**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

# CJA Task Force Meeting

**Date:** November 16, 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

| Role (42 U.S.C. §5106c (c)(1)) | Name | Meeting Attendance |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Law enforcement | Barrett Chrissis | Present |
| 2. Criminal court judge | Judge Stumme | Present |
| 3. Civil court judge | | |
| 4. Prosecuting attorney | Heather Griesert | |
| 5. Defense attorney | | |
| 6. Attorney for children | | |
| 7. Guardian ad litem | | |
| 8. Health professional | | |
| 9. Mental health professional | | |
| 10. Child protection services | | |
| 11. Parent representative | Joanne Hodgeman | Present |
| 12. Foster care survivor | Dawn Hyland | |
| 13. Individual experienced working with children with disabilities | | |
| 14. Individual experienced working with homeless children/youth | | |
| Ad hoc – Corner House CAC | Jane Straub (CAC) | |
| Ad hoc -Minnesota Children's Alliance | Marcia Milliken (CAC) | Present |
| Ad hoc -First Witness CAC | Tracie Clanaugh (CAC) | Present |
| Ad hoc -Ombudsperson | Jill Esch (OAIF) | |
| Ad hoc | Judy Peterson (Courts CJI) | Present |
| Ad hoc-Ombudsperson | Muriel Gubasta (OBFF) | Present |
| Ad hoc-Ombudsperson | Manuel Zuniga (OBFF) | Present |
| Ad hoc-Ombudsperson | Ann Hill (OBFF) | |
| DHS CJA Task Force Coordinator | Laura Gapske | Present |
| DHS CS&P Dep Director Operation Staff | Rebecca Wilcox | |
| DHS CS&P Family Supp & Place Svcs | Baudry, Jennifer L (DHS) | |

## I.    Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome!
- No introductions needed.
- Discussion on the Star Tribune articles special report on child protection
  - **https://www.startribune.com/minnesota-child-protection-system-exposes-kids-abuse-neglect/600312077/?refresh=true**

- **https://www.startribune.com/minnesota-child-abuse-victim-says-protection-system-failed/600318180/**

## II. MN Secretary of State Open Appointments Update

- o Recommended appointments are routing through DHS mangers and then to Asst. Commissioner Tikki Brown and Commissioner Harpstead.
- Total of 20 recommendations with 4 current members being reappointed
- List of recommended for reappointment of current CJA members
    - o Barrett Chrissis (law enforcement)
    - o Kate Rickord (indiv. experienced working with children with disabilities)
    - o Dawn Hyland (foster care survivor)
    - o Joanne Hodgeman (parent representative)
- List of recommended (new) appointments:
    - o Judge Stumme (crim judge)
    - o Judge Anderson (civil judge)
    - o Adam Hinz (prosecutor)
    - o Emmalie Brudzinski (defense attorney)
    - o Anne Gueinzius (attorney for children)
    - o Natalie Jacques (GAL)
    - o Dr. Hudson (medical)
    - o Janaye Stewart (medical)
    - o Saprina Matheny (mental health)
    - o Anna Clavin (mental health)
    - o Jessica Iwen (CPS)
    - o Kate Hohn (CPS)
    - o Tasha Just (indiv. experienced working with children with disabilities)
    - o Amanda Leathers (indiv. Experienced working with homeless children/youth)
    - o Lolita Carter (indiv. Experienced working with homeless children/youth)
    - o Cindy Devonish (survivor of child abuse or neglect)
    - o Maurice Ward (survivor of child abuse or neglect)
    - o Robert Webber (parent representative)
- Direct appointments:
    - o Jane Straub
    - o Marcia Milliken
    - o Tracie Clanaugh
    - o Jill Esch
    - o Muriel Gubasta
    - o Manuel Zungia
    - o Ann Hill
    - o Laura Gapske
    - o Consideration for request to have direct appointment from Ombudsperson from Office of Foster Youth (Emailed SOS office to request direct appointment seat)
- Open vacancies:
    - o 1 law enforcement
    - o 1 criminal court judge
    - o 1 civil court judges

- 1 prosecuting attorney
- 1 defense attorney
- 1 attorney for children
- 1 GAL
- 1 foster care survivor

## III. Update and structure for three year strategic planning

- See attachment to view the outline and bios for the facilitators
- Dates are confirmed for Thursday, December 7th (all day/in-person), Monday, December 11 (am/virtual), and Wednesday, December 13 (pm/virtual)

## IV.     III. Assessment Planning

- What worked well in the past? What was the process?
    - Task force members have not been much involved in the assessment or recommendation process in the past.
    - Gapske will pull recommendations together and send a survey out for members to prioritize or add additional ideas prior to the beginning of the year for the CAPTA report
- What structure do we need to assess the work?
    - Survey to be developed (ACTION: Gapske create survey)
- Do we need any specific data?
    - Discussion around how to find data on CAC FI's vs. non-CAC FI's to see if there is any difference on the prosecution or CP finding rates (ACTION: Gapske will look on dashboard and ask about how this could be tracked. Marcia will see what MCA has for data)
    - Request for data on ESL or limited English proficiency cases in CP (ACTION: Gapske will research or contact CQI)
    - Request for data on disproportionality in CP cases (ACTION: Gapske will research or contact CQI)
    - Request for data on immigration status (ACTION: Gapske will research or contact CQI)

## IV. Subcommittee Report/Updates

- Share back from the CJA LE/CP and CAC/MDT Subcommittee group projects.
    - Gapske-CP/LE Subcommittee Chair
        - Gapske will attend the next DHS YLC to share back the themes to ensure it was captured accurately
        - YLC will be provided the information of what the themes will be used for and thank them again for their participation
        - Themes will be an addendum to the 3 YR assessment and planning report
    - Marcia-CAC/FI Subcommittee Chair
        - Survey was extended one week
        - Data will be reviewed at a rescheduled meeting
        - There were around 88 responses

## II.    Next Meetings

- The CJA task force meeting in December will be cancelled in lieu of 3-year assessment and planning meetings.

| Meeting | Schedule | Date |
|---|---|---|
| CAC/MDT/FIT subcommittee | 2$^{nd}$ Wednesdays 1-2pm | November 30, 2023 at noon |
| LE/CP subcommittee | 4$^{th}$ Tuesdays 12-1pm | No November mtg.<br><br>December 26, 2023 12-1 PM |
| CJA task force | 3$^{rd}$ Thursday Quarterly | Thursday, December 7$^{th}$ (all day/in-person), Monday, December 11 (am/virtual), and Wednesday, December 13 (pm/virtual) |