

CJA Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: March 17, 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. Civil court judge	Judge Anderson		X	
4. Civil court judge	Judge Doll	x		
5. Prosecuting attorney	Adam Hinz	x		
6. Defense attorney	Emmalie Brudzinski		x	
7. Defense attorney	Thomas Godfrey	x		
8. Attorney for children	Anne Gueinzus	x		
9. Guardian ad litem	Erika Randall	x		
10. Guardian ad litem	Sheri Johnson	x		
11. Health professional	Dr. Mark Hudson			Excused
12. Health professional	Janaye Stewart			Leave of absence
13. Mental health professional	Saprina Matheny	X		
14. Mental health professional	Anna Clavin		x	
15. Child protection services	Kari Hohn	x		
16. Child protection services	Jessica Iwen		x	Excused
17. Parent representative	Joanne Hodgeman		x	
18. Parent representative	Tatiana Bergum	x		
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		
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	Excused-Christy
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		
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		Nigel Perrote
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	Excused
Ad hoc-Subject matter expert	Katie Erickson	x		
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

- New members Sheri Johnson (GAL rep), Mel Alvar and Katie Erickson as ad hoc subject matter experts.

II. Labor Trafficking Child Protection Response-update from Amanda Lager and Sarah Ladd

III. Action Item: Children’s Justice Act Task Force Mini-grant Grantees Projects Funded at up to 60k (Passed)

IV. Action Item: Request from Workgroup A to fund RFPs for forensic interview training (Passed)

V. Action Item: Request from Workgroup B to sponsor DCYF Labor

Trafficking Training in MDT partnership (Passed)

- VI. Action Item: Request from Workgroup C to fund 4-5 members to the National MDT Parent Representation Conference in the Twin Cities (Passed)**
- VII. Action Item: Vote to appoint Thomas Godfrey to CJA task force as second defense attorney seat (Passed)**
- VIII. Minnesota Children’s Justice Act Annual Reporting and Application 2025 update**
- IX. Workgroup updates to the full task force A, B, and C**
- X. Public Comment(s): None.**
- XI. Next CJA Task Force Meeting:**

When: May 19, 2025, Noon- 2 PM via Microsoft Teams:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZGJjZDIzNDgtZjAzMy00MzBmLTg1YzAtMzQxM2UxZmY3MDcz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22b57c8b63-675f-4c8d-9c46-84ab1f089826%22%7d