

CJA Task Force Meeting

Date: May 18, 2023, 12:00-1:00pm

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.

I. Welcome (12:00-12:15)

Role (42 U.S.C. §5106c (c)(1))	Name	Meeting Attendance
1. Law enforcement	Barrett Chrissis	
2. Criminal court judge	Vacant	
3. Civil court judge	Eric Braaten	
4. Prosecuting attorney	Heather Griesert	Present
5. Defense attorney	Sarah Ellsworth	
6. Attorney for children	Wanda Gierman	
7. Guardian ad litem	Roberta Ryan	
8. Health professional	Sarah Lucken	Present
9. Mental health professional	Vacant	
10. Child protection services	Nikki Miller	
11. Parent representative	Joanne Hodgeman	
12. Foster care survivor	Dawn Hyland	Present
13. Individual experienced working with children with disabilities	Kate Rickord	Present
14. Individual experienced working with homeless children/youth	Tyler Modderman	
Ad hoc	Mitzi Hobot (CAC)	
Ad hoc	Marcia Milliken (CAC)	Present
Ad hoc	Tracie Clanaugh (CAC)	Present
Ad hoc	Jill Esch (OAIF)	
Ad hoc	Debra Schumacher (DHS CJI)	
Ad hoc	Judy Peterson (Courts CJI)	
Ad hoc	Muriel Gubasta (OBFF)	Present
Ad hoc	Manuel Zuniga (OBFF)	Present
Ad hoc	Ann Hill (OBFF)	
CJA Task Force coverage	Lydia Pfluger	Present

II. Discussion (12:15-12:55)

- DHS updates
 - Staffing updates
 - CJA Coordinator position: Interviews have concluded, and a top candidate has been identified. DHS in the final stages of formalizing the job offer. An announcement should be forthcoming soon with an anticipated start in early or mid-June.
 - CJA Annual Application/Report
 - The application/report is in the final stages of internal approval. The report will be shared with CJA members once it is submitted.
 - CJA Annual Meeting
 - The annual grantee meeting is occurring May 23-24th in Baltimore, MD. Kate will be attending to represent a CJA member and Rebecca to represent DHS. Typically, the chair attends but since the CJA leadership is in transition, DHS decided to send one of the subcommittee chairs that represent a CAPTA member. Attending the annual meeting is a grant requirement and it is an opportunity for state representatives to connect and learn what other states are doing and bring that back to their state.
- Subcommittee updates
 - CAC/MDT/FIT – Marcia/Barrett
 - Focus: increasing access to culturally responsive interviewers, environments, and practices.

