

Children's Justice Act Task Force

Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2020
Remote meeting
12:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Task Force Members present: John Casalino, Shawna Clowser, Hon. Andrew Erwin, Damon Holland, Hon. Amy Holmes Hehn, Patti Kenyon, Tina Morgan, Tammi Pitzen, Marilyn Reilly, Rahela Rehman, Sherree Rodriguez, Patty Terzian, Shelly Smith, Jennifer Wynhausen (DHS) for Deena Loughary (DHS)

Guest: Becky Jones, Kristen Khamnohack

CVSSD DOJ Staff: Robin Reimer, Amanda VanTil, Kim Larson (absent)

Task Force Members absent: Carol Chervenak

Welcome

Robin Reimer opened the meeting with roll call and introductions.

Introductions

Members introduced themselves with their name, their agency or organization, and a description of their role in child abuse intervention/response and their thoughts on how we might address equity in this group, including what their organizations are doing.

Meeting minutes

Sherree Rodriguez moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting; minutes were approved without correction.

Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH) Update

Kristen Khamnohack presented to the group via PowerPoint the history and progress of the updated statewide child abuse reporting hotline. The hotline is in year four of a five-year process to move hotlines from 15 districts across the state to a single state-wide hotline. After implementing the centralized hotline in April 2019, ORCAH responded to understaffing concerns and currently have only two vacancies for the 140.5 screeners now in place. Data showed that the initial staffing numbers were based not on total calls made to the hotline over the 15 districts, but rather the number of calls that had been reported to Child Protective Services or other law enforcement. Call screener positions were added to accommodate the true call volume which resulted in shorter wait times fewer abandoned calls, and increased capacity for screening.

Due to COVID-19, call volume has decreased largely because children are not in contact with mandatory reporters, this does not mean children are safer. At the outset of the pandemic, the education system (one of the largest sources for reporting) transitioned to distance learning. Educators and administrators worked at full capacity and the ability to continuously assess at-risk children declined and revealed to ORCAH a gap in training for mandatory reporters. As a result, ORCAH updated mandatory reporter training videos and

flyers and planned to increase training to communities, partners, and child abuse interventions centers and multidisciplinary teams. Budget shortfalls have delayed the project.

ACTION: Kristen will email the updated materials to the group and collaborate with Becky of Oregon Child Abuse Solutions for the August communications across the state.

Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS) Update

Becky Jones of OCAS reviewed the most recent update attached at the end of these minutes.

CJA Fund updates

\$38,000 that was earmarked for conferences will not be able to be spent due to the pandemic and social distance measures. The CJA funds must be expended by December 2020. Department of Justice T.R.I.P. program requested \$8,000 to support CSEC survivor consultant participation in developing a statewide trafficking intervention training. The group discussed and approved this funding. Robin will request minor modifications before funds are disbursed.

The Child Abuse Summit had applied for \$30,000 in support. The summit was cancelled due to COVID-19 and the organizers do not have plans to reschedule. With Task Force support, Robin will remain in contact about future funding but reallocate those funds. The Task Force was supportive of using the funds for small grants to CACs for COVID-19 related expenses such as changes to buildings-sneeze guards, signs, as well as technology to support remote meetings and work.

ACTION: Robin will discuss further with CVSSD staff to develop a plan for distribution including sharing ideas for how the funds could be spent.

John Casalino discussed the possibility of using CJA funds to support a telemedicine pilot project. The group supported further discussion and development of this idea.

ACTION: Add the topic of statewide telemedicine/telehealth as an ongoing discussion for future meetings.

Application Development:
Robin is working on developing

Vacancies and recruitments:

Debra Gilmore and Aaron Brenneman have accepted new positions and have resigned from the Task Force. The Task Force currently has openings for CASA, Defense Attorney and Law Enforcement Representatives.

ACTION: Shelly Smith will connect Robin with a CASA candidate from Central Oregon and also contact Aaron Brenneman for recommendations for a replacement in his role of Defense Attorney. Task Force members are encouraged to forward any other nominations for these roles to Robin.

Annual CJA grantee meeting:

Robin, Tina Morgan and Debra Gilmore attended the national CJA conference in March. Robin and Tina received materials for conducting a needs assessment. Caroline Olfert has agreed to assist in planning and facilitating Oregon's upcoming assessment. The November meeting may be used for an in-person portion of the assessment.

ACTION: Robin will share more detail regarding the assessment and what Task Force members will be asked to do following a meeting with Caroline to further develop the plan.

Updates from the group

ACTION: Shelly will email the group material on equitable response to homeless youth during COVID.

ACTION: Equitable response in child abuse intervention will be a standing topic on all CJA Task Force meeting agendas.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:55 pm

Children's Justice Act Program Report
for Oregon's Children's Justice Act Task Force

COVID-19 Operations Adjustments

Since mid-March Oregon Child Abuse Solutions staff have been working remotely. Due to COVID-19, April's planned Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training in Bend, Oregon was cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

As social distancing due to COVID-19 continues, OCAS has initiated plans to adapt its training programs. At present, staff and partner travel is not expected or required through 2020. For this reason, OCAS will purchase a learning management system and web-conferencing platform. This platform will allow training programs to continue online in adapted formats.

Oregon Interviewing Guidelines

OCAS and Regional Children's Advocacy Center (RCAC) experts have drafted updates to the Oregon Interviewing Guidelines. These updates include shifting terminology from Child Abuse Intervention Centers to Children's Advocacy Centers, in accordance with recently updated statute. This new version also includes the following addendums to the current 4th Edition of the OIGs: introducing evidence, multiple non-duplicative forensic interviews, interviewer support, cultural competency and interviewing during special circumstances, including information on tele-forensic interviewing and other protocols during natural disasters or crises.

Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training

During the grant period, 79 professionals attended OCFIT (Medford: 26, Wilsonville: 27, Salem: 26). Of those that attended, 39% were child welfare professionals, 43% law enforcement, 6% forensic interviewers, and 11% other.

OCFIT will be moved to online. Per the National Children's Alliance, OCFIT will remain accredited as an online training throughout the pandemic if the following stipulations are met:

- The curricula and duration have to be the same length in the virtual version
- The practice component has to be the same length of time or longer
- And, there is a set number of participants

Per NCA, this approval is good only for the duration of COVID-19.

At present, RCAC experts are reviewing the full OCFIT curriculum to ensure consistency with national best practices. OCAS and RCAC experts anticipate an online OCFIT training by Fall.

Project Ability

Following the OIG updates and OCFIT updates, OCAS will connect with two RCAC training experts regarding providing the one-day Project Ability training online.

Beyond Field Interviewing

Following the OIG updates and OCFIT updates, OCAS will connect with four RCAC training experts to initiate four 60-hour contracts for the creation of the shortened 1.5 – 2 day Beyond Field Interviewing Training. It is anticipated that this training will need to be piloted online.

Designated Medical Professionals Community of Practice

During COVID-19, OCAS has increased the frequency of DMP phone calls across the state. DMPs have problem-solved with one another related to their service provision, public health safety protocols, management of their staff and support of their CACs, etc.

The planned in-person 2020 Second Annual DMP Conference has been cancelled. Continuing education opportunities will be provided in lieu of this conference. OCAS has gathered topics of interest for statewide DMPs through survey, in-person, and over the phone. OCAS will ask DMPs to prioritize subjects and training suggestions. OCAS will then coordinate and manage online learning opportunities to address the most urgent needs. Below is a non-exhaustive list of some of the suggestions DMPs have offered.

- Self-care, compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma, and burnout
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion as it relates to CAC health care services
- Munchausen by proxy
- Fractures from the Pediatric Radiology Lens
- Benign Enlargement of the Subdural Space
- Drug Screens, especially related to newborns
- Hair testing
- Tips, Tricks and Trainings re: Karly's Law
- Photo documentation

Statewide Training Convening

OCAS is in the process of planning the management of the Statewide Training Convening. Potential invitees to the convening have been compiled. OCAS is currently soliciting feedback from partners regarding potential attendees at a Statewide Training Convening. OCAS next few steps are to finalize the list of partners and to reach out to connect with each contact. CJA can assist OCAS in reviewing and providing feedback on the draft list of invitees.

As with other programming, it is anticipated that the Statewide Training Convening will occur remotely during this grant period.