child abuse cases involving teens in Oregon were not responded to with the same priority as those concerning abuse of younger children. As investigative agencies struggle to meet their mandates without adequate funding, investigative and protective efforts seem to focus on young children who are considered more vulnerable.

Outcomes

1. Develop a new or revised core curriculum using results from the previous teen project to research best practices and model programs serving teen victims. The training will be developed for staff from a variety of agencies/organizations on how to provide effective interventions and investigative services for abused and neglected teens. The curriculum will be developed in coordination and cooperation with currently established training activities for target audiences and be integrated into ongoing curriculum whenever possible.

2. Develop and implement a training plan to disseminate the teen curriculum using a train-the-trainer model statewide.
3. Develop and make available a self-assessment tool for use by interested Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) to measure the effectiveness of their current policies and protocols for meeting the needs of abused and neglected teen.
4. Develop and make available to interested MDTs, model protocols that contain a philosophy statement, training recommendations and appropriate responses for most effectively serving teens.

These projects address the following issues and recommendations from the 2003 CJA review process:

1. MDTs should include in their child abuse protocol the identification of teen victims as deserving access to appropriate services.
2. Provide technical assistance to MDTs to assess their local handling of cases involving teen victims, and provide funding to help MDTs incorporate strategies to address the challenges of teen behaviors.
3. Provide specific training opportunities for law enforcement officers and child welfare workers regarding special challenges and effective strategies when investigating crimes involving teen victims.

Progress

Portland State University Child Welfare Partnership was selected as the provider and has begun curriculum development. Training materials will be tested and available in the second half of 2006.

Training Description

Safety Planning Through Judicial Decision-Making for Youth with Co-Occurring Disorders

Youth with co-occurring disorders are highly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and sexual exploitation. From a judicial perspective it is not always easy to provide for their protection. Because of their age these youth may seem more capable of fending for themselves than younger children. Because of the nature of adolescent development compounded by their disabilities, these youth are often more resistant to safety intervention. Finally, the array of protective responses available to adolescents through the court is more limited than it is for younger children. This workshop will offer judicial officers evidence-based approaches to keeping adolescent victims of abuse safe from harm. It will help avoid further trauma to youth by the systems designed to protect them.

Systems Response Project

Juvenile Court Training: Promote coordination of services and collaborative sharing of information regarding the progress of family members involved in both a criminal and dependency case.	CJA Area (a) and (c)

Grant Funds Awarded: To Be Determined

Purpose

The CJA Task Force made establishment of a coordinated systems response for child dependency cases a major area of focus for 2003 - 2006. A two-part project was designed to further collaboration between juvenile courts and parole and probation.

1. Provide a statewide training for juvenile court judges on child welfare issues.
2. Develop innovative projects that would promote courts engaging in collaborative approaches with parole and probation to coordinate services and share information about the progress of family members involved in a dependency case.

These projects address the following issues and recommendations from the 2003 CJA review process:

1. The state continues to support efforts of the Juvenile Court Improvement Project to provide judicial education.
2. Identify system issues affecting the handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

Outcomes

Courts will identify and substantiate systems issues affecting the handling of child abuse and neglect cases. Individuals in the juvenile court system and in parole and probation will participate in seminars designed to develop coordinated expectations, services and share information in dependency cases in their local area.

Four to five seminars will be delivered on the topic of collaboration between probation and parole and dependency court. The Juvenile Court Improvement Project will facilitate planning for these seminars during the Fall 2006/Winter

2007 JCIP Model Juvenile Courts Initiative planning session.

Results of these local seminars will be measured by on-site evaluations and post-training assessment of the implementation of the action plans created as a result of the seminars.

Seminar description: A one-day seminar will be sponsored by a local judge for juvenile courts in that region. The seminar will be facilitated by an experienced facilitator. Participants from a variety of disciplines will be convened to develop a model of collaboration for their local juvenile court system. A keynote or a panel will present models for collaboration and field questions from the floor. Participants will engage in action planning in small groups and report back to the larger group.

Mandatory Reporting for Medical Professionals

Mandatory Reporting for Medical Professionals: Increase the level of training offered to mandatory reporters in the medical community through a Task Force planning process.	CJA Area (a) and (c)

Grant Funds Awarded: $61,400

The CJA Task Force identified establishing a coordinated systems response as a major focus area for 2003 - 2006. The Task Force wishes to investigate the needs of mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect and create a coordinated plan to address the finding of this research. The target audience is those in the medical community who are required by Oregon law to report suspected child abuse or neglect.

Description

The Oregon CJA Task Force believes that child abuse continues to be under-reported. Feedback received by the subcommittee indicates there is inconsistency in the reporting of child abuse on the part of medical professionals. A lack of understanding of basic child abuse indicators may be the primary reason that individuals fail to report. The complexity of the reporting process may also be a factor. The Task Force wishes to reach the medical community more effectively.

Activity

The provider will research reasons for under-reporting of child abuse and neglect by medical professionals and investigate the training needs of this group. The provider will work with the Task Force to develop an effective training and intervention plan to address these issues.

Progress

Portland State University Child Welfare Partnership has been selected as the provider and has completed preliminary research. This led to a refocus of the original proposal. It was determined that training for medical providers could not be developed until there was a better understanding of the reasons they did not report suspected child abuse and the most effective methods of providing mandatory reporter training to them. Further research and findings will be completed in the second half of 2006.

Ongoing Projects

Grants Management: Provide ongoing staff for program supervision and support.	CJA Area (a),(b),(c)

Grant Funds Awarded: $65,000

The Grants Program Coordinator and assistant positions are funded with CJA and CAPTA funds. Those two staff positions are responsible for program management, staff support for the CJA Task Force, and administrative oversight for the CJA projects during FFY 2004.

Description *(Grants Management staff responsibilities include)*

- Coordinate and support the CJA Task Force
- Prepare and provide mandated reports and other written materials.
- Provide support and technical assistance to the Task Force in the development of the three-year report and recommendations.
- Provide technical assistance in the implementation of CJA projects, monitor progress of project development to ensure goals and objectives are being met, and coordinate evaluation of the projects.
- Prepare and provide regular reports and updates about the CJA program to state administration.
- Prepare and provide mandated reports and other written materials to the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect.
- Coordinate the preparation of the yearly CJA application process.
- Develop and maintain multidisciplinary linkages with community partners and other state/federal agencies and programs.
- Prepare budgets and monitor expenditure of CJA funds.
- Staff participation in at least one federally initiated CJA meeting each year that the grant is in effect. Coordinate attendance of Task Force Chairperson.

Grants Management funds are also used for staff benefits, service and supplies, indirect costs, and miscellaneous expenses including office space, telephone service, travel, printing and supplies required to administer the grant funds.

This project provided the services of a program coordinator and an administrative assistant throughout the 2004 federal fiscal year, as well as the additional miscellaneous operating expenses listed above.

Grant coordination provides the support necessary for the CJA Task Force to function optimally. The evaluation of the state's service system for abused and neglected children and recommendations for changes creates an atmosphere that encourages productive changes in the child welfare and other coordinating systems.

Maintaining the CJA Task Force: Provide services and supports necessary to maintain the Task Force	CJA Area (a),(b),(c)

Grant Funds Awarded: $5,000

Description

This project provides the coordination and support necessary for the Children's Justice Act Task Force to review Oregon's child welfare system and develop recommendations to improve the state's response to child abuse.

The CJA Task Force is dedicated to improving Oregon's investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse, testing innovative approaches with experimental, model and demonstration programs, and reforming state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse.

This year, the CJA Task Force members worked in subcommittees on the comprehensive system review and evaluation for the three-year report due in 2006. They also prioritized their recommendations for Requests for Proposals (RFP) for 2006 projects.

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PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORTS

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PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORTS

The following projects were completed in 2005.

Teen Access

Teen Access: Improve administrative handling of cases of adolescent abuse and neglect through the development of model protocols and procedures for providing comprehensive services to this population. Provide training to CPS staff and MDT personnel.	CJA Area (a) and (c)

Funds Used: $52,822

Outcomes

Results from this project will be used as a basis to develop curriculum materials for training in this area. This is intended to result in significant changes in the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of adolescent maltreatment cases in Oregon.

Progress

The contractor for this project, the Juvenile Rights Project, conducted national research in the United States and Canada on best practices and model programs serving adolescent victims of child abuse and neglect. They completed a statewide review of current DHS and MDT policies, procedures and protocols for providing services to abused and neglected teens, developed model policies for MDTs, made recommendations for statutory revisions as well as changes to current child welfare policies, developed training recommendations for child welfare, MDT, law enforcement, and juvenile court staff, created a power point presentation on adolescent brain development, and revised a packet for teens, "Teens Rights in Foster Care" to include information on new state laws.

Findings

See Appendix section CJA Funded Projects/Deliverables.

Child Neglect Study

Child Neglect Study: Identify successful programs in Oregon that currently serve child victims of neglect and their families. Research national best practices. Document findings on a statewide neglect website, and develop a strategic plan to address issues of child neglect in Oregon.	CJA Area (a),(b),(c)

Funds Used: $39,997

Project Objectives

The objectives of this project included the following:

- A thorough review of child neglect programs, practices, policies and other community based responses in Oregon.
- Research national best practices, successful projects, programs and trainers in the field of neglect.
- Document results of the research and review in a written, web-based format.
- Develop a strategic plan with recommended action steps to address the issue of child neglect in Oregon.

Number and Characteristics of Targeted Individuals

This project targeted child victims of neglect. Last year, there were 4,140 founded incidents of neglect with an additional 2, 903 "Threat of Harm-Neglect", totaling 7043 incidents. This is 49.4% of all founded abuse cases in Oregon for 2005. Children who are victims of neglect do not have their basic physical, emotional, educational and medical needs met on a regular basis. Of 18 child fatalities in Oregon in FFY 2005, 10 were caused by neglect. Three more were related to both abuse and neglect.

Approach Used

The project consisted of five components: a statewide assessment, review of national literature and practices, synthesis of state and national findings, collaborative development of a strategic plan, and the web-based publication of all results and products.

Results

A written strategic plan based upon information gathered throughout the course of the project was produced. (Copy attached in Appendix). It was created in collaboration with a workgroup of DHS staff, CJA Task Force members, and other key stakeholders and incorporated findings from the statewide assessment and national research review. Specific components of the strategic plan included:

- Recommended revisions in policy
- Recommended alterations or additions to training
- Identification of successful or innovative program models or practices

Project Supports Task Force Recommendations

This project will improve investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child neglect. It will also contribute to revision of protocols and procedures at state and local levels in handling child neglect cases through research on identified best practices and model programs.

The project supported task force recommendations including-

- Identify and implement strategies to build public awareness of child neglect issues.
- Identify formal and informal community resources and how to activate these in response to child neglect.
- Identify strategies to ensure a continuous focus on child neglect.
- Facilitate a coordinated community response to the issues and instances of child neglect.
- Identify and establish an ongoing forum for sharing successful local strategies, policies, practices, ideas and innovative responses.

Outcomes

A final report submitted to the CJA Task Force included the following:

Review of Literature: Contractor conducted a thorough review of national research regarding child neglect cases and models of intervention, examining published literature as well as program evaluation reports between 1995 and January 2005. The following themes emerged:

- "Neglect of Neglect" – Neglect is considered the overlooked form of child maltreatment. Child neglect is insufficiently studied and little is known about the differences between families experiencing neglect and families experiencing other forms of maltreatment.

- Challenges in Defining Neglect: Many challenges exist in defining neglect. Researchers, CPS field staff, administrators and lawyers continue to debate whether a definition of neglect should be based on measurable harm to a child or on the actions of the parents or caregivers, regardless of whether a child is harmed.
- Risk Factors – A number of clear risk factors are associated with the children and families who enter child protective services due to neglect. These include poverty, low educational achievement and unemployment or under-employment.
- CPS Response to Neglect – Little is known about the child protective service system's response to neglect separate from other forms of child maltreatment. The high level of intervention required for neglectful families and limited agency resources pose a considerable challenge to implementing successful interventions.
- Promising Practice – A number of studies have been conducted examining the effectiveness of interventions aimed at neglectful families. Few studies are rigorous enough to provide clear models, however a number of promising practices are indicated. These include in-home services, concrete services, early intervention to enable child development and improve parent behavior, employment and job skills training, multidisciplinary and interagency teams and improved substance abuse assessment, treatment and after care.
- Conference and Training Opportunities: Researchers developed a list of available conferences and trainings related to child neglect.

  Researchers developed and administered a survey to DHS child welfare and self-sufficiency staff, as well as other community agency staff who work with families who have neglected their children or are at risk for neglect. The purpose of the survey was to gather information regarding working definitions of neglect to identify critical issues, which need to be addressed in successful intervention, programs, and challenges to practice.

Key Findings of the Survey

- Definition of neglect: The definition of neglect provided to respondents was "Neglect is the failure to provide basic physical, emotional, educational and medical needs of a child, including neglectful supervision and abandonment." However, one-third of the respondents felt that the definition lacked clarity regarding a child's basic needs; that the definition

did not address the social, emotional and mental health needs of a child nor a child's need for safety.

- Responding to Neglect: When asked whether the challenges in responding to neglect cases were different from those in responding to cases of other forms of maltreatment, 45.3% of respondents felt there was no difference, 18.2% were unsure whether a difference existed and 36.5% felt a difference did exist.
- Most Important Issues to Address in Neglect Cases: When respondents were asked to rank the most important issues to address in cases of neglect, the following issues were selected most often:
    - Domestic Violence
    - Social Supports
    - Mental Health of Parent
    - Substance Abuse
    - Parent Education
    - Parent Developmental Delay
    - Concrete Services / Financial Supports
- Challenges to Successful Intervention: When asked to describe the challenges in successfully intervening with neglectful families in Oregon, the following were most commonly cited:
    - Lack of funding and resources
    - Lack of education and training for professionals regarding neglect
    - Lack of community education about neglect
    - Lack of collaboration and communication between agencies
    - Inability to address systemic issues, including poverty and widespread substance abuse

Meeting Facilitation and Report Writing

Meeting Facilitation and Report Writing: Provide meeting facilitation for the 3-year assessment requirement for the CJA Task Force; prioritize findings and recommendations and submit a final report.	CJA Area (a), (b), (c)

Funds Used: $1,000

Project Objectives

- Facilitate Task Force meetings designed to engage Task Force members in discussion surrounding assessing and planning to meet the 2006 –2009 grant requirement
- Assist the Task Force in gathering information and prioritizing findings to develop the Three-Year Report.

Outcomes

- Two meetings were held to compile information
- Subcommittees compiled and prioritized recommendations
- Subcommittee reports and final CJA recommendations for 2006-2009 were created. These reports and recommendations are included in the 2003-2006 assessment section

MAINTAINING THE TASK FORCE

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MAINTAINING THE TASK FORCE

Oregon has maintained a Children's Justice Act Task Force since it was first established in 1987. By legislative authorization and mandate, the initial Task Force served the goals of the Children's Justice Act. The interim legislative Task Force became an agency-appointed, ongoing Children's Justice Act Task Force in 1993. The Task Force has maintained an expanded membership in accordance with federal guidelines. Three-year reports were issued in 1995, 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2006. These reports contained recommendations in each of the areas mandated by Section 107(e) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

Task Force Membership

The Task Force meets on a regular quarterly basis to acquire information, identify issues, develop strategies for intervention, review progress and network with state and community organizations. The Task Force meetings provide an opportunity for statewide information gathering. This information is supplemented by Task Force members' contact with multiple organizations throughout the state.

The Children's Justice Act Task Force is a subcommittee of the Children, Adults and Families (CAF) Child Welfare Advisory Committee. CAF is the section within the Department of Human Services that is responsible for providing child protective services in Oregon. Several members of the Child Welfare Advisory Committee are also members of the CJA Task Force. This dual role provides direct access to leading policy makers regarding child protective services.

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Task Force Members

Law Enforcement Community

Lt. Sam Salazar, Criminal Investigations Division, Oregon State Police

- Oregon State Police (1979 to present)
- Major Crimes Section since 1988 Conducted or supervised major crime investigations, including child and sex abuse, homicide, kidnapping, fraud and narcotic law violations.
- Trained in the area of child abuse and child protection services.
  Early detective career assigned as major case detective with primary duties in Yamhill, Polk and Washington counties.
- Detective Sergeant duties in Portland included supervising detectives assigned to multidisciplinary teams in counties located in the northwest area of the state.
- Major Crimes Lieutenant duties in Salem include administrative responsibility for all Oregon State Police major crime programs in the state including the Sex Offender Registration Program.
- Current participation in the following committees:
  - State Child Fatality Review Team
  - Juvenile Sex Offender Management Steering Committee
  - Improving Enforcement of State/Federal Domestic Violence Gun Laws in Oregon
  - Child Abuse Referral Policies and Rules Committee
  - Sex Offender Legislative Steering Group

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Civil/Criminal Court Judges

Hon. Edward T. Jones, Multnomah County Circuit Court

- Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge since 1999
- 10 years in private law practice in Oregon City and Portland
- 14 years as Director of MDL, a public defender office in Portland, supervising a team of lawyers assigned to juvenile caseloads
- Represented adults in dependency cases and on criminal charges
- Represented juveniles in both delinquency and dependency cases
- 14 month assignment to the STOP program drug treatment court
- Graduate of Reed College and the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College

Hon. Douglas V. Van Dyk, Clackamas County Circuit Court

- Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge since 2002
- 17 years in civil law practice as business litigation attorney
- 2004 recipient of Clackamas County Family Violence Coordinating Council Public Service Award
- 2002 recipient of Oregon State Bar President's Affirmative Action Award for service to the profession

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Prosecuting Attorneys

David Allen, District Attorney, Morrow County District Attorney's Office

- Attorney for 12 years
- Deputy District Attorney for Jefferson County in summer, 1991 and 1992-1994
- Elected DA for Morrow County since 1998
- Administers a federal domestic violence grant program
- Member of Local Bar Professional Responsibility Council
- Chair of Morrow County Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team
- Administers Morrow County's CAMI funds

Courtland Geyer, Deputy District Attorney, Marion County District Attorney's Office

- Child Abuse prosecutor since 1995
- Co-Chair of Marion County's Multidisciplinary Team
- Manages the Child Sexual Abuse Team in Marion County
- Spokesperson for Marion County District Attorney's Office

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Defense Attorney

Robin Wright, Defense Attorney Gervurtz, Menashe Larson and Howe, PC

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Health Professional

Teri Shultz, RN, Nursing Services/Personal Care Program Coordinator

- Nursing Services/Personal Care Coordinator since 1997
- Adoption Assistance Consultant since 1997
- DHS Medical Response Team Coordinator since 1999

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Child Advocates/CASA Representative

Becky Smith, CASA Program Coordinator, Oregon Commission on Children and Families

- CASA State Coordinator, Oregon Commission on Children and Families 1998-present
- National CASA Association Standards Committee
- Juvenile Court Improvement Project Advisory Committee
- Masters Degree in Organizational Development
- Certified Family Life Educator
- BS: Community Services and Public Affairs and Certificate: Program Evaluation and Development (1974)

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Mental Health Professional

Matthew Pearl, LCSW
Child & Adolescent Program Specialist
Office of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Masters Degree is Social Welfare from UCLA, licensed clinical social worker in Oregon since 2000

- Clinical experience providing mental health services to children & families in residential, day treatment, and outpatient settings
- Administrative experience coordinating intensive treatment services in the managed care environment and implementing legislative initiatives through policy development and administrative rules
- Liaison for community-based services to mental health organizations, community mental health programs, and mental health providers

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Child Protective Services Agency

Una Swanson, Child Protective Services Program Manager
Children, Adults and Families, Oregon Department of Human Services

- CPS Program Manager since June 2003
- 3 years as Family Based Services Program Manager
- 4 years as Child Protective Services Supervisor in Marion County
- 8 years as Social Service Specialist (Caseworker, Intake Screener, CPS Worker, and Parenting Consultant)
- With Marion County Family Court:
  - Alternative Programs Assistant & Detention Shift Supervisor

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Disabilities Specialist

Eva Kutas, Director, Protective Services for Residential Care
Office of Investigations and Training, Department of Human Services

- BA English/Special Education
- MA Sociology
- Juris Doctor
- 10 years as an advocate/attorney at the Oregon Advocacy Center focused on obtaining special education services for children with disabilities.
- 16 years as director of Oregon's protective services agency for adults with mental illness and developmental disabilities
- Past President, National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators
- 5 years overseeing investigation of abuse against children with developmental disabilities living in 24-hour residential programs

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Parent Group Representative

Don Darland, Vice President, Oregon Foster Parent Association

- 13 years as a foster parent
- Served as President of Linn County Foster Parent Association
- 7 years consultant trainer for foster parents
- Served on diverse boards concerning the prevention of child abuse
- Served 8 years on the Linn County Commission on Children and Families

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The following groups, though not required, have proven to be beneficial:

Citizen Review Board

Shary Mason, Program Manager for the Citizen Review Board
Oregon Judicial Department

- Program Manager, Citizen Review Board since 1993
- Board Member, Tillamook County CASA Program
- Member, Tillamook County Commission on Children and Families
- Member, Emerging Issues Committee, Oregon Commission on Children and Families
- Member, Tillamook County Citizen Review Board, 1987-1993
- Past Chair, Citizen Review Board State Advisory Council
- Director, Teen Parent Program, Tillamook Bay Community College, 1987-1993
- Former Oregon Department of Human Resources Volunteer Services Supervisor
- Juvenile Court Improvement Project Advisory Committee

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Tribal Representation

Morris Blakey, ICWA Specialist
Klamath Tribes

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Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers

Kevin Dowling, Executive Director of CARES NW

- Member of Multnomah and Washington County Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Teams
- Member of Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers (2001-present)
- Experience working at CARES NW as an Interviewer, Intake Counselor, Supervisor and Manager (1994-present)

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Oregon Youth Authority

Karen Andall, Executive Assistant
Oregon Youth Authority

- Coordinator, Southwest Oregon Youth Employment Programs, 1976-1978
- Juvenile Court Counselor, Curry County Juvenile Department, 1978-1985
- Director, Curry County Juvenile Department, 1985-1997
- Community Services Manager, Oregon Youth Authority, 1997-1998
- Executive Assistant to the Director, Oregon Youth Authority since 1998

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Represents County-based Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams

Stacey Liskey, Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program Coordinator, Crime Victim's Assistant Section, Department of Justice

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APPENDIX

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APPENDIX

CJA Subcommittee Reports

Children with Disabilities Subcommittee Recommendations

Data Recommendations:

1. Support improvements in the state child welfare data system to identify the number of disabled children in Oregon who are victims of abuse or neglect.

Interviewing Recommendations:

1. Make specialized training available to professionals on interviewing skills for children with a variety of different disabilities. (For example, recognizing and understanding the difference between interviewing children with developmental disabilities versus behavioral disorders.)
2. Provide specialized training on appropriate interviewing techniques based on where children reside such as foster care or group home residential care.

System Recommendations:

1. In order to maximize resources, develop a coordinated systems' response protocol in each geographical area of the state as a guide to agencies on how to respond to abuse investigations involving children with disabilities. Consider using Multidisciplinary Teams to coordinate the development and ongoing implementation of this protocol.
2. Include appropriate services to children with disabilities as part of the operating principles for all child abuse intervention centers in Oregon.
3. Develop procedures or policy that encourage child welfare workers to utilize the expertise of mental health and developmental disabilities offices throughout the state when conducting abuse investigations of children with disabilities.
4. Use Multidisciplinary Teams to direct the investigation of child abuse in state residential facilities and other institutional care settings such as the School for the Deaf or School for the Blind.
5. Develop specialized units with expertise in residential treatment to investigate allegations of abuse within the context of residential treatment programs. Individuals staffing this unit need expertise in various treatment models and behavior management techniques for various disorders.

Training Recommendations:

1. Educate professionals in all areas regarding the prevalence of abuse of children with disabilities.
2. Offer training on the types of disabilities and typical behaviors associated with different disabilities.
3. Develop and institutionalize different tiers of training for the evaluation of child abuse in children with disabilities. Begin with a basic, "101", training for the majority of professionals. This type of training could be web based and available on an ongoing basis. Develop advanced training for a smaller number of specialists such as law enforcement, child welfare, health, and intervention centers by geographic area.
4. Include training on child abuse neglect investigations as a special class available through the Child Welfare Partnership Training offered by Portland State University.
5. Utilize the MDT day at the annual statewide child abuse conference sponsored by SCAR. Focus on the role of each discipline in abuse investigations of children with disabilities.

Foster Care Subcommittee Recommendations

Purpose: Minimize further trauma to child victims of abuse and neglect who are placed in foster care or with relative caregivers through training, advocacy, support, and empowerment.

Training:

1. Provide training to law enforcement, caseworkers and foster parents on reducing trauma to children during the initial placement process.
2. Provide training to caseworkers, CASA, CRB, foster parents on child centered planning.
3. Provide training to the dependency court staff including judges and attorneys on the foster care system and its impact on children.
4. Provide training for foster parents on the juvenile court process.
5. Provide practice training for child welfare caseworkers on making placement decisions for children. Teach them to utilize a child's strengths and to do placement matching.

Advocacy:

1. Improve advocacy for children by developing models of collaboration between CASA workers, the court system, foster parents, and child welfare workers.
2. Utilize a child centered case model and placement matching when planning for foster care services for children.
3. Use a team approach when making placement decisions where foster parents and caseworkers are partners in the planning process.
4. Support implementation of Foster Parent Bill of Rights (Senate Bill 815).

Support:

1. Create a plan for an evidence-based, statewide respite care program for foster and relative care parents.
2. Support foster and relative care parents in reducing trauma to children by providing a place to call and providing more information at initial placement.
3. Conduct ongoing regional forums for foster and relative care parents on the variety of services available to them through DHS and other community partners. Include community partners in the forums to build relationships at a local level.
4. Work with the Foster Parent Association to establish a formalized, statewide mentoring system for foster and relative care providers.
5. Pursue funding for relative care support groups.
6. Support & encourage the development of local/regional newsletters for foster and relative parents.

Empowerment:

1. Have a CASA for every child
2. Empower foster children by teaching them how to advocate for themselves.
3. Have older foster children write a handbook for younger children in foster care.
4. Use child centered and youth directed case planning.
5. Develop natural supports for children in foster care.
6. Provide opportunity for planned living arrangements.

Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee Recommendations

1. Develop a statewide strategic planning effort to mobilize communities to address safety issues related to methamphetamine.

2. Gather and distribute factual information about the known effects of methamphetamine in each county i.e., number of children in care, number of arrests, availability of treatment, etc.

3. Develop and distribute community education materials such as a public service video on the effects of methamphetamine from the eyes of a child, or taped interviews with recovering addicts

4. Develop a resource list of trainers that can provide factual information on methamphetamine for communities to use.

5. Develop a coordinated community-based planning process that includes partners who can bring resources to the table, particularly Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug services.

6. Develop a template for communities to use during this planning process. The template should pose questions such as "What are we going to do around methamphetamine in our community? "What are our resources?" "How do we address child safety?", etc.

7. Coordinate the planning effort with the Commission on Children and Families and utilize their community mapping process. The Commission would focus is prevention, while CJA would focus on the investigation, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect.

8. Coordinate the planning effort with MDTs, the hub of child abuse investigation. MDTs are required to have a drug endangered child protocol. The planning process should interface with that protocol.

9. Provide communities with information about what MDTs throughout the state are doing to address this issue.

10. Compile information from the community plans to present to the legislature, including a map of current community resources to address the issue and resources that are lacking.

11. Use the information in a statewide campaign to raise awareness about what is occurring in Oregon.

Teen Subcommittee Recommendations

1. Advocate for an appropriate, adequately funded continuum of services designed to meet the specific needs of teens including:
   A. Clarification of roles and service responsibility between Commission on Children and Families, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems.
   B. Information sharing across systems to better coordinate service planning and delivery.
   C. Develop a statewide resource directory of available services for teens in communities and make these services known and easily accessible by both teens and service providers.

2. Request that the Oregon District Attorney's Association form a workgroup to consider legislative changes to assist in effective prosecution of cases involving teen victims.

3. Request MDTs develop guiding statements regarding their response to sexual activity between adults and minors.

4. Work in conjunction with the Juvenile Rights Project to support the recommendations found in the CJA funded document "Promoting Community Protection of Adolescents."

5. Include and consider previous dependency court information when teens are brought before the court on subsequent delinquency matters.

Positions and Recommendations of Other CJA Subcommittees

Crawford Decision Subcommittee

The Crawford Decision Subcommittee is waiting for a pending U.S. Supreme Court decision before continuing to work further on this issue.

Methamphetamine Subcommittee:

- Reviewed work completed and information developed by the Governor's Task Force on Methamphetamine.

- Support the Governor's Task Force recommendations for the introduction of new legislation, such as the following:
    - Create the crime of possessing or disposing of methamphetamine manufacturing waste
    - Provide immunity in certain circumstances for person reporting possession of or transaction involving precursor substance
    - Create the crime of dumping methamphetamine waste.
    - Require manufacturers, wholesale drug outlets and pharmacies to create and maintain records of each sale or transfer of prescription drug except to final consumer.
- Fund methamphetamine initiatives, which do not always include costs for training, education, and awareness.
- Develop a resource guide to help MDTs. The CAMI Program could provide training.

Neglect

The neglect subcommittee is working with PSU to complete the project that was funded through the last funding cycle. They do not have any new recommendations for this cycle.

CJA Funded Projects Deliverables

Community Summits to Take Action on Child Neglect

A proposal for the
Children's Justice Act
Neglect Task Force

From Katharine Cahn
PSU Graduate School of Social Work

Introduction/Background

In 2005-06 the Neglect Subcommittee of the Children's Justice Act Task Force commissioned a study of child neglect from Portland State University. Dean Dr. Kristine Nelson, a national expert on child neglect and child welfare, served as consultant for this work, later joined by Dr. Diane Yatchmenoff. Research assistants Karen Morgaine and Cathy Kauffman provided staff support. Two reports on this work were provided to the committee and Drs. Nelson and Yatchmenoff presented these and discussed them with the Neglect Subcommittee and the larger CJA Task Force on April 13, 2006.

The final deliverable of the contract was to-
"Develop a strategic plan with recommendations for action steps to implement a coordinated statewide effort to reduce the incidence of child neglect in Oregon."

Facilitator Katharine Cahn met with members of the Neglect Subcommittee on May 11th to develop a strategic plan. The Committee reached consensus on the idea of using CJA funds to promote two or more local action planning summits on neglect in Oregon. What follows is a description of the proposed action planning process that emerged from this discussion and some models of roles the committee might take to support this process.

Community Neglect Summits: Elements of the Model

The committee agreed that there is generally a low level of local knowledge about and response to child neglect and a low level of understanding regarding effective interventions.

The committee is interested in using CJA resources (financial, professional, and political) to promote local summits that would:

1. Focus community awareness to raise the profile of neglect and increase the sense of urgency concerning this problem.
2. Educate the wider child – serving community to interventions that support neglectful families and increase child resilience.
3. Engage a wide variety of community stakeholders in action planning for vulnerable children and families

These local summits would follow an action-planning format similar to that used by the Juvenile Court Improvement seminars or other similar multidisciplinary action planning seminars known to committee members. In a morning session, presenters would present information about neglect to a multidisciplinary group of community professionals. For example, information might be provided session regarding incidence, impact on children, effective models of intervention, and what programs in the community might be related to this issue. An afternoon session would be structured to engage participants in a multidisciplinary action planning process.

Strong local leadership would be needed to assure the effectiveness of a local summit. For this reason, summits would be held in communities where a mayor, sheriff, county commissioner or other leader with the power to convene a wide constituency stepped forward to provide leadership in the form of willingness to lend his/her name to the invitation and to provide ongoing support and follow through on action plans developed.

The Children's Justice Act Task Force would provide funding incentives to match local participation. Several models of this kind of incentive are summarized below.

Models

In all models, communities with local leadership would provide at their own expense: local speakers / panelists such as parent panels or a panel of local agency representatives on services, release time for agency participants in the action planning day, and leadership and staffing for coordinated management of action plans developed at the summit.

Three models are available for CJA involvement. Each offer a different combination of solutions to the twin problems of 1) assuring design elements key to success will be present in each offering, and 2) allowing for variations in local planning dynamics and costs. The models are:

A. Decentralized Incentive Funds
B. Central Resources

C. Mixture: central resources matched with local funds

A. Decentralized Incentive Funds (local grants)

In this model, the CJA Neglect subcommittee invites proposals from local jurisdictions willing to host an action-planning summit on neglect. A set amount of funds is established ahead of time and published in the RFP. The RFP would set standards and perhaps even a format the local committees must follow in their summit and certain conditions that should be met by each initiative. Other than approving the grant and monitoring implementation, there would be no further centralized support or technical assistance.

Based on committee discussion and this contractor's experience, examples of sections of the RFP and conditions / criteria for successful applicants could include:

- Demonstrated commitment by local leaders willing to convene a summit and monitor and support follow up action plans.
- List of local agencies willing to have staff participate in the planning day with an emphasis on those who might be involved in supporting families / children at risk of neglect. Criteria for success would be that a wide range of agencies involved in addressing neglect indicated commitment to participate. For example, a successful application might include indication of agreement to participate from some or all of the following: local Commission on Children and Families, law enforcement, drug or alcohol treatment providers, education, public health, DHS / Child Welfare, DHS / Self Sufficiency, family support agencies (such as Healthy Start or family support centers), providers of concrete services such as community action programs, food banks, transportation, local tribal or off-reservation providers or other ethnic/community – based agencies, youth development.)
- Local staffing / coordination including meeting registration and managing summit logistics. Criteria for success would be adequate staff support by local agency with experience holding meetings and/or trainings.
- Plan for action. Criteria for success could be agreement to use planning format provided by the RFP or a substitute proposed format acceptable to the committee.
- Action Planning / Summit Facilitator. Criteria for success would be identification of a facilitator with an established track record in interdisciplinary action planning, preferably in children's services.
- Local Match or use of grant funds. Criteria for success would be local support for printing of handouts, meeting room rental, lunch and refreshments at meeting.

The cost of this model would depend on the number of grants awarded and the expectation of local match vs. grant support for some of the elements identified at the end of the list. Grants could range from $5,000 - $15,000.

Advantages:

- Similar to current grant-making role of CJA
- Maximizes local control and discretion
- Does not require central staffing by CJA or a CJA – funded central contractor

Disadvantages:

- No centralized control or influence once grant is made
- Grant-making can be cumbersome
- Barriers to grant-making may exist between CJA and certain local agencies capable of convening a summit (Can a Mayor's Office or a Commission apply for/receive a CJA grant? Need to explore.)

B. Centralized Resources

In this model, the Children's Justice Act or a designated consulting/training firm hired by and working closely with the CJA Task Force, provides all aspects of summit facilitation to local jurisdictions who apply and are selected by the CJA based on the likelihood of effective, sustained action planning, geographical representation, contacts with CJA Task Force members, or other criteria identified by the Task Force as contributing to success.

In this model the CJA or a consultant hired by the CJA provides the following services:

- Technical assistance to selected local advisory committees in planning and designing their local summit working with a pre-established format
- Payment for any content experts hired to present
- Facilitation for the summit
- Registration services and publication of all handouts and packets for each workshop
- Payment for costs of local hosting, including venue, hosting/refreshments

The cost of this model would depend on the number of jurisdictions selected. As a ball-park estimate, three action planning seminars in a combination of high and low cost areas with technical assistance and consultation and at least one 'external expert' on neglect per seminar could cost in the range of $50,000 - $75,000

Advantages:

- Full control by CJA over all aspects of design
- Ability to assure consistency and quality from locality to locality
- Ease of contracting
- Cost savings related to economies of scale

Disadvantages

- No mechanism for local engagement, control, and ownership
- Work for central office or designated central contractor (if contracted, could be included in cost.)

C. Central resources matched with local funds

In this model, some services and resources are centralized and others are either provided to local communities with an 'allowance' formula related to community cost of living, or local communities are invited to put up local costs as match.

Examples of centralized costs (could be purchased with one centralized contract from one contractor or could be provided by CJA staff):

- Technical Assistance to local planning committee
- Facilitation of action planning
- Consulting fees for desired speakers / content experts identified by Task Force
- Originals or multiple copies of standard handouts (such as action planning worksheets, key articles, reports or summaries of state and local statistics)

Examples of costs included in local allowance (or that local communities could be invited to put up as match) would be:

- Cost to rent meeting room
- Cost of hosting (lunch and refreshments)
- Costs of printing handouts desired by local committee (such as list of local resources, or specific handouts identified for local theme or resources)
- Invitation materials
- Registration services

Cost for this model would depend on the number of jurisdictions selected and the mix of high- and low-cost areas ('high cost' would be cost of hosting, room rental, and travel for facilitator). An example of a mix could be $30,000 for the centralized costs, and $5,000 – $10,000 allowance for local expenditures.

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Intervention Strategies for Adolescent Victims of Maltreatment

Julie H. McFarlane and Amy S. Miller
Promoting Community Protection of Adolescents (2005)
(http://www.jrplaw.org/ResourceLB.htm).
This project is supported by a grant from the Children's Justice Act.

The strategies to be employed when interviewing adolescents about abuse related issues vary based on stage of cognitive and emotional development, purpose of the interview, adolescent's relationship with the interviewer, and the amount of stress on the adolescent. The interviewer must strive to build rapport with the adolescent by creating a nurturing environment while keeping in mind the ways in which cognitive and moral/social development factors could impact the interview. Angry, depressed or younger adolescents may require extra sensitivity on the part of the interviewer.

Building confidence and creating a comfortable environment for the teen is essential for any interview because an adolescent victim must have trust in his or her interviewer. Establishing trust should be the primary focus at the start of the interview. Starting the conversation with less serious topics and following the adolescent's lead by letting him or her speak without interruption are ways to establish rapport. Praising and complimenting the youth's strengths and providing encouragement also add to the trust relationship. Another way to make the youth comfortable is to utilize a person the teen knows and trusts to conduct the interview or at least be present during the interview. It is important not to take any of the youth's behavior personally. Recognize that adolescents, particularly those who are previous victims or under stress, process questions differently and are more likely to "act out" or be uncooperative.

Cognitive development should be assessed prior to or at the beginning of the interview. At the start of the interview, ask basic inconsequential questions first. Responses to these questions are often indicators of cognitive development because verbal communication is directly tied to cognitive processing. Once the interviewer has a good idea of the adolescent's development level, the interviewer can ask further questions accordingly. Other techniques to encourage adolescent response include asking short, clear and easy to answer questions, avoiding yes or no questions, and re-phrasing and

clarifying when in doubt.

Moral and social developments also impact the interview process. The interviewer should first convey that the teen is valuable and worth getting to know. Next, the interviewer should try to objectively address the adolescent's behavior without condoning it or forcing his or her own values on the adolescent. Adolescents who have committed a previous offense or display a "bad attitude" require additional interview techniques. Adolescents with "attitude" sometimes try to get a rise out of the interviewer as a way to escape the interview. It is important not to take teen aggression as a personal affront, because the youth needs to understand that exhibiting a bad attitude will not end the interview. The interviewer should not judge or express disapproval about the youth's behavior.

Interviewing angry or depressed adolescents can be a challenge for any interviewer. In both cases, it's essential not to push an agenda and instead treat the interview as "meeting this young person over someone's kitchen table." Strategies for diffusing anger include expressing empathy, making sincere gestures, and maintaining a peaceful environment. Showing a legitimate interest in the adolescent will also diffuse anger.

CONCLUSIONS:

Adolescent maltreatment often goes unnoticed and unreported. Reasons for the failure to recognize and report adolescent maltreatment include: misperceptions about the ability of adolescents to protect themselves, an unawareness that certain types of abuse, such as sexual abuse and abandonment, are more common in adolescents, and a difficulty in recognizing adolescent abuse patterns. In addition, adolescent victims caught in the web of maltreatment have often learned to mistrust adults, and as a result may resist the need for help.

The results of adolescent maltreatment can be disastrous, with long-term effects. Maltreated adolescents experience developmental and behavioral problems that may lead to depression, injury, and even suicide. Adolescent maltreatment is a core contributor to both delinquency and homelessness.

Medical, social work, and mental health professionals must work together in conjunction with law enforcement and the legal system to identify, report, and address adolescent abuse.

Funding for this is supported by Children's Justice Act
Grant No. G-0401OR-CJA1, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families.
Points of view or opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.