



# Illinois Children's Justice Task Force

## Children's Justice Task Force Quarterly Meeting November 20, 2019

DCFS Joliet Field Office | 1619 W. Jefferson | Conference Room C | Joliet, IL 60435  
Virginia M. Zic-Schlomas Presiding

### Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Present	Via Phone	Absent
Atwood, Tamela	CJTF	X		
Baptist-Spruiell, Sandra	CJTF	X		
Bobo, LaDrena	CJTF	X		
Bree, Debra	CJTF	X		
Brown, Leah	CJTF	X		
Christopherson, Mari	CJTF	X		
Cowart, Lark	CJTF	X		
Glick, Jill	CJTF	X		
Hamann, Paul	CJTF			X
Hoffmann, Molly	CJTF	X		
Karim, Elba	CJTF	X		
Ma, Cassandra	CJTF	X		
Mangiaracino, Kim	CJTF	X		
McNamara, Kathy	CJTF	X		
Parry, Peter	CJTF			X
Petrak, Channing	CJTF	X		
Porter, Chantelle	CJTF			X
Rivette, Char	CJTF	X		
Stine, Mary	CJTF	X		
Stoffer, Brian	CJTF	X		
Talbert, C. Talbert	CJTF (liaison)	X		
Theus, Frederika	CJTF	X		
Torres, Rhiannon	CJTF	X		
Zic-Schlomas, Virginia	CJTF	X		
Cobbins, Sherry	DCFS		X	
Melton, Carol	DCFS	X		
Polacheck, Stefanie	DCFS	X		
Cherney, Elyssa	Guest	X		
Fujara, Marjorie	Guest	X		
Mickell, Traneeka	Guest	X		

- I. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone about 9:30 AM.
- II. **Guests Introduced:**
  - a. Carol Melton, DCFS Assistant Deputy General Counsel/Ethics Officer
  - b. Stefanie Polacheck, DCFS Associate Deputy Director, External Communications and Advisory Groups
  - c. Elyssa Cherney, Chicago Tribune Reporter (covering child welfare and DCFS)
  - d. Dr. Marjorie Fujara, Acting Chair, Child Family Wellness, Stroger Hospital
  - e. Traneeka Mickell, Director of Advocacy, Chicago CAC
- III. **Approval of August Meeting Minutes:** Motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept with requested changes.
- IV. **Public Comment via Open Meetings ACT:** No comments provided.
- V. **Membership: Appointments and Resignations**
  - a. Peter Perry has resigned
  - b. Suggested New Members: Dion & Boss Cook County Sherriff's Office
    - i. Supportive of recommendation for Dion
    - ii. Concern raised about 2 people from same Agency Suggestion: Other person interested could fill a position on another CRP
  - c. Youth in Care representation still an open role
  - d. Judge representation – communication went to Charles Reynard and Annette Milleville. Motion to approve extension of term for both. Seconded. Unanimously passed. Discussion reiterated that Task Force Members are required to attend a minimum number of meetings in order to stay on the panel.
- VI. **OVC Grant Update – Dr. Marjorie Fujara, Acting Chair Division of Child Family Wellness, John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County**

Presentation of "Reducing Child Fatalities and Recurring Child Injuries Caused by Crime Victimization." The outline of the three-year plan for the \$750,000 was reviewed, including open positions and agencies and disciplines needed to make use of the grant successful. The CJTF Needs Assessment was used in the grant writing process and served as the blueprint for the approach to this project.

The CJTF will serve in an active role in support of the grant work by being available in an advisory capacity. It was noted that the MDT approach is important and quarterly updates for the CJTF would be helpful.

**VII. Vermillion County CAC Update**

A new Children's Advocacy Center has been approved and received funding for Vermillion County. Anticipated completion is March 2020.

**VIII. Human Trafficking Grant – Char Rivette, Executive Director, Chicago CAC & Traneeka Mickell, Director of Advocacy, Chicago CAC**

C. Rivette and T. Mickell presented on a three-year OVC Grant of \$350,000 specific to Human Trafficking of children 17 and under or those who entered the program prior to the age of 17. The grant allows for the hiring of a CSEC Specialist & Trauma therapist. The grant will allow for additional screening of children returning to the CAC for risk of human trafficking victimization. The grant also allows for increased outreach to first responders, educators, physicians and the recruitment of survivors. There is a long-term goal of statewide coordination of efforts and provision of group therapy. Ideally there would also be a Memo of Understanding with community agencies to support victims.

Mary McDonald Ties model to engage families. Recommendation from Dr. Petrak to include inpatient psych in outreach and screening. Recommendation from Kathy McNamara to include Juvenile Justice field. Frederika Theus recommends ensuring special needs/disabled population isn't missed in screening. Elba Karim recommends attention paid to very young patients and interstate coordination and raised the concern that there is a lack of awareness for resources for providers and where they can obtain additional support. Mary Joly Stein mentioned the Cook County States' Attorney is trying to work on these concerns in addition to the incorrect allegation code being assigned at Hotline intake. Human Trafficking allegations should be seen at a CAC. Dr. Glick recommends reviewing the data of how often the allegations get changed to trafficking allegation and how it presents initially at the hotline in addition to partnering with emergency rooms.

**IX. DCFS Legislative Update - Carol Melton, Assistant Deputy General Counsel/Ethics Officer**

Task Force Members need to complete Sexual Harassment and Ethics Training. Now on-line.

Automatic Age Out was previously 19 or a motion would need to be filed to extend. Effective 7/1/2019 cases are automatically 21. You must ask to age out or request to close out the case. The date of custody no longer drives the date for services for Youth in Care aging out. It is now the date of the shelter care hearing must have been prior to 18. New apprenticeship training tuition waivers will be available.

No need to get consent to record the VSI.

Changes made to mandated reporter requirements when multiple people were aware.

Senate Bill 1239 Public Act 1010-0583 Effective January 1, 2020: If a DCFS is not going to take the case (i.e. ineligible perpetrator) then the department must contact law enforcement. CAC concern that this may change the way they get cases of child sexual abuse.

X. **The Direction of Subcommittees (During Working Lunch)**

Discussion to re-create subcommittees based on goals and action vs. professional category. MDT approach to our goals and subcommittees.

Dr. Glick suggested we re-focus on the MDT report and implementation of the recommendations.

The CJTF would like to better understand current DCFS initiatives. There should be an agenda item each meeting in order to respond to previous action items. Discussion of a need to create a timeline and accountability for our recommendations to DCFS and the Director and our Federal reports. The CJTF would like to be able to review a report and come prepared to respond to information at the next meeting.

Further discussion surrounding how to work with other citizen review panels to initiate statewide change and how to partner with DCFS in these focus areas. The CJTF discussed how to use other state models as a starting point to improve our approach.

The CJTF proposes the following new subcommittees:

Subcommittees

MDT

Best Practices (leverage other existing models)

Bridging CRP and DCFS Gap

Needs Assessment Report

Human Trafficking

\*Each Subcommittee should also give Legislation/Policy Recommendations

Active Legislative/Policy work

Pediatric SASETA

Annual Evaluation of Subcommittee.

Do we have the right leadership/representation from DCFS?

CRP Gateway – How to be successful. [www.childwelfare.gov/gateway](http://www.childwelfare.gov/gateway)

**Action Items:**

- 1. Committee Members to review best practices.**
- 2. Task Force supports a meeting of all the CRP groups. DCFS will start with leadership.**

3. **Direct Request to have Tierney Stutz (DCP)**
4. **Meeting Minutes to be sent soon after the meeting. Week after Thanksgiving.**
5. **Consider what subcommittee you want to participate in.**

XI. **State Child Rape Kits - Dr. Channing Petrak, Medical Director, Pediatric Resource Center, The University of Illinois**

Dr. Petrak brought rape kits to demonstrate how the adult version is different from what is best practice for child examinations.

Massachusetts/Alaska have pediatric kits up to age 11/12 with great information that is pediatric and user friendly. Limited to 72 hours, so less kits. Current SASETA law has created an issue for pediatric rape examination. There is a current shortage of Pediatric SANE nurses. Since this is RN driven, the kids and families are not getting the assistance they need.

XII. **DCFS Advisory Councils - Stefanie Polacheck, Assoc. Deputy Director External Communications and Advisory Groups**

Stefanie joined in July 2019 as coordinator. Focus on compliance for CRP with Open Meetings Act. Additional focus on how boards can work separately and together.

XIII. **Next Meeting: February 12, 2020 Champaign, May 13 Meetings  
Agenda Item: Meeting Location for next meetings.**

**Action Item: Charles to send hotel information in advance**

XIV. **CJTF Liaison Update – Charles Talbert**

The Liaison passed out the Annual Report. Left over money is used by CJTF, reallocated for Children's Justice needs or returned to the federal government. Increase in funding for Administrator, increase is for the liaison.

Travel Reimbursement was discussed. There is a new form in electronic fillable format. There is no issue with mileage reimbursement. It was noted that Federal money is only processed once a week.

XV. **Parking Lot Items**

- a. Needs Assessment Timeline
  - i. Process Review
  - ii. Subcommittee
- b. Should School and Faith Based Volunteers be Mandated Reporters? GAL/CASA Mandated Reporter Amend ANCRA? School and Faith based Volunteer

background check requirements? Where are the missed cases? How are the kids entering the system?

- c. Not a requirement for the Hotline to call law enforcement if DCFS takes the case.

XVI. **Meeting adjourned at about 2:08pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Rhiannon Torres, Secretary  
Children's Justice Task Force

Presentation Attachments:

- Reducing Child Fatalities and Recurring Child Injuries Caused by Crime Victimization
- Illinois Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit



ovcgrant.pptx



Illinois Sexual  
Assault Evidence Coll