

**OREGON CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE  
FULL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Friday, October 3, 2008

Location: HSB – Room 166

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT ( 11 ):** Shary Mason-Chairperson, Kevin Dowling, Robin Wright (by phone), Suzy Isham (left at 12:05), Judge Lorenzo Mejia, Stacy Liskey, Debra Markham (arr at 9:35), Becky Smith (arr at 9:30), Judge Douglas Van Dyk, Steve Atchison, Teri Shultz, (left at 11:00)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED: ( 7 ):** Steve Brinlee, Steve Duvall, Mark Held, Margaret Semple, Judge Alta J. Brady, Don Darland, and Amy Miller

**MEMBERS UNEXCUSED: ( 2 ):** Matthew Pearl and Stacey Ayers (attended 11:30 to Noon)

**DHS STAFF PRESENT ( 2 ):** Heather Mowry and Michelle Weber

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Shary Mason at 9:10 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions. Steve Brinlee has taken Philip Cox’s place on the CJA Task Force Committee.

**July 11, 2008 Draft Minutes**

Corrections-

- Page 2; last bullet under “Statewide Assessment and Priority Recommendations”; replace Amy Miller’s name with Robin Wright.

Becky Smith made a motion to approve the Minutes with the above correction; Stacy Liskey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Action Item:** Task Force members are requesting that future Minutes be condensed.

**Strategic Planning for Children’s Safety Subcommittee, and-  
Governor’s Meth Task Force**  
**Presented by Shary Mason**

(See handout – Barrier Busters/Work Plan)

Shary provided background on the Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee.

Shary attended a meeting of the Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force, shared the work of this subcommittee with them, and learned about the work they are doing. She asked for their input as to what they see as critical needs in Oregon. Following are suggestions and/or key points of discussion:

- produce a video on understanding addiction and get several TV/radio stations to air it at the same time
- have more summits, where communities take ownership of the problem
- Oregon Research Institute has a web-based assessment that links data to strategies for communities
- host business community summit(s); (invite speakers like Alan Evans, who is a recovering addict and works with housing and employment issues in Lincoln County or folks from the Chamber of Commerce)
- provide training and public awareness (Karen Wheeler, DHS trainer, offered to partner)
- educate and involve judges and DAs (i.e., replicate Judge Abernethy's 0-3 Attachment Court. Minnesota has a Supreme Court Task Force)
- engage doctors
- develop a tool kit or desk reference
- support DHS POPs related to addictions
- engage the faith community
- sell our efforts to champions who are willing to take on the work
- engage key people who will work to carry out the community action plans
- develop housing resources for individuals who are going through drug treatment
  - Section 8 vouchers
  - private sector properties
  - Marion County has a housing representative on their drug court team
- develop employment resources for individuals who are going through drug treatment
  - there is a new job developer position in Marion County Sheriff's office to work with the business community that includes mentors who function much like mentors who work with youth

- develop a data base to track purchases of ingredients used in the manufacturing of meth (people living in border cities are purchasing in more than one state)

The Governor's Meth Task Force shared names of business leaders who were willing to work with us on getting business involved in our summits. Shary was able to contact them and has connected PSU with these folks.

**Action Item:** Obtain a copy of the replication report (Guido Caldarazzo Meth Task Force) from Marion County

**Action Item:** Make map of the counties we have had summits in.

**Action Item:** Can we pose these questions to Katharine Cahn about how to create a template for summits or other projects to get folks engaged?

Shary shared Katharine Cahn's report to the Strategic Planning for Child Safety sub-committee and suggestions for next projects. The committee decided to sponsor 4 more summits, provide funds for follow-up to find out what action plans were carried out and what worked, distill that into best practice and have a statewide summit prior to the next legislative session.

### **State Fatality Review Team – Presented by Lisa Millet**

Because we are in the process of our Three-Year Statewide Assessment and developing our Priority Recommendations, we asked Lisa Millet to:

- speak about the current status of the State Fatality Review Team
- talk about whether we are meeting Statute, and-
- let us know if there are ways this Task Force could contribute to the work of the Review Team

Shary provided Lisa with background information about the Children's Justice Act Task Force and its work.

Lisa chairs the State Child Fatality Review Team and the Governor's Council for Domestic Violence. Lisa and Deb Carnaghi have worked together on the Safe Sleeping literature.

Lisa explained that she works in Public Health, Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology. Child abuse is a piece of the work of this Child Fatality Review Team. It came about in the late 1980s and early 1990s and spread throughout the states, because there was a point in time

when the silos (that developed among the different disciplines working on child issues) weren't sharing information because of confidentiality.

Relationships have been developed and information is now being shared.

It has helped with:

- investigations
- protecting at-risk children from future abuse
- assisting families maneuver through child welfare systems across the U.S
- planning for primary prevention

In Oregon, there is an ORS that established the local State Fatality Review Teams. District Attorneys are the convening authority for each county team. Teams are represented by:

- law enforcement
- child welfare
- juvenile departments
- county mental health
- medical examiners
- victims services

When a child dies of an unexpected cause, the ORS establishes which cases are investigated (accidents, suicide, homicide or undetermined causes). The child deaths fall under the review process of the local State Fatality Review Teams. There are about 250 unexpected child deaths per year, in Oregon. Most of these aren't natural deaths (cancer or disease); although, occasionally, a natural death might be investigated because of suspicion that the family might not have provided medical care.

Some local Teams see as many as 50 to 70 deaths per year; some Teams don't see any deaths in a year. Multnomah County meets once a month; smaller counties might meet once a year. Karen Gunson chairs the State Team and, since Mel Kohn is moving to the acting administrator position of the Health Division, we aren't sure who will fill the co-chair position. The State Team previously met four times a year; now it is meeting twice a year because of lack of staff. The state technical assistance team that used to work with the State Team and also work with the local Teams (helped them set up their meetings, helped them complete their forms, sat with them when they did case reviews, and helped them with work on primary prevention in their communities) hasn't been funded for about eight years. We used to see 97% of the child death cases completed (reviews were completed and data forms were completed). The percentages are now in the 80s. The reason we are seeing a drop in the number of cases being reviewed is because \$250,000 in funding has been cut bi-annually.

There used to be a multidisciplinary team, at the State level, that included a state police detective, child welfare worker, and public health data analyst. They would review each investigation (including the paperwork). As a result, the information that came in was rich, in terms of:

- what we could know about risk factors and families
- what we could know about protocols and procedures in one county vs another county, and-
- if/when cases were dropped due to lack of information

Teams have protocols to follow when they review their cases which typically include the following:

- what kinds of questions do they ask
- what they want to know about a death; (have all the details of the case been addressed, related to the investigation of the cases and the protection of any remaining children in the family)
- is there any follow up regarding the investigation that needs to be done, any questions, or anything that was left undone
- is follow-up needed with the family (sometimes, when an infant dies in a family that has a lot of risk factors, the mother will soon become pregnant again. If child welfare and public health know about these cases, they will work together and follow the family to provide services and/or supports).

Local teams need support. The CAMI grants help fund the local Review Teams through the child abuse multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and the funding is tied to the local teams submitting their fatality reviews. Because the local teams have lost technical support from the State Team, they struggle with completing fatality reviews. CAMI writes articles about the issues related to child fatality review (such as jurisdiction) for the MDT Quarterly newsletter distributed by CAMI.

In the mid 1990s, Oregon had one of the highest rates of child abuse (in the nation) because its definition was very broad. Each local team would determine whether a child fatality was child abuse neglect death, or not.

Definition and case identification are very different, from State to State. These definitions cause wide differences in data results. Community norms and standards are different from county to county. For example, a handgun on a night stand would be considered protection for the home, in one community; but, in another it would be a safety risk for children.

Lisa said they received a CDC grant a couple years ago. CDC wanted to test a standardized, nation-wide definition for child maltreatment. CDC funded Michigan, California and Oregon to test their definition. Oregon used the CFR forms that all the local teams submitted. On the back of the form was space for the teams to note whether the death was a result of abuse and/or neglect. The states collected:

- all the death certificates (sometimes, the certificates would say that the death was due to maltreatment)
- medical examiner reports, and
- law enforcement reports.

All this data was combined and a determination was made as to whether child maltreatment was:

- possible
- probable, or
- a real child maltreatment related fatality.

Information was compared with the information from CAF; there were cases missing from CAF's information. Then, a determination was made as to:

- how many cases had solid evidence of child abuse/neglect
- how many cases were probable, but there are missing pieces of information
- how many cases had only limited information

The definition of medical neglect presents the same issues.

Since 1995, the accidental death rate, among children, has decreased 34%. Oregon. The State Review Team believes this decrease is a combination of:

- primary seat belt laws
- child safety seat laws
- booster seat laws
- Safe Kids Network (statewide coalitions across the state that provides safety seat checks and they provide low cost or no cost safety seats)
- mandated classes by some judges when people are cited for not having a safety seat
- public health departments providing coupons for safety seats when people go in for health visits

Oregon has done a lot of work related to youth suicide, but there is still a lack of treatment related to youth suicide, particularly those in the child welfare system (foster care) and juvenile justice.

Oregon still does not do much in the way of primary prevention work related to child maltreatment. We do secondary and tertiary work.

Deb Carnaghi said that when she reviews child fatalities, she looks for themes (drowning, suicide, lack of bike helmets, deaths by live-in companion, meth). This allows her to get information into the communities about prevention that addresses these themes.

**Action Item:** What is our role as the CJA Task Force in fatalities? We need to determine and include in our Three-Year Assessment and possibly the Priority Recommendations. Stacy Liskey will distribute statutes that govern the Child Fatality Review Team and any articles that CAMI has written to Shary and Heather. Suzy will attend some of the local Child Fatality Review Teams because we aren't sure that law enforcement is reporting child fatalities to child welfare, due to vehicle accidents.

**CIRT (critical incident response team) Report Procedures – Presented by Nancy Keeling-Administrator of CAF/Office of Safety and Permanency for Children** (See handout – Pete Shepherd's work group report)

Shary provided Nancy Keeling with some background about the CJA Three-Year Assessment and Priority Recommendations planning.

Nancy gave background on the CAF CIRT process that began after the 2002 deaths of Ashley Pond and Miranda Gaddis, from Oregon City. At that time, Governor Kitzhaber asked CAF to put together a critical incident response team to look at how Oregon would respond to a child death if that child was known (or previously known) to DHS/Child Welfare. That initial process was followed up until last year when Governor Kulongoski and Dr. Bruce Goldberg asked Pete Shepherd, Deputy Attorney General if he would pull a work group together to look at the current process and give recommendations about how the process could be improved. CAF has been working from the work group's report since about April 2008. There have been five CIRTs processed under the new protocol.

Last Legislative Session, Karly's Law (which is posted on the DHS and CJA web sites) was passed. Representative Sara Gelser sponsored the bill and part of it includes a piece about the CAF CIRT process. Since then, it has been legislated that if a child dies who is in DHS's custody or has been known to the Department within the last 12 months, it is an automatic CIRT.

Following is the link to the CAF CIRT reports:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/publications/children/index.shtml>

If the above link does not work by clicking on it, please copy and paste it into your Browser.

Nancy reviewed the work group report.

Some other key points of discussion were:

- Commonality in recent CIRTs involved minor teen parents. Oregon is reviewing this data and seeing how it relates to our laws, policies and procedures.
- Oregon is also looking at how we will audit the CIRTs and the decisions Oregon child welfare made related to these cases.
- Criminal Code and DHS/CAF policy are different.

**Action Item:** Nancy suggested that we review the 2008 CIRT reports to identify any systemic issues that the CJA Task Force could include in its Priority Recommendations. The web links, to the 2008 CIRT reports, have been sent via email to the CJA Task Force members.

### **Foster Care Subcommittee – Presented by Shary Mason**

Last meeting: December 9, 2008

Handouts-

- Draft Minutes of July 18, 2008 and September 19, 2008
- “Summary of Work Group Feedback, Suggestions and Commitments”
- “Reducing the Trauma to Children During Child Abuse Investigations and Initial Out-of-Home Placement”
- “Proposal from the FosterClub” related to plans and prices for developing a coloring book and a comic book; FosterClub All-Stars would develop the books.

The last subcommittee meeting (9/19/08) began with PSU providing a report of their work on the current project, “Reducing the Trauma to Children During Child Abuse Investigations and Initial Out-of-Home Placement”. Key points of discussion were:

- review of the literature
- draft curriculum components
- current child welfare polices, if implemented consistently, would minimize trauma of children entering care
- consultation with local and national experts

- interviews and focus groups with people in various systems involved in the investigation and removal
- the posting of the PSU PowerPoint on the CJA web site

In the next contract period PSU will:

- complete and package the curriculum resource book
- complete the Trauma Informed Practice suggestions (TIPS) resources
- provide a maximum of 20 hours of technical assistance to training directors for 10 different areas (foster parents, law enforcement, judges and referees, parent mentors, foster clubs, educators, public health nurses, attorneys and public defenders, regional training networks and child protective caseworkers)
- incorporate this work into the CORE training PSU does for CPS workers; they will talk to Stacey Ayers.
- meet quarterly with the subcommittee, for the purpose of providing updates on the status of their work and to receive feedback from the subcommittee
- provide an evaluation and final report

**Action Item:** The following people will be asked to make contacts to identify a training coordinator:

- Don Darland – foster parents
- Celeste Bodner – foster clubs
- Teri Shultz – nurses and/or other health professionals
- Mark Held – parent mentors
- Suzy Isham and Steve Duvall – law enforcement
- Shary Mason – judges
- Leslie Corran (sp??) – education
- Amy Miller – attorneys and public defenders (Juvenile Law Academy)
- Stacy Liskey – Regional Training Network (CARES, Deschutes or Jackson) Stacy Liskey said she will discuss this at the quarterly meeting next week. The regional training has been changed; there are now five providers as opposed to three and they meet quarterly. Stacy will also connect with Jan Slick.

Heather Mowry reported that she had talked to FosterClub about our interest in funding a coloring book for young children and a comic book for older children to provide them with information on what they might experience while in foster care.

**Action Item:** Heather will provide an updated electronic quote from FosterClub for the development of a coloring book and a comic book.

### **CJA Statewide Assessment / Priority Recommendations – Presented by Shary Mason**

Shary reminded that our Three-year Statewide Assessment and Priority Recommendations need to be completed by May 2009.

**Action Item:** We will invite Mickey Serice to our next CJA Task Force meeting to hear what child welfare has identified as key statewide needs that this Task Force might be able to address via subcommittee projects.

**Action Item:** Shary will provide a report of what JCIP has identified as key needs, at the next CJA Task Force meeting.

**Action Item:** There was a suggestion to hire Alice Galloway to facilitate looking at all the information we gather (from the survey, etc) and help us develop our Three-Year Assessment and Priority Recommendations. This meeting will be scheduled for February 2009. Heather will contact Alice to see if she is available.

### **Work Group Report on Survey Monkey Development – Stacy Liskey and Heather Mowry**

The Task Force discussed the content and logistics of maneuvering through the survey and made recommendations for revisions. Heather handed out a list of suggestions she received from Task Force members, from the first version that was distributed.

**Action Item:** Heather will make the suggested changes asap and send the survey back out to committee members for review.

**Action Item:** Heather will develop a flyer for the Shoulder to Shoulder (S2S) packet that will invite conference attendees to complete the survey. The flyer must be delivered to the S2S conference planners by November 4, 2008; they need approximately 800 copies. Conference participants will receive the flyer on November 13<sup>th</sup> and the survey needs to be completed that same day.

**Action Item:** Heather will work with Jan Slick regarding sorting difficulties.

### **Report on votes by mail – Presented by Shary Mason**

2008 Shoulder to Shoulder Conference Funding  
(See handout of voting record)

Judge Brady had made a motion at the July 11, 2008 CJA Task Force meeting to provide \$3,250 for the October 2008 Shoulder to Shoulder Conference.

The conference planners needed to know whether they would be granted the \$3,250 before the October 3, 2008 CJA Task Force meeting. Because we did not have a quorum, at the July 11, 2008, meeting, we proceeded by soliciting a vote by email.

Eleven individuals voted yes, by email. However, now that the Task Force members are present, Shary asked for a confirmation of the vote and invited individuals (who did not vote by mail) to have their votes officially recorded.

**Becky Smith** said she hadn't voted by mail, but votes yes today. **Stacy Liskey** indicated that she voted yes after receiving clarification about how the scholarships would be awarded. **Robin Wright** abstained because she wasn't present during the discussion. **Mark Held** abstained because he wasn't present during discussion or Judge Alta Brady's motion.

### **Budget Overview – Presented by Heather Mowry**

\$218,645 Received October 1, 2007 (must be spent by 9/30/09)

\$5,000 to S&S & travel

\$45,000 - Foster Care Subcommittee Project

\$51,612 - Strategic Planning for Children's Safety Subcommittee Project

\$3,250 - Shoulder to Shoulder Conference

\$37,580 – Salaries

\$6,300 - Misc expenses

\$70,000 - Balance for projects

**Action Item:** Children with Disabilities Subcommittee needs to research who they will bring in for training and gather information about cost.

### **Develop Process for Funding Requests and Application Form – Presented by Shary Mason**

(This was a second motion that Judge Brady made at the 7/11/08 CJA Task Force meeting; the task force has not voted on this motion yet.)

**Discussion:** Do we want to set aside a specific amount of money each year for training scholarships? If we do, how much?

Stacy Liskey made a motion that this Task Force will set aside funds for training scholarships, each year, with the amount to be determined at a later date. Judge Mejia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion:** Do we want an application process for distributing these training funds? If we do, is the draft application that was handed out today what we want to use?

We could post the application on our CJA web site and also send to list serves that our Task Force members have access to.

**Action Item:** Debra Markham and Shary Mason will serve on a training committee to develop a process for allocating training funds. Because some members are absent today, the training committee will send out an email to all Task Force members asking if there is interest in serving on this committee. (Jan has suggested that she, Shary and Heather meet to develop a proposal.)

**Action Item:** When a process has been developed, the training committee will send out an email to all Task Force members, providing details of the process, asking for a vote by email.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm

<b>Future Meeting Dates:</b>	<i>January 9, 2009</i>	<i>Room 252</i>
	<i>April 3, 2009</i>	<i>Room 137 A &amp; B</i>
	<i>July 10, 2009</i>	<i>Room 137 A &amp; B</i>
	<i>October 2, 2009</i>	<i>Room 137 A &amp; B</i>

All meetings will be scheduled from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**Subcommittee Meeting Dates: None scheduled at this time**