



# Illinois Children's Justice Task Force

## Children's Justice Task Force Quarterly Meeting

February 10, 2021

Virtual Meeting due to Shelter in Place Order via Zoom

Virginia M. Zic-Schlomas Presiding

I. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed everyone about 9:30 AM.

Effective July 14, 2020 an update to the Open Meetings Act requires the following:

- Councils meeting via videoconference must keep a verbatim recording of their meetings (record their meetings) to remain compliant with the Open Meetings Act.
- All votes must now be recorded via roll call

Link to the recording: Meeting Recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/U5rWFXLGgr2wwsUZnTJ\\_wXGpZh4R4hC7V46zBYvDt4kzO\\_D9rEKkjR3FuVsKyID0.8xm3IRRRzfY\\_OKCM](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/U5rWFXLGgr2wwsUZnTJ_wXGpZh4R4hC7V46zBYvDt4kzO_D9rEKkjR3FuVsKyID0.8xm3IRRRzfY_OKCM)

Access Passcode: q31.%4zY

II. **Roll Call/Guests Introduced**

III. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** Unanimously approved.

IV. **Public Comment per Open Meetings Act** No public comment.

V. **CJTF Review of Task Force Purpose /CJTF Vacancies**

Paul presented on the mission of the Task Force. Discussion of open roles and changes.

### Open Roles:

#### Adult Former Victims of Child Abuse or Neglect

Potential Members:

- Antwan Turpeau (not present at the meeting)
- Prestina Singleton (present)

The CJTF voted unanimously to submit Prestina's name to the Acting Director for consideration. **Action Item: Kara Hamilton will submit application for Prestina. Ginny and Charles will contact Antwan to determine if he is still interested in being a member.**

#### Defense Attorney

No potential Members identified. Need to fill this role.

### **Other Potential Candidates**

- Carrie Cohan from the Madison County CAC (Region 5)
- Kristi Marinier – Executive Director CAC McHenry, Chief Investigator
- Contstance Shay, Nurse at Rush Medical Center, Hospital Operations

The CJTF Voted unanimously to recommend Carrie Cohan to the Acting Director. **Kara Hamilton will submit application for Carrie Cohan.**

**Agenda Item:** Vote on recommendations of additional members during the next meeting.

### **Updates:**

- Lark Cowart is now in the State's Attorney role. She has a potential candidate for the GAL position.
- Char Rivette has a Department of Education candidate to submit.

Charles has confirmed that Human Trafficking is not a required category under the Federal Regulations.

The CJTF discussed membership makeup, location and underrepresented group diversity.

The CJTF Rules of Procedure establish under Article II – Membership:

- a. Must be composed of a least 25 professionals
- b. IL CASA Exec. Dir. required to sit on Task Force with no Term Limit
- c. CACI Exec. Dir. required to sit on Task Force with no Term Limit

There is no source document from DCFS, but we have clarifications from Jeremy Harvey and Kara Hamilton as to diversity in demographics required by DCFS:

- a. Gender (gender identification)
- b. Race/ethnicity
- c. Location (area served in the state based upon DCFS zones)

Task CJTF would like to set a diversity goal based on the above DCFS criteria, and track. The CJTF took a poll of which regions from the presentation map were represented by members. Membership is concentrated in regions 1 & 2 (Cook and Collar Counties).

**Action Item: Collect Base Line Demographics. Set goals based on information.**

VI. **Presentation – 2021 3-Year Assessment - Steve Budde, Francisca Fils-Aime and Elba Karim**

Steve Budde presented an update on the Needs Assessment. Weekly meetings occurring to review the analysis. The impact of the pandemic was a focus of the assessment. Early results indicate a socioeconomic disparity, chronic trauma and future risk.

Elba provided some information on a paper she published, Achieving Comprehensive Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, that compares the constant need to educate on child abuse and neglect prevention to the education provided to the public on the importance of handwashing.

Tierney Stutz provided additional context on DCFS data about lack of calls. While call volume is lower, the indicated incident numbers are the same as prior periods. Steve will reach out to Tierney to discuss further.

The draft of the Needs Assessment is due to the committee March 1 2021. CJTF will have until the end of March to revised from feedback. Ginny requested detail on foster parent representation and definitions of minorities.

VII. **Presentation by SCAN (Statewide Citizen's Committee on Child Abuse & Neglect) - Veatrice Crawford, Cyndy Savage Brown**

Cyndy gave introduction on SCAN which focuses on primary and secondary prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. SCAN is also interested in public education and awareness campaigns. SCAN is also reviewing human trafficking data. Goal of SCAN is to increase membership and work more closely with other CRPs. This will lead to more collaboration and support to get goals met.

There doesn't appear to be crossover membership with CJTF but do have crossover membership with Child Death Review. SCAN is currently looking for a neonatal physician, judge/legal. CJTF discussed members rotating to attend SCAN meetings in order to better collaborate.

**Action Item: Request for comprehensive list of CRP Meeting dates and information.**

**Action Item: Request for SCAN to share recommendations with CJTF.**

VIII. **Presentation by CDRT (Child Death Review/Citizens review panel) - Mary Joly Stein**

CDRT consists of 9 teams across the state. The most recent data from 2018 reviewed 285 cases with 80 recommendations. Review all child deaths that meet certain criteria. Recommendations presented on an on-going basis (every other month) with Director. Current Acting Director participating regularly. Many recommendations are case specific, but SCAN will also provide common thread and general recommendations largely to DCFS and sometimes to legislative or other entities for training.

Some current recommendations: Safe Sleep (Subcommittee formed); Improved Information sharing, specifically medical and law enforcement; review of procedure 300 related to intake for medical neglect or medically complex cases; Illinois Safe Haven Law doesn't provide for a baby to be relinquished when born in a hospital; DCFS Egregious Acts Process and recommendations of expedition of permanency in those cases where the act applies; DCFS Nurse referral recommendations when medical questions arise.

There was discussion on healthcare disparity/inequality due to race and increase in medical neglect during the pandemic. Inaccessibility to providers, joblessness, homelessness and housing or moves have contributed to these issues. The increase in unsafe sleep situations is thought to be due to lack of safe housing during the pandemic. CJTF commented that equity needs to be an important benchmark for all processes and recommendations. Is it the issue caused by the system or the parent? Recommendation to look into potential training and make this a focus. There was also a recommendation to look at the gap between DCFS intact and medical community for follow up of treatment and medical neglect as there is currently no process to connect to services in instances of suspected medical neglect, which could prevent deaths.

**IX. Presentation MDT Update – Char Rivette**

A brief update was provided. Will discuss further at special meeting in March.  
Discussion/recommendations

**X. Presentation on Hotline Strengths and Challenges - Tamela Atwood and Trista Cox**

Online hotline reporting began in June of 2018 and was revamped in September 2020. Online reporting and call reporting are currently lower overall. In Central Region March/April went down, then reports went up May/June. Report volume has been higher in Central Region than last year.

The online reporting functionality is available to anyone reporting child abuse or neglect, not just mandated reporters. The site is user friendly and the phone wait times have been reduced. This has made hotline representatives available in real time, resulting in messages not being taken at hotline. Online reporting accounts for 11% of intake. The tool has been promoted via Letters to Illinois State Board of Education, law enforcement, Illinois State Police, American Pediatrics Association, Illinois Chapter, Facebook and YouTube are also being utilized. The online tool is not for emergent situations. Online reports are reviewed by intake and also supervisor if doesn't meet investigation criteria.

The CJTF raised the issue that those required still have to send in the CANTS 405 form. It was confirmed that the form can be sent via email but the online reporting tool doesn't provide information on how to email the CANTS form at point of submission. This is in

transition. CJTF suggested to do away with form if on-line reporting is utilized and send the information automatically. A legislative change is necessary for this.

Concern raised about mental health professionals are not getting this information and the information is not in the Mandated Reporter training material. Recommendation that license or contract renewal is an opportunity is another opportunity to promote Recommendation for Foster Parent Newsletter or licensing updates as another communication tool.

Action Item: Tierney Stutz to provide information to the group on email address for CANTS 405 form. Tierney to look into improving the link to email box with the actual report.

Action Item: Trista to send information on the publications utilized to promote the online tool.

XI. **2021 Ethic training information is available and due by November 2021.**

Agenda Item: Ethics and diversity training information at May Meeting.

Action Item: Charles to follow up to see if these trainings count towards licensure.

XII. **Next meeting dates and times**

- Discussion of meeting times. CJTF approved to move the meet and greet time to 8:30AM and to start meetings at 9:00AM.
- CJTF approved addition an additional meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Needs Assessment/Director Recommendations of subcommittees. We need to have at least 4 goals to meet the requirements.
- May 12, 2021 – (Carbondale) To be determined. If possible, Hoylton
- August 11, 2021
- November 10, 2021

May Agenda Item: Locations for those not identified

XIII. **Meeting motioned and approved adjourned at about 12:22 pm**

XIV. **Attendance and Voting Record**

Name	2/10/21	Region	Vote – November Meeting Minutes
Atwood, Tamela	Present	4	
Baptist-Spruiell, Sandra	Absent	1	X
Brandt, Michael	Present	3	X
Christopherson, Mari	Present	1 (Statewide)	X
Cowart, Lark	Present	2	X
Glick, Jill	Present	1	X
Hamann, Paul	Present	1	X
Hofmann, Molly	Absent	3	

Name	2/10/21	Region	Vote – November Meeting Minutes
Karim, Elba	Present	2	X
Ma, Cassandra	Present	1/2	
Mangiaracino, Kim	Present	4 (Statewide)	X
McNamara, Kathy	Present	2	
Milleville, Annette	Present	1	X
Petrak, Channing	Present	3	X
Porter, Chantelle	Present	2	X
Rivette, Char	Present	1	X
Stein, Mary	Present	1	X
Stoffer, Brian	Present	1	X
Theus, Frederika	Present	1/2	X
Torres, Rhiannon	Present	2	X
Trotter, Dion	Present	1	X
Zic-Schlomas, Virginia	Present	1	X
Budde, Stephen	Present		
Davis-Barsh, Shirley	Absent		
Dennis, Kristin	Present		
Hamilton, Kara	Present		
Singleton, Prestina (Potential Member)	Present	1	
Stutz, Tierney	Present		
Talbert, Charles	Present		
Turpeau, Antwan (Potential Member)	Absent		

**Guests**

Constance Shay-Hadley, Rush Medical Center  
 Carrie Cohan, Madison County CAC  
 Misty Marinier, CAC McHenry  
 Verleaner Lane, Will County? CRP SCAN, Grant Administrator  
 Margaret Scotellaro, DCFS Medical Director  
 Francisca Fils-Aim, Pie Org  
 Stephen Budde, Juvenile Protective Association  
 Trista Cox, DCFS Hotline

Respectfully submitted,  
 Rhiannon Torres, Secretary  
 Children's Justice Task Force

### Current Task Force Role Designation

- a. Law Enforcement
  - Baptist-Spruiell, Sandra
  - McNamara, Kathy
  - Stoffer, Brian
  - Trotter, Dion
  - Zic-Scholmas, Virginia
- b. Criminal Court Judge
  - Reynard, Charles
- c. (Civil) Juvenile Court Judge
  - Brandt, Michael
- d. Prosecuting Attorney
  - Cowart, Lark
  - Milleville, Annette
  - Stein, Mary
- e. Defense Attorney
  - VACANT**
- f. Child Advocate/Attorney for Children
  - Mangiaracino, Kim
  - Porter, Chantelle
  - Rivette, Char
- g. Court Appointed Special Advocate
  - Christopherson, Mari
- h. Health Professional
  - Glick, Jill
  - Petrak, Channing
- i. Mental Health Professional
  - Karim, Elba
- j. Child Protective Services
  - Atwood, Tamela
- k. Individual Experienced in Working with Children with Disabilities
  - Theus, Frederika
  - Hofmann, Maureen
- l. Parent/Representative of Parent Group
  - Torres, Rhiannon

- m. Adult Former Victims of Child Abuse of Neglect
- n. **VACANT** Individual
- o. Experienced in Working with Homeless Children and Youth  
Hamann, Paul  
Other: Ma, Cassandra (was listed under Human Trafficking but this is not a required role)