



## **CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE**

**Friday, March 13, 2015**

**San Diego County Hall of Justice, Room 363A  
330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Harry Elias, Catherine Stephenson, Mark Bontrager, Kathleen Cady, (Leigh) David Casey, Elizabeth DeRouen, Melinda FurFuro, Tina Garcia, Rachel Gilgoff, Michael Grogan, Garry Ichikawa, Lee Ann Kelly, Annie Lynn, Brandi Moore, Candy Pierce, Richard Ruiz, Susan Torrence, Edwin Weaver, Tina (Mavis) Williams

Members Absent: Cristina Sanchez, Wendy Wright

Cal OES Staff Present: Sonia Banales, Michelle Mahon

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 10:36 a.m., by Chair Harry Elias

#### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12, 2014 MEETING**

Motion to approve the December 12, 2014 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: David Casey

Second: Catherine Stephenson

Discussion: Correction to spelling of Gary Ichikawa's first name

Motion passed: 17-0-2 (Edwin Weaver and Mark Bontrager abstained)

#### **III. WEB-BASED CHILD ABUSE REPORTING AND INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM (LOS ANGELES COUNTY)**

A. Overview of Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reporting System (E-SCARS) from Los Angeles County

1. At the invitation of CJA Task Force, Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Susan Steinfield and Retired Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputy Dan Scott gave a presentation on the E-SCARS reporting system utilized by LA County.
2. Reporting system was created to ensure cases from Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR) filed to not go overlooked.
3. SCAR is mandated form required throughout the state per statute.
4. System was developed by Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). It is a conduit from law enforcement to CPS.
5. System references cases by booking number. Cases can be tracked by all jurisdictions throughout the county.

- B. Discussion regarding information sharing for child abuse reporting
  - 1. The Task Force discussed the potential for other counties to implement an E-SCARS system to ensure the same level of tracking and collaboration on suspected child abuse cases.
  - 2. Raised the possibility of developing a CJA-funded program to administer E-SCARS in other interested counties.

#### **IV. CJA EVALUATOR (CJ) PROGRAM DATABASE DEVELOPMENT**

- A. Kelly Jarvis, from Northwest Professional Consortium, Inc. (NPC) gave a presentation regarding the database development component for the current FY 2014-2015 CJ Program. NPC is the recipient of the CJ Program grant.
- B. The database development is geared for the CJA-funded Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (EV) Program, which is multidisciplinary collaboration to identify and respond to the needs of children exposed to domestic violence.
- C. The EV program requires recipients to develop a database system to enable data sharing among the disciplines involved with the project. The database requirement for the EV program has been challenging due to the lack of technological expertise and barriers in protocols at the local level with information sharing.
- D. NPC is preparing to release a request for proposal (RFP) to contract for the development of a database system which would be utilized by the EV program recipients.
- E. The needs of a reporting vs. relational database to assist with case management and information sharing among EV partners was addressed.
- F. Details to consider for database include the security level and the site host if database is to be web-based. Costs range from \$20,000 to \$75,000, depending on the level of sophistication and security needed.
- G. Subcommittee of CJA Task Force members will consult with Kelly Jarvis on the design and development of the database project. Subcommittee members are Harry Elias, Catherine Stephenson, Edwin Weaver, and Lee Ann Kelly.

#### **V. CJA FUNDING STATUS**

- A. Michelle Mahon reported the following funding balances
  - 1. Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013 Children's Justice Act (13CJA) fund has \$50,564 available for reallocation.
    - a. Sum is from funds reverted from state fiscal year (FY) grants which reverted balances remaining after the grants were closed.
    - b. 13CJA funds will expire on September 30, 2015. These funds should be considered for reallocation immediately so they can be reallocated and expended prior to the expiration date.
    - c. Potential options for reallocation or reversion of the 13CJA funds balance were presented and discussed.
    - d. Motion to amend current FY 2014-2015 Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (EV) grants, to allocate 13CJA funds to current EV grants; Decrease 14CJA allocations by same amounts.  
Motion: Catherine Stephenson  
Second: Susan Torrence  
Discussion: None  
Motion passed 18-0-0

2. FFY 2014 Children's Justice Act (14CJA) fund has \$540,000 that has not been allocated to date.
  - a. Some funding was previously held for the Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (EV) Program, which ended up having one recipient withdraw from the program.
  - b. CJA Task Force will reach for recommendations and development of requests for proposal (RFP) for potential new programs to fund with 14CJA funds.
    - 1) E-SCARS program for availability to counties throughout the state. Kathleen Cady will reach work with Los Angeles County representatives about the development of a new program and RFP.
    - 2) Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy. The proposal for funding previously submitted was not decided upon during the December 2014 Task Force meeting. Michelle Mahon will reach out to Sue Webber-Brown regarding a potential funding request to be considered at the June 2015 Task Force meeting.
    - 3) Child Welfare training to County Counsels throughout the State. CDAA currently provides Child Welfare Training to District Attorneys statewide. Would like to determine if CDAA would deliver their Child Welfare training to local County Counsels on a regional or statewide basis, if provided additional funding to do so.
  - e. Some current FY 2014/2015 CJA-funded programs in their final funding year may present requests for extensions for an additional year. These requests will be collected by Cal OES staff and shall be discussed at the June 2015 Task Force meeting.
  - f. 14CJA funds expire on September 30, 2016.
  - g. Discussion on allocation of unallocated 2014 CJA funds will be determined at the June 2015 task force meeting.

## **VI. Cal OES UPDATES**

- A. Sonia Banales presented the following Cal OES agency updates.
  1. The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding cap was increased by the federal government. It is anticipated that the VOCA will provide a one-time \$150 million funding increase. These funds will last for three fiscal years.
    - a. Cal OES currently received approximately \$50 million in VOCA funding.
    - b. Cal OES working on forming an advisory group for VOCA funding to determine funding recommendations.
    - c. The VOCA funds will include another \$2.5 million specific to training for victim services.
  2. Assembly Bill 2321 which was chaptered into law in 2014, calls for a specialized vehicle license plate to raise awareness on domestic violence and sexual assault. Cal OES is tasked with the implementation of the specialty license plate program. Author Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez approved use of "No More" (domestic violence and sexual assault) campaign logo for specialized license plates. Cal OES in process of memorandum of understanding between Cal OES and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

3. Human Trafficking of Minors program expecting an additional \$700-\$750 thousand in funding
  4. Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) program was just finalized grant award to work with advocates to provide training for correctional officers. This program is mandated by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
  5. The federal Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audit with Cal OES Victim Services is still ongoing. OIG will have another site visit with Cal OES.
  6. Cal OES is launching its new agency website on in April 2015.
  7. Cal OES is reviewing and working on the implementation for the OMB Super Circular changes from December 2014 regarding administration and management of federal funds.
- B. Cal OES Victim Services Division updates
1. Michelle Mahon provided CJA-funded program updates. All of the updates for the programs were provided in the Task Force meeting packets. These updates were provided by the Cal OES staff overseeing the respective programs.
  2. Five of the nine funded programs are in their only or final year of funding. Recipients may present requests for additional year of program funding. These requests will be discussed at the June 2015 Task Force meeting.
  3. Statewide MDIC Coordinator (MD) Program is currently in the process of entering into contract with agency awarded the Statewide Coordinator Position contract. Recipient Center for Innovative Resources (CIR) went through a competitive process for a contractor. The Madera Child Abuse Prevention Council was selected as the subcontract for the Statewide Coordinator. Concerns about the contract not going to the Child Advocacy Centers of California (CACC) since they are the group that already collects and reports data to the national association. Following the RFP process by CIR, the CACC proposal did not score as well and the contract was awarded to Madera Child Abuse Prevention Council accordingly. Cal OES may confer with CIR to determine they will meet the requirements for the grant.

## **VII. FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION (FPPC) STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST (FORM 700)**

- A. All current CJA Task Force members are required to file an FPPC Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) for calendar year 2014, under current regulations.
- B. The Form 700 documents are due by April 1, 2015. Task Force members were asked to submit their completed Statement of Economic Interest to Cal OES by March 25, 2015, to ensure they are all collected in a timely manner.

## **VIII. CHILDREN'S BUREAU UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES**

- A. Federal Children's Bureau updates (Michelle Mahon)
  1. Program Instruction/Availability for 2015 Funding was issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children, Youth and Families, on March 9, 2015
  2. Anticipated funding for California for FFY 2015 is \$1,798,302.

3. The CJA National Conference will be held on June 10-11, 2015, in Washington, DC
- B. Children's Bureau Region IX updates (Michelle Mahon)
  1. Cal OES continuing to participate in quarterly conference calls with the region.
  2. Janine Williams is still a part of the quarterly calls to advise on the three-year reporting process.

#### **IX. STATEWIDE COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES**

- A. Michelle Mahon presented the opportunities for collaboration
  1. CA Department of Social Services-Office on Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP)
    - a. Per a recent webinar with federal Children's Bureau, the topic of Children Family Services Reports (CFSRs) was addressed. The potential of cross-section with State agency responsible for CFSRs and CJA was identified.
    - b. Lee Ann Kelly advised that the current contact person with CDSS responsible for CA CFR is Ellie Jones.
  2. CA Victim's Compensation Program (CalVCP)
    - a. Cal OES has begun meeting with CalVCP regarding implementation of victim services grants
    - b. Cal VCP has begun administering some victim service grants
  3. CA Attorney General's Office – Bureau of Children's Justice
    - a. The CA Attorney General recently created an Bureau of Children's Justice
    - b. Cal OES has contacted office of Special Assistant regarding collaborative opportunities. The office is very new and getting organized. They will be in touch with Cal OES once they are up and running.
- B. Cal OES was also advised by the Task Force to connect with the Statewide Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault (SAC) regarding programs they oversee.

#### **X. MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. Future CJA Task Force Meeting Dates for 2015
  - June 26, 2015 in Sacramento
  - September 18, 2015 in San Diego
  - December 11, 2015 in Sacramento
- B. Task Force is still in need of a representative from law enforcement. Michelle Mahon will send the solicitation letter out to Task Force members, so they can recommend potential candidate(s) for this vacancy.
- C. Cal OES was requested to confirm that the photographs for the Child Abuse Identification Training (IT) Program, posted on the Prevent Child Abuse in California website were removed as requested by the CJA Task Force.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.