

**Illinois Children's Justice Task Force
June 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Chicago CAC – 1240 S. Damen
Chicago, IL**

With phone conference available from other areas

9:42 a.m. – Meeting called to order by Char Rivette, Chair

Members attending: Paul Hamann, Dr. Jill Glick, Mary Dreiser, Char Rivette, Virginia Zic-Schlomas, Judy Bukowski, Dan Callahan, Don Rose, Jamie Friye, Ruth Lane, Pat Dempsey, Billie Larkin, Hon. Steve Sawyer, Meryl Paniak, Annette Milleville, Laurie Riehm, , Tammy Bates, Mary Dobbins, Julie Cummings

Members attending by Conference Call: Donya Adkerson, Judith Brucker, Kathleen McNamara

Members not attending: Betsy Bier, Hon. James Radcliffe, Evan Owens, Dr. Channing Petrak, Rich Russo, Desiree Taylor, Terry Carmichael, Hon. Charles Reynard

DCFS staff: Mary Dreiser, Meryl Paniak, Teddy Savas, Nora Harms-Pavelski

Guest(s): Joan Pernecke, Dr. Steve Budde, Sherene Thomas

Review of minutes from March 5, 2015:

Motion for approval by Char Rivette. Made (Pat Dempsey) and seconded (Judy Bukowski). Minutes approved.

Opportunity for public comment per OMA

None at this time

Nominating Committee – Ruth Lane

The following candidates are recommended for election for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2017:

Char Rivette – Chair

Kathleen McNamara – Vice Chair

Jamie Friye – Secretary

Called for vote by Char Rivette. All in favor. None opposed. Officers approved.

Task Force Administrator Update – Mary Dreiser

Mary reminded all members to turn in their travel vouchers a.s.a.p. because it is the end of the state fiscal year.

Federal Report: Our 2015 Annual Federal Report and Grant Application was submitted to the Children’s Bureau on May 27, 2015 (three days early). Once approved by the feds, we will bind the report and disseminate. The application includes a summary of all the activities conducted this year; the proposed budget and the proposed activities for next year;

and the interim report on our statewide needs assessment. Our agreement with our federal project officer is that we can turn in the final task force three year recommendations by September 30, 2015. We were granted an extension because we used a third party research firm to conduct our statewide surveys. This needs assessment is legislatively mandated, and the task force does not have to complete a needs assessment with recommendations for another three years.

Proposed Budget: As in the past, this year’s proposed federal budget is formula based, and the tentative amount is \$626,101.00. The budget can be discussed in more detail at a later meeting. We will be funding the same projects as last year except for the 6 CACs which our federal project officer said we can no longer fund because the development period was over. CAPTA funds will be used to fund those 6 CAC’s so there will be no lapse in funding. We will have funds remaining for new projects and emerging needs. The Needs Assessment Committee has been assigned the task to develop a process to determine the guidelines for funding and to make funding recommendations.

Human Trafficking Training: As was discussed before, there is a lot of interest in funding human trafficking training and services at the federal level. Over the spring we consulted with Stacey Sloan, DCFS Human Trafficking Coordinator, as to potential projects to fund out of Children’s Justice. We agreed to propose funding a pilot project at \$50,000 for one year through the Salvation Army, to be approved by DCFS. In this proposal, the Salvation Army will conduct additional training to DCFS and other providers; help develop new curriculum; plan an evaluation for the training and develop a network of human trafficking providers in the state. The funding commitment is for one year only at this time.

Annual Grantees’ Meeting: Char Rivette, Kathy McNamara and Mary Dreiser attended the required annual federal conference in D.C. on June 9 – 11. There was a focus was on task force activities in other states with considerable peer sharing. There was a workshop on human trafficking emphasizing that this is an emerging interest for federal grants. There was a discussion on the new structure for the national resource Centers; the 7 previous centers are being consolidated into 3 centers; child welfare, the courts and the tribes. Once this new structure is established we will be informed as to how we can receive technical assistance.

Illinois' task force received several compliments at the meeting: Ohio "stole" our Bylaws to use in developing theirs; our project officer said Illinois "has it down pat" as far as administering the grant, and Illinois was one of several states chosen last year to lead the peer review needs assessment calls because Illinois is fully implementing the Children's Justice Act as required by law. Thanks to the task force members for all their volunteer time and commitment.

New federal requirement: in the coming year, we will need to link with DCFS's annual Progress and Services Report and DCFS's five year report. In these reports, the states demonstrate how they are in compliance with federal regulations and that the children are receiving the best services. A federal PIP – program improvement plan is issued if warranted, and there are monetary penalties for states not being in compliance. All the outcomes focus on safety, permanency and child wellbeing. As a task force, we need to be aware of these DCFS reports and ascertain how our legislatively mandated 3 year recommendations fit within DCFS's goal and outcomes.

Citizen Panel Report from Portland, OR – Ruth Lane & Jamie Friye

Ruth and Jamie gave a brief overview of sessions from the conference that were of interest and import to them and this group. Jamie will send a link out to the conference materials and information re: the Parent Mentor Program. Joan Pernecke discussed Ohio v. Clark – a pending U.S. Supreme Court case expected to be decided before October 2015. Key issue in that case is whether a daycare provider is a governmental agent by virtue of being a mandated reporter. This will address *Crawford* issues in criminal cases where a Motion in Limine to allow the child's statement has been filed.

MDT Training Committee Update – Billie Larkin

Two objectives:

MDT Training will be August 4-7, 2015 in the Southern Region. Team members will remain at the intensive training for 3 days. CAPTA funds will be used to co-fund this project

The newly developed brochure for MDT members will be posted on the CACI website and will be personalized for each CAC. Billie had a draft copy to share with the group. It was passed around and edits/comments were welcomed.

Legislative Update – Meryl Paniak

Meryl provided the group with an update on pending bills. None of these bills have been signed by the governor yet. We can expect to see action on at least some of these bills by August 2015.

Committee Breakout: MDT General Assembly Report and Needs Assessment

Dr. Steve Budde identified 2 needs:

- Specific data – i.e. eye injury gets identified as head trauma
- Need to learn from other places

Provided maps of DCFS regions, number of serious harms cases by county, and healthcare providers for child abuse and neglect investigations by region. Would like to include map of CACs by county as well. Summary Findings from County Level Data and Abusive Head Trauma/Injury Allegations – Initial Analysis were also provided.

The key is to identify existing services and networks and to use them effectively.

Forensic interviews of verbal children who are victims of physical abuse are rare. Most CACs only get a few referrals a year, as the majority of physical abuse victims are non-verbal.

In metro areas such as Cook County, the academic medical centers have personnel on the front end to conduct interviews of the parents to determine the cause of injury. Smaller counties lack these facilities.

Report from Committees and Working Lunch

The Needs Assessment committee is looking at proposing guidelines on how to spend the \$85-100k in the Children's Justice budget – - earmarked for new and emerging needs. Some questions discussed included what constitutes direct service, whether they can purchase equipment (i.e., computers, pack n' plays, color printers), etc. Answers will be sought from Mary. The whole task force will vote on the projects recommended. Funds must be spent by September 30, 2016.

The MDT Committee looked at research that Dr. Budde has been conducting. Three different documents were provided for the group's review. Next steps are that the small working group and the larger group will come together in phone calls and a thorough document will be prepared for the group.

Small Committee Work Groups to Discuss Federal 3-year Recommendations

Each committee created a list of their 3-year recommendations.

Report out from Committees (Health/Mental Health/Disabilities, Coordinated Investigation/Case Handling & Legal, Legislative and Court Issues)

The committees reported back on what recommendations they are keeping, discarding, and adding. All committees will be doing teleconference(s) to refine their recommendations and will be ready to present final versions to the group at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date

TBD by Doodle Poll including annual meeting dates. The next meeting will be in Springfield, IL.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Friye, Children's Justice Task Force Secretary