

Oregon Children's Justice Act Task Force

~ *Fact Sheet* ~

- The primary role of the task force is the assessment of the broad child welfare system in Oregon for the purpose of developing recommendations related to the improvement of the system and monitoring the implementation of those recommendations.
- The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requires task force to include members representing the following disciplines: law enforcement, judges, attorneys, child advocates, health and mental health professionals, child protective services professionals, child disability specialists, and parent group representation. Members are appointed by the Assistant Director, Children, Adults and Families, Department of Human Services.
- The task force serves in an advisory capacity to the Department of Human Services, Children, Adults and Families regarding the distribution of CJA funds. The task force is a sub-committee of, and reports through, the Child Welfare Advisory Committee, a statutorily required committee that advises CAF on the development and administration of the policies, programs and practices of the office.
- Historically, the task force has been instrumental in the passage of legislation including exception to hearsay, increased penalties for offenders and the murder by abuse statute. The CJA task force has also been crucial to the development of county multidisciplinary teams and the development and implementation of facilities that provide comprehensive assessment, advocacy and treatment services to the victims of child abuse.