



## **CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT (CJA) TASK FORCE MEETING**

**Friday, March 10, 2017  
9:30 a.m.**

**330 West Broadway, Room 363B, San Diego, California 92101**

CJA Task Force Members Present: Harry Elias, Catherine Stephenson, Jasmine Adams, Kathleen Cady, Deborah Davis, Elizabeth DeRouen, Rachel Gilgoff, Michael Grogan, Garry Ichikawa; Lee Ann Kelly, Annie Lynn, Michael Newman, Candice Pierce, Richard Ruiz, Susan Torrence, Edwin Weaver

State CANRA Liaison Program Representative Present: Kelly Winston

Cal OES Staff Present: Sonia Banales, Michelle Mahon

CJA Task Force Members Absent: (Leigh) David Casey, Brandi Lockhart, Wendy Wright

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**

- Meeting called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Harry Elias
- Introduction of new Task Force member Deborah Davis, representing the "Individual Experienced in Working with Children with Disabilities" discipline.

#### **II. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2016 MEETING**

- Motion to approve the December 9, 2016, CJA Task Force meeting minutes as presented.  
Motion: Garry Ichikawa  
Second: Catherine Stephenson  
Discussion: None  
Motion passed 13-0-0 (Lee Ann Kelly, Richard Ruiz and Susan Torrence not present during vote)

#### **III. CAL OES UPDATES**

Cal OES Victim Services and Public Safety Branch Chief Sonia Banales presented the following updates:

- Monitors from the Cal OES Grants Monitoring Division have been assigned and relocated to the Victim Services and Public Safety Branch
- The Cal OES 2017 Subrecipient Handbook has been released, with updates and revisions for guidelines and requirements related to management and implementation of Cal OES funded subgrants
- State Victim Witness Assistance funds have been cut, per the Governor's proposed budget
- State funding for Homeless Youth and Human Trafficking allocated to increase access to services for these victim populations

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funds may be possibly eliminated by the federal government
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding updates
  - To date, 13 new programs and 248 new projects have been created with 2015 VOCA funds
  - With 2016 VOCA funds, previously-existing programs were expanded with additional projects, funding approximately 12-13 Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) projects, and creating seven new programs which include programs to fund Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Tribal Court Advocate projects

#### **IV. CJA FUNDING STATUS**

Cal OES Federal Funds Administrator Michelle Mahon presented the following funding updates:

- 2015 CJA Funds
  - \$200,000 in 2015 funds currently available. These funds were allocated to fund an urban county for the Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report Program. The program did not receive an urban county proposal for its competitive Request for Proposal released in January.
  - 2015 CJA funds will expire on September 30, 2017
- 2016 CJA Funds
  - Approximately \$358,545 in 2016 CJA funds are unallocated to date
  - 2016 CJA funds will expire on September 30, 2018
- Solicitation for 2017 CJA funds was released at the beginning of March. CJA allocation for California is \$1,788,427. Application for 2017 CJA funds is due on May 31, 2017

#### **V. Cal OES CJA-FUNDED PROGRAMS UPDATES**

- Native American Children Training Forum (CF) Program
  - CF project completed its fourth year performance period on February 28, 2017. The project received a five-month extension to their fiscal year 2015-16 project due to unforeseen delays with having their grant signed into subaward
  - For the fiscal year 2015-16 project, CF program subrecipient National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) completed its program objectives
  - Project is currently in their fifth and final performance period
  - Performance period is October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017
  - NIJC is requesting continuation of CJA funding for this project
- Children's Justice Act Evaluator (CJ) Program
  - For the fiscal year 2015-16 performance period, CJ program subrecipient Northwest Professional Consultants (NPC) completed the implementation of the web-based data information collection and sharing project for the two current Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (EV) Program projects
  - NPC completed a Data Manual and provided technical assistance throughout the performance period to ensure cross-agency information sharing and multi-agency coordination as required under the program, as well as the ability to monitor the progress of the EV projects
- Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (EV) Program
  - Both EV program subrecipients, Napa Police Department and Citrus Heights Police Department, worked with NPC to implement the secure web-based information sharing database program for their projects
  - The database program has allowed for increased tracking and coordination of domestic violence cases where children are involved/exposed
  - The enhanced information sharing platform has allowed for improved coordination and response to domestic violence cases and call-outs where children are present

- Both projects also continue to facilitate and attend multidisciplinary team meetings to ensure coordinated efforts and case tracking in order to meet the needs of children involved with domestic violence cases and incidents
- Family Court Evaluator (FC) Program
  - The FC project is completing the research and development for the survey to be disseminated to family court judges statewide
  - They collaborated with CJA Task Force members Harry Elias and Garry Ichikawa on a sample audience of family court judges to review the survey and provide feedback
  - FC program subrecipient Sunrise Community Counseling Center (SCCC) and its subcontracted evaluator, Dr. Howard Padwa, anticipate finalizing the survey and disseminating statewide later this Spring
  - The non-competitive Request for Application is being released for SCCC to apply for a second year of funding to continue and complete the project. The second year performance period will be March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018
- Child Abuse Identification Health Care Provider Training (IT) Program
  - IT project is currently in their fifth and final performance period. Performance period for the current fiscal year is October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017
  - Program subrecipient Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ) reported that 1,110 healthcare professionals have completed the online training course developed and offered under this program
  - The online training is available to not only physicians, but to nurses, social workers, midwives and medical assistants who provide physical examinations and assessments on children
  - Project continues to market the training statewide to various medical associations and societies, to try and reach focus audiences of non-pediatrician healthcare providers and medical providers in rural areas to undergo the training to increase knowledge of identifying and handling cases of children who are physically abused
  - IMQ is requesting continuation of CJA funding for this project
- Statewide Multidisciplinary Interview Centers Coordinator (MD) Program
  - MD project completed its final performance period, which ended on December 31, 2016
  - Over the calendar year 2016, project conducted 12 regional meetings throughout the State
  - A copy of the 2015 report on the survey to CACs and MDTs conducted by subrecipient, Center for Innovation and Resources, was requested by the CJA Task Force
- Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Report System (E-SCARS) Program
  - Cal OES released the Request for Proposal (RFP) in January 2017. The RFP called for funding one urban county project and two rural/suburban county projects
  - Cal OES received two proposals, both from suburban counties
  - Both proposals met minimum qualifications and scoring criteria, and are being recommended for funding
  - The first year performance period for the E-SCARS projects is January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017. The projects will be funded for three performance periods
  - CJA Task Force will identify resources to expand upon outreach to promote the E-SCARS program and determine if, how and when another RFP to solicit proposals for an urban project will be released
- Training on Prosecution of Physical and Sexual Abuse of Children (PX) Program
  - The RFA for this program is being released to subrecipient California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) by mid-March

- The performance period for the fiscal year 2016-17 PX project is March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2017
- CDAA will collaborate with the County Counsels Association of California regarding the development of county counsel specific training needs, and regarding the outreach to county counsels regarding the trainings scheduled during the performance period
- CDAA intends to works towards facilitating cross-training and improved coordination between deputy district attorneys and county counsels regard the prosecution of child physical and sexual abuse cases
- CDAA has also identified the need to update training in the area of Child Abusive Head Trauma training due to new defense counsel strategies and arguments from new data in this area

## VI. PROPOSED PROGRAMS/PROJECTS FOR CJA FUNDING

- Request for additional funding for the PX Program
  - CDAA submitted a request for additional funding to update and develop a comprehensive training on Child Abuse Head Trauma for deputy district attorneys and county counsels prosecuting these cases in court
  - Development and provision of this training is needed to ensure prepared and successful prosecution of these cases against new defense counsel strategies which have arisen due to new or current data on these types of injuries
  - Base requested funding is \$25,000 for the development and provision of trainings. If additional funding is available, CDAA has also proposed to purchase model equipment and tactical materials to be used for demonstration at the trainings, and to be disseminated to each county (district attorney and county counsel offices) throughout the state
  - Motion to approve the allocation of additional 2015 CJA funds in the amount of \$25,000 or more as needed, to the fiscal year 2015-2016 PX program to support the training and prosecution of child abusive head trauma cases  
 Motion: Catherine Stephenson  
 Second: Lee Ann Kelly  
 Discussion: CDAA to provide a cost for purchasing model equipment and other training/prosecution material needed. The models, diagrams and other tactical materials to be disseminated to the respective counties should be provided after the prosecutors from these counties have participated in the new training  
 Motion passed 14-0-0
- Request for continued funding for PX Program
  - CDAA submitted a request for continuation of PX Program funding for four additional years, for \$25,000 funding for each performance period. Total request is \$100,000 over four years
  - The additional program years will enable CDAA to ensure provision of trainings to county counsels statewide, and to support increased cross-training and coordination between district attorney and counsel offices on prosecution of child physical and sexual abuse cases
  - Motion to approve continued funding for the PX Program for four additional years as requested by CDAA  
 Motion: Garry Ichikawa  
 Second: Catherine Stephenson  
 Discussion: None  
 Motion passed 14-0-0

- Request for continued funding for CF Program
  - CF Program Subrecipient National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) submitted a request for continuation of program funding for five years, at \$300,000 per year
  - NIJC would like to continue to establish new hub sites for information technology equipment and training resources within tribal/native communities statewide. They also intend to develop or update training curriculum and provide trainings on Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) regulations and updates, various other child welfare issues for social workers and advocates in tribal/native communities, information technology training, and tribal court programs and processes
  - The CJA Task Force requested more information related to the measurable outcomes and impacts of the CF Program, in order to determine if the proposed objectives for funding are sufficient or if there should be other or additional focus areas of needs for native/tribal communities
  - Discussion to consider the continuation of CF Program funding was tabled until additional requested information is ascertained
- Request for continued funding for IT Program
  - IT Program Subrecipient Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ) submitted a request for continuation of program funding for one year, at the same funding level of \$140,150
  - IMQ is proposing to continue or expand upon outreach to medical societies in local counties or specific ethnic groups, in order to drive participation in the online training to more specific groups (including rural) of healthcare providers
  - The CJA Task Force requested more information related to the objectives, measurable outcomes and impacts to justify the requested continued funding for the IT program
  - Discussion to consider the continuation of IT Program funding was tabled until additional information and determination are ascertained
- Recommended additional components for Children's Justice Act Evaluator (CJ) Program
  - The CJA Task Force discussed CJ Program Subrecipient Northwest Professional Consortium, Inc. (NPC) about conducting evaluations for the CF and IT programs to assist with gathering the requested information needed to make determinations for continued funding and/or the addition or shifting of focus areas or components for these projects
  - Cal OES was requested to contact NPC about determining a timeline and budget for conducting the requested evaluations and analyses for the CF and IT programs so the CJA Task Force can make determinations regarding these programs or focus areas at their next meeting
  - Motion to approve the allocation of 2015 CJA funds in the amount to be determined, to the fiscal year 2015-16 CJ program to conduct the requested additional evaluations for the CF and IT programs  
 Motion: Susan Torrence  
 Second: Candice Pierce  
 Discussion: If there is funding and resources available, Cal OES could also find out if NPC could provide assistance with developing outreach resources and measures for the ES Program to generate increase in program applicants  
 Motion passed 14-0-0

## VII. CJA TASK FORCE 3-YEAR REPORT

- The draft of the report, inclusive of the revisions made following the December 2016 CJA Task Force meeting, was reviewed

- Final draft of the report, with minor recommended changes, will be disseminated to the Task Force for review and approval by early April

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

- National CJA SLO Meeting was just tentatively set for August 10-11, 2017, in Arlington, VA.
- Solicitation for 2017 CJA Funds was released on March 1, 2017. 2017 funding allocation for California is tentatively \$1,788,427

#### **IX. CJA TASK FORCE VACANCIES**

- Child Protective Services Agency Representative
  - Two candidates submitted for interest to fill this vacancy
  - More information and discussion regarding these candidates are needed
  - Consideration and vote on the selection of one candidate to select for the Child Protective Services Agency representative tabled until the June 2017 CJA Task Force meeting
- Parent/Parent Group Representative
  - One candidate submitted for interest to fill this vacancy
  - More information and discussion regarding the candidate and vacancy
  - Vote on the approval of the Parent/Parent Group Representative candidate tabled until the June 2017 CJA Task Force meeting
- Cal OES has been contacted by candidates for the Law Enforcement (Northern/Central California) Representative and Children's Defense Counsel Representative vacancies. Both candidates were unable to submit their formal resumes and interest letters prior to this meeting, but expect to submit for consideration at the June 2017 CJA Task Force meeting
- Recommendation was made to begin solicitation to fill the County Counsel representation seat which will soon be vacated by David Casey

#### **X. STATEWIDE COLLABORATION**

- Cal OES working with Cal VCB on outreach regarding compensation and services for victims
- No updates to report from Department of Social Services or Attorney General's Office

#### **XI. MISCELLANEOUS**

- CJA Task Force discussed identifying the need to develop a program to support statewide training on early identification on vulnerable children, especially Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) victims
- Discussion to address or learn more about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) studies to identify developing programs integrating this study to support systemic improvement for child abuse and neglect cases
- Upcoming CJA Task Force Meetings
  - Friday, June 9, 2017, in Sacramento
  - Friday, September 8, 2017, in San Diego
  - Friday, December 8, 2017, in Sacramento

#### **XII. ACTION ITEMS**

- Cal OES will reach out to West Coast Clinic for Children (in Berkeley) about presenting on their work related to early identification of vulnerable children, at the June 2017 CJA Task Force meeting in Sacramento

#### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.