

CJA Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: January 27, 2025, 12:00-2:00pm

Summary Statement: The CJA Task Force is a federally mandated, multidisciplinary advisory board that reviews and evaluates statewide front-end child welfare policies and practices and makes recommendations to DHS and others for systemic, equitable improvements to promote children's justice and well-being.

Attendance:

Role (42 U.S.C. §5106c (c)(1)) (voting members)	Name	Present	Absent	Notes
1. Law enforcement	Barrett Chrissis	x		
2. Law enforcement	Wade Rasch	x		
3. Criminal court judge	Judge Stumme	x		
4. Civil court judge	Judge Anderson	x		
5. Civil court judge	Judge Doll	x		
6. Prosecuting attorney	Adam Hinz	x		
7. Defense attorney	Emmalie Brudzinski	x		
8. Attorney for children	Anne Gueinzus		Excused	
9. Guardian ad litem	Erika Randall		x	Excused
10. Guardian ad litem	Sheri Johnson			(soon to be appt.
11. Health professional	Dr. Mark Hudson	x		
12. Health professional	Janaye Stewart		x	
13. Mental health professional	Saprina Matheny	x		
14. Mental health professional	Anna Clavin	x		
15. Child protection services	Kari Hohn		x	Excused
16. Child protection services	Jessica Iwen	x		
17. Parent representative	Joanne Hodgeman	x		
18. Parent representative	Tatiana Bergum		x	FMLA-Excused
19. Foster care survivor	Dawn Hyland		x	
20. Foster care survivor	Marlena Jasch	x		
21. Individual experienced working with children with disabilities	Kate Rickord	x		
22. Individual experienced working with children with disabilities	Tascha Just	x		

23. Individual experienced working with homeless children/youth	Amanda Leathers		x	
24. Individual experienced working with homeless children/youth	Lolita Davis-Carter	x		
25. Survivor of child abuse or neglect	Brent Genereux		x	Excused
26. Survivor of child abuse or neglect	Cindy Devonish	x		
Role (non-voting members)	Name	Present	Absent	Notes
Ad hoc – Corner House CAC	Jane Straub (CAC)	x		
Ad hoc -Minnesota Children’s Alliance	Marcia Milliken (CAC)	x		
Ad hoc -First Witness CAC	Tracie Clanaugh (CAC)	x		
Ad hoc -Ombudsperson	Jill Esch (OAIF)		x	Excused
Ad hoc -CJI Representative	Judy Peterson (Courts CJI)	x		
Ad hoc-Ombudsperson	Muriel Gubasta (OBFF)	x		
Ad hoc-Ombudsperson	Misty Coonce	x		
Ad hoc-Ombudsperson	Manuel Zuniga (OBFF)		x	
Ad hoc-Ombudsperson	Ann Hill (OBFF)		x	
CYF American Indian Well-Being Unit CSP Division	Crystal Hedemann		x	
Ad hoc-DV Expert	Scott Miller	x		
Ad hoc-Lived experience/subject matter expert	Marvalyne Tripp		x	
Ad hoc-Lived experience/subject matter expert	DeClara Tripp	x		
Ad hoc-Lived experience/subject matter expert	Mel Alvar (PAVSA-Safe Harbor)	x		(soon to be appt)
DCYF CJA Task Force Coordinator	Laura Gapske	x		
DCYF CS&P Dept. Manager	Rebecca Wilcox		x	
DCYF CS&P Family Supp & Place Svcs Attorney/CJI	Baudry, Jennifer L		x	

I. Welcome and ice breaker

II. Children’s Justice Act Task Force Mini-grant Grantees Projects Funded

- Grantees (Child’s Place, CornerHouse, First Witness, and the MN Children’s Alliance shared what they spent their CJA mini-grant funds on.

III. Workgroup B members share BCA ICAC and Human Trafficking Conference takeaways

- Chair, Barrett Chrissis, Gapske, Tasha Just, Jessica Iwen, and Joanne Hodgeman shared

takeaways from the BCA conference attended with CJA funds.

IV. Action Item: Approved appoint Mel Alvar, Kate Erickson, and Sheri Johnson to CJA task force.

V. Action Item: Approved to send Gapske and one task force member to Children's Bureau CJA (REQUIRED) grantee meeting and (optional) 24th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) (10 mins)

- Vice Chair, Kate Rickord to shared her experience attending conference in the past.
- The process for selecting a member in lieu of leadership to the conference and meeting was explained.
 - Conference information here: [Home | NCCAN](#)
 - Interested applicants can complete the brief survey by February 7th, 2025: <https://forms.office.com/g/CKfq8Gq5Yw>

VI. Break out time for workgroups A, B, and C

Next CJA TF Meeting:

March 17, 2025, Noon- PM via
Microsoft Teams

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZGJjZDIzNDgtZjAzMy00MzMzMzBmLTg1YzAtMzQxM2UxZmY3MDcz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b57c8b63-675f-4c8d-9c46-84ab1f089826%22%7d