

**Illinois Children's Justice Task Force**  
**August 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes**  
**Children's Advocacy Center**  
**Bloomington, IL**  
With phone conference available to other areas

**9:44 a.m.** – Meeting called to order by Char Rivette. She asked members to introduce themselves and state what discipline they represent.

**Members attending:** Julie Cummings, Don Rose, Char Rivette, Judy Brucker, Dr. Jill Glick, Jamie Friye, Virginia Zic-Schlomas, Kathy McNamara, Dr. Mary Dobbins, Donya Adkerson, Paul Hamann, Dr. Channing Petrak, Hon. Steve Sawyer, Tammy Bates, Annette Milleville, Hon. Charles Reynard.

**Members not attending:** Desiree Taylor, Pat Dempsey, Terry Carmichael, James Radcliffe, Evan Owens, Betsy Bier, Rich Russo, Ruth Lane, Judy Bukowski, Dan Callahan and Billie Larkin.

**DCFS Staff:** Mary Dreiser, Meryl Paniak, Teddy Savas, Nora Harms-Pavelski, Regina Young.

**Conference caller(s):** Laurie Riehm.

**Review of minutes from June 15, 2015:**

Motion for approval requested by Char Rivette and made by Virginia Zic-Schlomas. Minutes approved.

**Opportunity for public comment per OMA**

None at this time.

**Breakout into Standing Committees for 3-year recommendations:**

1. Health/Mental Health/Disabilities
2. Coordinated Investigations/Case Handling
3. Legal, Legislative and Court Issues

**Vote on 3-year recommendations to submit to Children's Bureau**

Each of the 3 standing committees presented their recommendations to CJTF as a whole. The results are as follows:

Coordinated Investigations/Case Handling chaired by Don Rose – All recommendations approved.

Legal, Legislative and Court Issues chaired by Jamie Friye – All recommendations approved except #4. Standing committee discussed revisions over the noon hour. Recommendation #4 was amended and a new recommendation (#7) was also added. After revisions of #4/addition of #7, all recommendations approved.

Health/Mental Health/Disabilities chaired by Dr. Jill Glick) – All recommendations approved.

**Working lunch:**

Children's Justice Administrator Report (Mary Dreiser)

Feedback from Federal Project Officers on FFY15 Annual Report:

- It was well organized and detailed.
- Our work to support CACs aligns nicely with Children's Bureau's intentions.
- They are looking forward to reading more about our MDT training academy.
- They appreciated detail on proposed work, particularly human trafficking training
- There will be an increased focus on multi-disciplinary work on front end of child welfare at the federal level.
- All of our trainings should focus on front end ; some trainings may have been a little tangential.
- Medical exams and forensic interviewing are direct service, and we cannot fund these activities. We can fund training, expert testimony and consulting expertise.
- Our needs assessment was very thoughtful and thorough.
- Next year's funding will not be finalized until we submit our final task force recommendations. Final approval will be forthcoming close to the end of September.

The Children's Justice funds are currently being used to fund the MDT, 5 day intensive training in CAC teams. This training would not be possible without the additional support of CAPTA funds. Two national consultants were hired to develop and provide the training. The first training was held in August in Southern Illinois.

There is a new structure for the DCFS grants unit: Grants Management and Accountability is new name of the unit. Derek Hobson is the new Chief of Accountability for this new unit. Shirley Davis-Barsh remains the unit supervisor.

The DCFS Director asked if he could use our unexpended funds in FFY14 and FFY15 for a public education campaign regarding co-sleeping and drowning. Upon consultation with the Children's Justice Federal Project Officers, this was approved. Dr. Glick suggested that DCFS partner with AAP regarding the co-sleeping component. This would open up another venue to get the message out. Dr. Petrak recommended that education should be geared toward family members, as studies

show that parents listen to them more than their physicians. CJTF will be reaching out to the Director about coordinating this effort.

CJTF is providing funding to the McLean County Child Protection Network conference, "Improving the Odds for Children." It will be held on September 25, 2015. A brochure was provided to all CJTF members at today's meeting.

CJTF is also providing \$6,000.00 for preliminary training for the University of Springfield Residential Simulation Lab (Senate Bill 653) on August 13 and 14, 2015. This is the new training facility for first responders and other service providers. This experiential training will be mandated for DCFS Child Protection Investigators and their supervisors and will also be offered to other MDT members and interested parties. Dr. Betsy Goulet has provided several updates to CJTF regarding this project in the past.

The dates for the CJTF quarterly meeting will be as follows: (each of these dates falls on the second Wednesday of the month, and we changed the meeting months to hopefully, less busy calendar months.)

- August 12, 2015, Bloomington
- November 11, 2015, Springfield. This will need to be changed due to a State Holiday. Mary Dreiser will send out a Doodle Poll to select a new date.
- February 10, 2015, Chicago
- May 11, 2015, Chicago

#### Child Protection Update provided by Nora Harms Pavelski:

- Approximately a year ago, the hotline stopped taking calls related to unsafe sleep. That has now been reversed. All unsafe sleep deaths (if they meet the required circumstances) are now being taken as reports.
- DCFS has gone back to specialty(child protection and placement/intact) Area Administrators
- DCFS has a new Regional Administrator in Cook Co. – Jackie Colyer. She begins her duties on August 17, 2015.
- DCFS is working diligently on Procedure 300. Some changes are needed in Appendix B. Changes will roll out in September 2015. Staff will receive training on the revised procedures 300.

#### **Breakout into 2 work groups: MDT and Needs Assessment**

##### MDT Committee:

- The definition of the role of prosecutors in the MDT process was discussed. Teddy Savas re-wrote and Judy Brucker made a copy to share with the committee.
- 3 meetings per month are needed (2 small, in-person meetings and 1 meeting with everyone)
- Char Rivette will send out a Doodle poll for upcoming meetings

Needs Assessment Committee: charged with developing guidelines and recommendations for new project funding as included in the FFY15 Children's Justice federal application.

- Projects to be funded will focus on training/education for law enforcement and judicial (two areas not currently funded and common themes in the new 3 year recommendations)
- These will probably be "one-shot" funding; perhaps pilot programs
- The Task Force as a whole will vote on the projects to be funded at the November Springfield meeting
- Funding needs to be spent by September 30, 2016

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Friye, CJTF Secretary