



CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE

Friday, September 25, 2015

10:30 a.m.

San Diego County Hall of Justice

330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Phone participant call-in number: (916) 262-3289

Members Present: Harry Elias (Chair), Catherine Stephenson (Co-Chair), David Casey, Elizabeth DeRouen, Tina Garcia, Rachel Gilgoff, Michael Grogan, Garry Ichikawa, Lee Ann Kelly, Brandi Moore, Susan Torrence, Edwin Weaver, Tina Williams,

Members Absent: Mark Bontrager, Kathleen Cady, Annie Lynn, Candy Pierce, Richard Ruiz, Cristina Sanchez, Wendy Wright

Cal OES Staff Present: Sonia Banales, Michelle Mahon

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m., by Task Force Chair Harry Elias

II. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM JULY 24, 2015 MEETING

Motion to approve the July 24, 2015 meeting minutes as presented

Motion: David Casey

Second: Edwin Weaver

Discussion: None

Motion approved: 7-0-4 (*Garry Ichikawa, Rachel Gilgoff, Elizabeth DeRouen and David Casey abstained*)

III. Cal OES UPDATES

A. Sonia Banales provided recent Cal OES agency updates

1. Cal OES currently in activation and deployment status for agency staff and resources in response to the Northern California fires
2. Grace Koch has been appointed Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, which oversees Cal OES Grants Management

B. Cal OES Victim Services Division updates

1. Leigh Bills has been promoted to Chief of the Victim Services Division
2. Currently in process of selecting a new Domestic Violence Unit Supervisor
3. Ed Giacomelli, a program specialist with the Victim Witness Unit, passed away in late August
4. Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding
 - a. Cal OES received funding increase from approximately \$51 million to approximately \$233 million for 2015 federal fiscal year
 - b. Cal OES has convened a VOCA Steering Committee comprised of representatives from various victim services areas and disciplines to address VOCA funding recommendations
 - c. VOCA Steering Committee met in August and early September

- d. Through collaboration between Cal OES and the VOCA Steering Committee, gaps in services and focus areas/populations have been identified
- e. The Victim Services Division is submitting a 2015 VOCA funding allocation plan for approval by the Cal OES Director
- f. Plan includes increase and enhancements to existing programs
- g. Recommendations for new programs or focus areas for victim services
- h. Cal OES expects to hire limited term staff due to increased programs and projects to be funded
- i. Needs and guidance regarding the allocation of the one-time, separate \$2.7 million VOCA Discretionary Grant Training Program is also being address by the VOCA Steering Committee
- 5. Cal OES is regularly meeting and collaborating where possible with the California Victims Compensation Program (Cal VCP). This collaboration is also a requirement in the VOCA program guidelines
- 6. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding
 - a. Slight increase in VAWA funding is expected. The increase amount is unknown at this time
 - b. Cal OES will be revamping the VAWA Implementation Committee with appointment of new members. This committee is required under the VAWA funding guidelines. New committee will address funding requirements and make recommendations for allocation of VAWA funding
- 7. An exit interview regarding the audit with the federal Office of the Inspector General is scheduled at the end of September. The audit has been going on for three years
- 8. Cal OES received one-time state funding for Human Trafficking victim services. Funding will be allocated via competitive Request for Proposal process, for up to \$1 million for a two-year period. Funds will be awarded to community-based organizations to provide shelter and supportive services to victims of human trafficking.
- 9. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- 10. Strategic planning for statewide victim services funding
 - a. Cal OES will develop a strategic plan to address victim services funding in California
 - b. The strategic plan will be developed with input from the advisory groups and task forces with whom Cal OES collaborates
 - c. CJA Task Force will be one of the groups asked to provide input for the strategic plan

IV. CAL OES CJA-FUNDED PROGRAMS UPDATES

- A. Child Abduction Training (AC) Program
 - 1. Program has completed its program objectives. A number of trainings and outreach activities were conducted between Aug-Sep
 - 2. Project has worked on updating the Child Abduction Task Force website and has seen an increase in visits to the site. Site is a resource for professionals working with child abduction cases.
 - 3. Program in its sixth and final year of CJA funding.
 - 4. Funding recommendation to integrate the CJA Task Force-approved Child Abduction Simulator training component, and to extend the program's grant award end date to 9/30/16, is pending approval by Cal OES Admin
 - a. Review letter/update from Child Abduction Task Force
 - 1) Child abduction figures reported didn't include homeless youth

- 2) Previously reported sum of 1,900 reflects only for one type of child abduction
 - 3) All materials to be accessible and utilized from a mobile site.
 - b. Child Abduction Task Force is currently working on 2015 report which will be finalized by early 2016.
- B. Native America Children Training Forum (CF) Program
1. Despite delays with updating training curricula due to law changes, project has completed all of its updates and conducted its trainings over the summer
 2. Memorandums of Understanding and technology purchases/installations were completed with four new tribal sites and two new regional sites
 3. Project in its third year of funding. Had been previously approved for five years
- C. Children's Justice Act Evaluator (CJ) Program
1. Project had some challenges with procuring a subcontractor to develop the web-based data collection system for the Children Exposed to Domestic Violence program
 2. However, project expects to contract with a company for the database development, revise the data collection instruments and draft two new ones, develop an evaluation plan for the next cohort of grantees. Project had already conducted site visits and done dozens of interviews, and coded/entered a ton of data for the EV program
 3. Program currently in its third year, but is extended for the purposes of completing and implementing the EV database
- D. Children Exposed to Domestic Violence (EV) Program
1. Both projects are meeting their programmatic objectives and goals
 2. Currently in their third year of funding. Were extended to five years, primarily for the purpose of being the pilot projects for the data collection system being developed under the CJ program
- E. Human Trafficking of Minors: Law Enforcement Training (HM) Program
1. Program in its final year of funding
 2. Cal OES has granted the recipient an extension of the grant award end date to 11/30/15, to enable them to provide additional trainings (approximately 3-4 months) to spend down the funds. Trainings are being planned for September to November
- F. Child Abuse Identification Health Care Provider Training (IT) Program
1. Program in nearing the end of its first year of three-year funding cycle
 2. Despite late start of being put into award, program recipient Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ) has successfully rewritten the training software and integrated the program onto their servers
 3. IMQ has marketed widely to Registered Nurses and non-pediatrician Medical Doctors
 4. Will be expending the remainder of current funds on marketing to increase training participation
 5. In response to an inquiry by the Task Force at its 7/24/15 meeting, the training under the IT program completely removed from Prevent Child Abuse California website, and is now exclusively housed only on IMQ site/server
- G. Child Advocacy Studies (IV) Program
1. Program is at the end of its one-year funding cycle
 2. Program recipient Alliant University was under the impression that the CJA Task Force was interested in funding their Mock House training for additional years beyond just one year.
 3. Final Module 2 and 3 trainings under this program are scheduled to take place end of September at Alliant University in San Diego
 4. Training will not be POST certified before the end of the grant period.

5. Concerns of this program included training participants from out of state or retired professionals. Recipient indicated this occurred at their earlier trainings when marketing materials were non-specific, and they updated their training advertisements and screened participants to ensure they are from within the state of California. They have also been able to reach multiple disciplines in the state to participate in the Mock House training.
 6. CJA Task Force requested a copy of the training advertisement so they could see which disciplines and areas were being reached
- H. Statewide Multidisciplinary Interview Centers Coordinator (MD) Program
1. Program is in its third year of three-year funding cycle.
 2. Project was granted one additional year funding at 7/25/15 Task Force Meeting
 3. Recipient had concerns will being able to implement objectives and expend funds in nine months since they were funded with 2014 CJA funds which expire on 9/30/15. Cal OES split-funded the program with 2014 and 2015 CJA funds, to enable a full 12-month grant period to complete remaining program objectives. Fiscal year 2015 grant period will be 1/1/16 to 12/31/16
- I. Training on Prosecution of Physical/Sexual Abuse of Children (PX) Program
1. Program is in its fourth year of five-year funding cycle
 2. Training objectives under this program have been met
 3. Update of Child Abuse Compendium reference guide for prosecutors was completed, and is posted on CDAA website
 4. There is no database development component in this program. That information was erroneously pasted onto their program update submitted by Cal OES staff in July
 5. In response to a question from the Task Force regarding the “database development” component reported in the program update at the 7/24/15 Task Force meeting, the “database development” objective noted in this program summary at July meeting was included in error. There is no database component in this program

V. CJA FUNDING STATUS

Michelle Mahon provided updates on Children’s Justice Act (CJA) funding

- A. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 CJA funds
1. At the July 24, 2015 CJA Task Force Meeting, all remaining 2014 CJA funds were recommended for allocation by the Task Force.
 2. The funding recommendation to allocate the remaining 2014 CJA funds in the process of being approved within Cal OES
 3. To the AC Program (Child Abduction Simulator training), MD Program (one additional/final year of funding) and new Family Court Evaluator Program
- B. FFY 2015 CJA funds
1. Award letter for 2015 CJA funds was recently received
 2. Allocation for 2015 is \$1,798,301
 3. Internal recommendation for Cal OES to accept award is in progress
 4. Performance Period for 2015 CJA funds is October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2017

VI. CJA FUNDING REQUESTS AND PROPOSED PROGRAMS

1. Discussion of previously-submitted program proposals
 1. Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reporting System (E-SCARS)
 - a. Conference call was held on September 2, 2015
 - b. Participants included Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (LA DCFS), California Department of Social Services (DSS), CJA Task Force subcommittee members Tina Garcia, Richard Ruiz and Kathy Cady, and Cal OES staff

- c. DSS currently in process of updating the statewide Child Welfare System/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) program. Should be completed/implemented by 2019
 - d. LA DCFS provided background and overview of ESCARS
 - e. DSS found no conflict with ESCARS and their CWS/CMS system being updated
 - f. LA DCFS has no problem with sharing ESCARS with other counties, as they have shared programs/technology with other counties in the past
 - g. Cal OES was unable to determine the exact cost for sharing/integration and maintenance for ESCARS. Will need to meet with LA DCFS to get specifics on costs in order to develop RFP for ESCARS.
 - 2. All other previously-submitted proposals will be held over for discussion and consideration after 2015 CJA funds have been received
- B. Status on development of programs recommended for CJA funding
 - 1. Family Court Improvement Evaluator program
 - a. Cal OES conferred with CJA Task Force subcommittee on August 20, 2015, for guidance in developing the Family Court Evaluator program
 - b. Cal OES spoke with Judicial Council regarding their input about proposed program and current laws/funding surrounding minor's counsel in Family Court
 - c. Judicial Council had no problems with the Family Court Evaluator Program and are willing to consult with evaluator on survey/outreach to Family Court judges
 - d. Judicial Council concurred that there is no funding for minor's counsel in Family Court. Only for Juvenile Dependency Court. They are currently in process of advocating for additional funding for minor's counsel in JDC to reduce caseloads.
 - e. Draft Request for Proposal was prepared by Cal OES and reviewed by Task Force. Cal OES will make requested changes and will run these by the CJA Task Force subcommittee before submitting for approval by Cal OES Administration
- C. Other issues and ideas for potential CJA funding
 - 1. Risk assessment for homeless youth
 - a. Edwin Weaver raised the issue of risk assessments by law enforcement patrol officers of homeless youth
 - b. Address protocol to enhance tracking and case management
 - c. Collection of identifying information on homeless youth, similar to what is used in missing child cases. There is currently no legal authority to use photographic identification collected on homeless youth case subjects
 - 2. County Counsel Training on the prosecution and handling of child abuse and child sexual abuse
 - a. David Casey indicated that the California County Counsels Association does not have any resources for training on child abuse, neglect and child sexual abuse
 - b. Training on recognizing physical abuse and cross-examination in court cases involved child abuse is needed for County Counsels
 - c. Would like similar trainings used by California District Attorneys Association on prosecution on child abuse and child sexual abuse
 - d. Concept paper to be submitted for funding County Counsel training on recognition and prosecution of child abuse and child sexual abuse cases

VII. CHILDREN'S BUREAU UPDATES AND ACTIVITIES

- A. Federal Children's Bureau updates
 - 1. Last scheduled quarterly meeting was cancelled
 - 2. National State Liaison Officers meeting tentatively being scheduled for Fall 2016 in Washington, DC. Children's Bureau will send out notice when date and location are confirmed.
- B. Children's Bureau Region IX updates
 - 1. No updates as there hasn't been regional conference call in past 4 months
 - 2. Future conference call has not yet been scheduled

VIII. STATEWIDE COLLABORATION

- A. CA Department of Social Services (DSS)
 - 1. Cal OES has met with DSS regarding ESCARS and other collaborative opportunities
 - 2. Kelly Winston, Chief of the DSS Policy Development and Program Development Bureau in attendance to report current DSS matters which would be pertinent to CJA issues
 - a. Updated federal regulation changes regarding tracking of children in foster care. DSS rolling out updating to their system to track data points needed by federal requirements
 - b. DSS is also overseeing implementation of regulations and policies to addresses cases of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
 - 3. State Child Family Services Plan (CFSP) and annual Child Family Services Report (CFSR)
 - a. The CSFP, which covers the period of 2015-2019, addresses five major priorities related to child welfare in the state
 - b. CJA program guidelines now include requirement for state Task Force to be knowledgeable of its state's work under its CFSP and CFSRs to identify potential relevance and connection with CJA-funded activities and programs
 - c. Cal OES to coordinate with DSS to present an overview of the state's CFSP and/or current CFSR at an upcoming CJA Task Force meeting
- B. CA Victim's Compensation Program (CalVCP)
 - 1. Cal VCP held its first of two regional conferences, entitled "Strategic Collaborations for Reaching Underserved Victims of Crime," on September 23, 2015, in Davis, CA. The second conference for the southern region will be held at UCLA on October 8, 2015
 - 2. Cal OES continues to meet with CalVCP staff to identify collaborative projects and outreach to the victim services field
- C. CA Department of Justice/Office of the Attorney General (DOJ) - Bureau of Children's Justice
 - 1. Cal OES met with Lisa Kohn, Special Deputy Attorney General with the Bureau of Children's Justice
 - 2. Lisa is overseeing the statewide coordination and implementation of the federal Defending Childhood Initiative which was written in 2012
 - 3. California one of three states granted funds to implement the Defending Childhood Initiative measures.
 - 4. Initiative aimed at reducing children's exposure, or the effects of exposure, to violence, and to provide linkages to services/systems to minimize trauma or exposure to violence
 - 5. Cal OES will coordinate with DOJ to give a presentation on the Defending Childhood Initiative and other current children's justice issues overseen by DOJ

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Current CJA Task Force vacancies
 - 1. Law Enforcement representative from Northern or Central CA
 - 2. Professional working with Children with Disabilities. Melinda Furfuro recently submitted her resignation
- B. Bagley-Keene Act regarding Public Meeting requirements
 - 1. Per the Act, In order for Task Force members to participate in the member capacity by telephone, their location from where they are calling must be included in the public meeting notice in order to allow for public access to the location(s). Member can only participate as a member of the public if their location is not made public
 - 2. If there is participation by telephone, a roll call must be conducted for each vote
- C. Michelle Mahon will work on developing formal CJA Task Force bylaws, based on the Member Expectations updated in 2011, and other standard bylaw language. Will present a draft for Task Force review and approval at a future meeting
- D. Conference on Children Exposed to Domestic is being presented by the Citrus Heights Police Department in November. The conference is free, and will take place in Folsom, CA. Ms. Mahon will forward the conference flyer to the CJA Task Force via email to share with interested participants

X. ACTION ITEMS

- A. The "Response to Human Trafficking of Minors" video by Community Services Programs, under the HM program grant, was not received by mail prior to this meeting. Will have available to air at December CJA Task Force meeting
- B. Future CJA Task Force meetings
 - 1. Friday, December 11, 2015, in Sacramento
 - 2. Friday, March 11, 2016, in San Diego
 - 3. Friday, June 10, 2016, in Sacramento

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm