

**Texas Children's Justice Act Project Task Force
Texas Center for the Judiciary, Austin, TX
April 23, 2010**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda

- 1 Minutes for January 22, 2010 Meeting**
- 2 2010 Elections Overview**
- 3 First Responder Working Group Notes & Recommendations**
- 4 Grant Application Summaries**
 - a. TRIPLE**
 - b. Dallas Children's Advocacy Center**
- 5 CJA Overview and Task Force Recommendations**

**CJA Task Force Meeting
AGENDA
April 23, 2010**

9:00 – 9:15	<p>SESSION I : Welcome, Task Force Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Task Force Member and Officer Elections ○ Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Law Enforcement – Action Item ○ Child Abuse and Neglect Training for School Personnel – Action Item
9:15 – 9:45	<p>SESSION II: Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome, Purpose, Goals for the Planning Meeting ○ Introductions, Review Agenda, Ground Rules
9:45 – 10:30	<p>SESSION III: Establishing Common Understandings (Staff presentations w/ short question and answers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Federal CJA Purpose and State Requirements ○ Texas CJA Task Force Purpose and Functions ○ Existing Recommendations ○ Strong Programs – Summary and Success Indicators
10:30 - 11:15	<p>SESSION IV: Setting the Stage/Defining our Mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brainstorm the Mission/Purpose ○ Goal of Recommendations – Facilitated Group Think ○ Description of small group break outs
11:15 – noon	<p>BREAK – Lunch</p>
12:00 – 2:30	<p>SESSION V: Refining the Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Small Group Break Out ○ Presentation to Large Group
2:30 – 3:30	<p>SESSION VI: Review of Partnership and Multiyear Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description of Projects(CJA staff) ○ Discussion of alignment with new recommendations
3:30 – 4:00	<p>SESSION VII: Wrap Up, Next Steps</p>

MINUTES of Texas Children’s Justice Act Task Force
Meeting date: January 22, 2010

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Texas Children’s Justice Act Task Force, was held at the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Austin, TX on January 22, 2010. The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m., Valerie Milholland presiding.

Members in attendance:

Roy Block
William Briley
Kriste Burnett
Cathy Crabtree
De Shaun Ealoms
Jon Evans
Joe Gagen
Tom Gaylor
Rolf Habersang

Randi King
Valerie Milholland
Margaret Lalk
James Lukefahr
Chris Oldner
Daniela Ontiveroz
Dan Powers
Fairy Rutland

Members not in attendance:

Larry Thorne
Cozette Bustamante
Audrey Deckinga
Denise Hyde
Joyce M. James
Gerry Williams

Staff in attendance:

Heidi Penix
Ginny Woods

Grantees/Guests in attendance:

Dan Capouch
Cathy Cockerham
Sheila Craig
Susan Miller
Jon Olsen
Beth Page
Kenneth Thompson

Welcome and introductions by Valerie Milholland. Ms. Milholland welcomed members and guests. Members introduced themselves. Ms. Milholland announced that CJA staff had updated the content and design of the CJA website.

Approval of October 23, 2009 minutes: Minutes from the October 23rd Task Force meeting had been emailed to the members following the meeting and posted to the CJA website.

Motion was made by Margaret Lalk and seconded by Chris Oldner to approve the minutes of the October 23rd, 2009 meeting. Motion carried without opposition.

2009 Project Outcomes and Wrap Up by Heidi Penix. Heidi Penix presented on the outcomes of CAC of Hidalgo County, CASA of Trinity Valley, Navarro County CAC and Nueces County CAC.

Budget by Ginny Woods. Ms. Woods updated the Task Force on the status of the FY '09 budget. The 2009 grant year has been closed out. The final carry-over amount is \$336,198.65: \$98,431.19 from the budget reserve; \$98,872.42 from University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio for the second year of their two-year grant; \$82,887.93 from the unexpended budgets of the remaining grantees; \$13,279.81 from the Task Force line item; and \$42,727.30 from operating expenses.

Additionally, Ms. Woods reviewed the current status of the FY '10 budget. \$1,242,234.99 has been budgeted to date; \$119,843.59 has been expended; and \$131,695.70 remains for new projects.

Finally, Ms. Woods previewed the following additional budget allocations to be requested during the course of the meeting:

- \$25,000 for a child abuse and neglect training for school personnel
- \$75,000 to train law enforcement on child abuse and neglect
- \$4,000 in additional funding to support the fatherhood roundtable
- \$25,000 in additional funding to support scholarship opportunities

Legislative Committee Report by Joe Gagen. Joe Gagen directed Task Force members' attention to the 81st Legislature Interim Study charges which were included in their meeting folders. He highlighted particular charges related to CJA including sex trafficking, relative care, and child-friendly courts.

First Responder Working Group Report by Dan Powers. The first responder working group met via teleconference on December 17, 2009. They recommended that the Task Force set aside \$100,000 to develop two training events: child abuse and neglect training for school personnel (mandated reporters) and child abuse and neglect training for law enforcement (first responders).

- 1. First Responder training and protocols** – Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA) has a statewide curriculum available on child abuse and neglect, which includes components on both physical and sexual abuse. However, it is currently not easily accessible or affordable for all officers, particularly those in rural districts. CJA funds would be used to create an updated curriculum based on TMPA's comprehensive SAFVIC model curriculum (which deals with sexual assault and family violence) that would target rural areas. The updated curriculum would focus exclusively on child abuse and neglect with particular emphasis on the MDT model and coordination with CPS. CJA would also pay trainers to travel into the rural communities to deliver the trainings at no cost to the participants.
- 2. Mandated Reporter training and protocols** - The working group discussed issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to develop mandated reporter training curriculum for school personnel. Margaret Lalk reported that she had been in contact with schools throughout the state and that most schools felt that they were in compliance with the mandated reporter laws and didn't seem to see the necessity for training. Cathy Crabtree commented that mandated reporters would require a different approach than first responders. Through the development of an easily replicable and consistent curriculum available through CJA, the correct information will be available to the groups that need it. CJA will need to be proactive in its marketing and dissemination strategies for this curriculum. This project has a relatively short time-line and the curriculum will need to be completed by the middle of summer for availability to teachers by late August/early September.

Motion was made by Margaret Lalk and seconded by Cathy Crabtree to set aside \$100,000 for the Task Force to develop two training and curriculum development projects: child abuse and neglect training for law enforcement and child abuse and neglect training for school personnel.

Children with Disabilities/First Responder Training by Cathy Crabtree. CJA Staff and representatives from CACTX have begun discussions with Nora Baladerian, the Co-Director of the Institute on Violence and Trauma/Alliant University training program. IVAT/Alliant received a grant from the Office of Victims of Crime to develop curriculum and conduct trainings for first responders to child abuse cases involving children with disabilities. This training will involve forensic interviewing of children with disabilities, and therefore, it is critical that CACs be involved in the development of the curriculum. Selena Munoz from CACTX has been selected as a member of the national advisory board to assist in the development of the training. Additionally, Andra Chamberlain, Program Director for the Midland Children's Advocacy Center, has been nominated for the regional technical assistance coordinator for Texas for this project. She is a forensic interviewer and a contracted trainer for the CACTX forensic interviewer training curriculum. Texas will develop a steering committee to work with the national advisory committee that will include members of the Task Force disabilities working group, as well as Ada McCloud of CACTX, and other necessary stakeholders. The trainings will not begin until 2011. No funds are requested at this time.

Grantee updates by Ginny Woods. Ms. Woods updated the Task Force on the status of scholarships. CJA has received an overwhelming response to our scholarship program and anticipates a high volume of requests to the Crimes against Children Conference. Of the \$67,318 budgeted, CJA staff has awarded 68 scholarships totaling \$36,646, and obligated an additional \$12, 284. CJA staff recommends setting aside an additional \$25,000 to support scholarship opportunities.

Motion was made by Cathy Crabtree and seconded by Rolf Habersang to set aside an additional \$25,000 to support scholarship opportunities.

Through the Small Training Grants program, CJA has obligated nearly \$15,000 of the \$20,000 budgeted and supported the CACTX Annual Conference, as well as the Bexar County Children's Court Ad Litem Training. Other small training grant awards have been made to CAC of Smith County in Tyler and the Center for Child Protection in Austin to support multidisciplinary team trainings.

Ms. Woods gave an update of the major grant projects. Grantees have achieved measurable results and are making progress towards project objectives. The quarterly report was included as part of the meeting materials.

CPS Update by Dan Capouch, CPS Accountability Division Administrator and Susan Miller, CPS Director of Investigations. As a result of child deaths throughout the state, DFPS began a series of investigations and Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) reviews. The first review was in Dallas/Fort Worth in August and the second review was in Harris County. The reviews made apparent certain trends and patterns in the decision-making process, particularly related to risk-assessment. DFPS has been working with the National Resource Center for Child Protective

Services to help correct these issues. The upcoming, CJA-supported, Investigations and Family Based Safety Services joint intensive staff training is one strategy for addressing immediate concerns related to distinction between risk and safety. The training is scheduled for June.

Fatherhood Roundtable Update by Kenneth Thompson, CPS Fatherhood Program Specialist. The Fatherhood Roundtable will be held at the Texas Center for the Judiciary on March 27th. With input from fathers who have successfully navigated the child protection system, the roundtable will stress the importance of finding and fully engaging fathers to improve outcomes from children in the system. It will include a cross-section of individuals to represent a variety of opinions. Initially, the Task Force set aside \$2,000 to support the event, and CJA staff requests an additional \$4,000.

Motion was made by Cathy Crabtree and seconded by Rolf Habersang to set aside an additional \$4,000 for the Fatherhood Roundtable event.

Courthouse Dog Program by Cathy Crabtree. Ms. Crabtree reported on a program recently presented in Austin on the use of professionally trained assistance dogs in the facilitation of forensic interviews and to assist children through the court experience. This program, as well as programs using therapy dogs in CACs, is gaining interest throughout the state.

Undoing Racism by Sheila Craig, CPS State Disproportionality Manager, and Jon Olsen, CPS State Disproportionality Specialist. Sheila Craig and Jon Olsen gave an overview of the Undoing Racism Training and some of the work DFPS is doing to address the disproportionate representation of African American and American Indian children in the child protection system. Dates of the CJA sponsored training will be June 24-26. It will be held at the Texas Center for the Judiciary. All CJA Task Force members are invited, as well as additional participants to be identified to represent other systems which impact child protection.

New Business: The Task Force did not discuss any items of new business. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 23rd.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at **1:30**.

These minutes were approved at a Texas Children's Justice Act Task Force meeting on April 23, 2010.

2010 CJA Task Force Elections

Nominating Committee for CJA Task Force Members

Committee Members: Chair - Margaret Lalk, Jon Evans, Dan Powers, Fairy Rutland, and Rolf Habersang

Authority: Pursuant to Article 4 of the Children's Justice Act Bylaws, a general election of members shall be held annually in the last quarter of the federal fiscal year. Any current member may submit the name of a potential nominee to the Committee by June 23, 2010. All nominees must complete an application for membership and should attach a resume or biographical summary. The Committee will meet to review potential nominees. If the committee elects to recommend nominees, it will submit the nominees' names, along with the appropriate applications and resumes or biographical summaries. The Task Force can only consider those names placed in nomination by the Committee.

Guidelines:

1. Total Task Force membership may not exceed 25.
2. The Task Force must include members from the following disciplines:
 - a) Prosecuting Attorneys
 - b) Civil Court Judges
 - c) Criminal Court Judges
 - d) Law Enforcement Representatives
 - e) Individuals Experienced Working with Children with Disabilities
 - f) Child Advocates
 - g) Defense Attorneys
 - h) Court Appointed Special Advocates
 - i) Health Professionals
 - j) Mental Health Professionals
 - k) Child Protective Service Agencies
 - l) Parent Group Representatives
3. The Assistant Commissioner of CPS, the Executive Director of Texas CASA, and the Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas shall be standing membership positions and not subject to the general election.
4. Other members may be added at the discretion of the Task Force.

Consideration: The following Task Force members are up for re-election:

1. Valerie Milholland
2. De Shaun Ealoms
3. Jon Evans
4. Denise Hyde
5. Margaret Lalk
6. James Lukefahr

2010 CJA Task Force Elections

Nominating Committee for CJA Task Force Officers

Committee Members: Chair - Joe Gagen, Margaret Lalk, and Fairy Rutland

Authority: Pursuant to Article 5 of the Children's Justice Act Bylaws, committee chairpersons shall serve as nominating committee to propose a slate of officers for election.

Guidelines:

1. Officers of the Task Force shall consist of a Chair and Vice Chair.
2. Officers are elected for a one year period upon majority vote of Task Force members present or by the returning of e-mail ballots, and may be re-elected for up to three, one-year terms.

Consideration: Chair, Larry Thorne and Vice Chair, Valerie Milholland are currently serving their third, one-year term.

First Responder Working Group

Meeting date: April 14, 2010

A meeting of the Children's Justice Act (CJA) First Responder Working Group was held April 14, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. via teleconference.

Members present: Cathy Crabtree, Tom Gaylor, Margi Lalk, and Dan Powers

Also present: Ginny Woods, Heidi Penix, and Joy Hugh-Rauls

Background: The First Responder Working Group is charged with evaluating current protocols and available training for first responders to reports of child abuse and neglect and making recommendations regarding training and protocol improvements. To implement its charge, the working group first clarified the definitions for first responders and mandated reporters. The group identified "first responders" as those professionals called to respond to suspected cases of abuse or neglect, such as law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, CPS, etc. "Mandated reporters" include professionals who may be the initial reporters of abuse or neglect, such as school, medical, and ministerial personnel. At the January 22nd Task Force meeting, the working group recommended that the Task Force set aside \$100,000 to develop two training programs: (1) child abuse and neglect training for school personnel, and (2) child abuse and neglect training for law enforcement. The Task Force approved the recommendation of the working group.

Following the Task Force meeting, CJA staff issued two requests for applications (RFAs):

- (1) Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Law Enforcement** – The RFA was issued Feb. 4th. RFA was non-competitive and specifically targeted Texas Municipal Police Association (TMPA). The Training and Research Institute for Professionals Law Enforcement (TRIPLE), a 501(c)(3) subsidiary organization of TMPA, responded to the request and submitted an application by the April 1st deadline.
- (2) Child Abuse and Neglect Training for School Personnel** - The RFA was issued Feb. 19th. This RFA was competitive and open to units of state and local government, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions which met particular criteria in the RFA. In response, we received one application from Dallas CAC.

CJA staff posted submitted applications to a secure webpage for the members of the working group review. The first responder working group met via conference call Wednesday, April 14th at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the applications.

Recommendations: The First Responder working group recommends that the Task Force approve both applications with the following stipulations to be incorporated into the grant award:

- (1) Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Law Enforcement**
 - Updated curriculum should be shared with CPS state office to ensure consistency.
- (2) Child Abuse and Neglect Training for School Personnel**
 - While Dissemination Recommendations may include information on how to distribute curriculum using local children's advocacy centers, the recommendations must also include information on how to distribute the curriculum through other organizations, including regional education centers.
 - Dallas CAC should consult with relevant stakeholders to ensure that final curriculum and accompanying materials are relevant to school districts throughout the state, including those located in small and mid-sized communities.
 - Final curriculum must be reviewed and endorsed by representatives from Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX), CPS state office, Texas District and County Attorney's Association (TDCAA), and TMPA.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Training and Research Institute for Professional Law Enforcement (TRIPLE)

Address: 6200 La Calma Drive, Ste. 200, Austin, TX

Phone: 512-454-8900

Fax: 512-454-8860

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Law Enforcement

Grant Period: 5/1/2010-9/30/2010

Amount of Funds Requested: \$75,000

Program Description: The purpose of the Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Law Enforcement is the development and statewide delivery of structured child abuse and neglect training for law enforcement officers. The training will be offered free of charge, made available to peace officers working in rural communities, and will meet child abuse training requirements for Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) intermediate certification. This program addresses the Task Force recommendations to support the development and promotion of training for first responders, and to encourage the revision and/or development of protocols, policies, or best practices for first responders and schools.

Problem Statement: Texas Peace Officers are in need of adequate, affordable, and up-to-date training on how to better respond to and investigate child abuse and neglect a multidisciplinary team approach. The current statewide Intermediate Child Abuse Training (TCLEOSE Course # 2105) was last updated on 9/1/2000. There have been significant changes among Texas laws, technology, and investigative techniques. Law enforcement agencies across Texas struggle to provide high quality training and resources to officers to facilitate a consistent and effective response to victims of child abuse and neglect. Specialized child abuse training is not readily available in most rural agencies in Texas nor are there funds to travel to attend such trainings.

Objectives: TRIPLE aims to achieve the following objectives in Year 1:

- Improve and update existing TCLEOSE Intermediate Child Abuse Training curriculum to include an emphasis on multidisciplinary team model and coordination with Child Protective Services by August 31st.
- Identify and contract with experts to teach at the Train the Trainer Instructor Course.
- Identify at least 10 new instructors to attend the Train the Trainer Instructor Course.
- Contract with and train at least 10 new instructors at the Train the Trainer Instructor Course.
- Train at least 100 officers on the new Child Abuse & Neglect curriculum by August 31st.

Activities: TRIPLE will undertake the following activities to complete program objectives in Year 1:

- Revise and update existing TCLEOSE curriculum.
- Identify and contract with presenters to teach Train the Trainer course.
- Recruit, select, and train instructors to delivery new training curriculum.
- Send staff to 2010 Crimes Against Children to promote training and recruit additional instructors.
- Create database to collect data from new training.

Evaluation: The success of the training will be measured in the following ways:

- Student’s knowledge will be measured by their pre-test and final exam scores. These scores will show how knowledgeable the students were prior to the training and how much knowledge they gained by attending the training.
- Effectiveness of the instructor will be measured by the evaluation that is completed on the last day of the 3 day training.
- Effectiveness of the course will be measured by the evaluation that is completed on the last day of the 3 day training.
- Year 3, a student survey will be distributed to previous students to measure the usefulness of the training, gauge improvement in student’s knowledge, and assess student’s outlook on the use of multidisciplinary teams.

Targets:

- Hold 1 Train the Trainer Instructor Course and train at least 10 Instructors
- Hold at least 10 Training Events
- Train 100 Peace Officers

Project Budget

Category	Description	Expense
Salaries	Salaries for Program Manager (100%), Program Assistant (50%), and Accounting Support Staff	\$ 26,275.00
Benefits	Benefits include contributions to social security, employee health and life insurance, unemployment insurance, and a retirement pension plan. 25% of salaries.	\$ 6,569.00
Travel	Transportation, Per Diem, and Lodging for 10 students attending the Train the Trainer Instructor Course.	\$ 9,550.00
	Transportation, Per Diem, and Lodging for trainers teaching 10 three day classes.	\$ 5,230.00
	Transportation, Per Diem, and Lodging Reimbursement for Program Staff. .	\$ 2,520.00
Equipment		\$ -
Operating & Supplies	Rent/Utilities for program personnel - \$350 per month	\$ 1,750.00
	Information Technology and Communication Related Services	\$ 1,100.00
	Office Supplies, Printing/Copying, Postage	\$ 750.00
	Staff Training	\$ 500.00
	Computers for program personnel	\$ 2,000.00
	Program expenses - Cost of production of student manuals, exams, registration sheets, course evaluations, etc.	\$ 3,050.00
	Cell Phone for Program	\$ 206.00
Contractual	Instructors for the Train the Trainer Instructor Course (2) - includes all expenses.	\$ 5,000.00
	Consultant costs for development/updates for the Child Abuse and Neglect course.	\$ 3,000.00
	Trainers - conduct 3 day/24 hour Child Abuse and Neglect Trainings (10 classes at \$750 each).	\$ 7,500.00
Total		\$ 75,000.00

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: Dallas Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC)

Address: 3611 Swiss Avenue, Dallas TX 75204

Phone: 214-818-2601

Fax: 214-823-4819

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: Child Abuse and Neglect Training for School Personnel

Grant Period: 5/1/2010-7/31/2010

Amount of Funds Requested: \$25,000

Program Description: The purpose of the Child Abuse and Neglect Training for School Personnel is the development of a (1) standardized Training Curriculum for use throughout Texas in providing training to school district personnel relevant to recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse and neglect, (2) a companion Implementation Guide, and (3) written recommendations regarding the dissemination of the training and companion guide. The program supports the Task Force recommendations to support the development and promotion of training for first responders and to encourage the revision and/or development of protocols, policies, or best practices for first responders and schools. The Task Force working group charged with implementing these recommendations recognized that within the broad definition of first responder existed a subgroup of professionals known as mandated reporters. The working group acknowledged the need to train mandated reporters across various disciplines, but chose to focus initially on school personnel, including among others, administrators, classroom teachers, guidance counselors, and school nurses.

Problem Statement: It is imperative that all community members are aware of the realities of child abuse and the signs that indicate victimization, especially school personnel. School personnel have close contact with children for extended periods of time and are legally required to report suspicions of abuse. Additionally, 18.9% of all reports of child abuse in Texas are reported by school personnel.¹ This makes school professionals the most common group for reporting abuse. Currently, there is not a time- or cost-effective training option for school personnel. School personnel often utilize the most economical approach and develop their own curriculum. Unfortunately, this leads to misinformation and inconsistency in teaching regarding the important issues of recognizing and reporting child abuse. As a result, many teachers may be confused or uninformed about how to recognize the signs of child abuse and about their important responsibility in reporting suspicions.

Objectives:

- Develop training curriculum and implementation guide for use in training Texas school district personnel on their roles and responsibilities for reporting suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.
- Collaborate with or receive endorsement by the various multidisciplinary team disciplines (minimum: law enforcement, CPS, prosecution, medical and mental health) in the development/review of project.
- Implement small-scale pilot training with school personnel and evaluate its effectiveness in improving the participant's level of knowledge and/or skills.
- Develop recommendations regarding the dissemination of the training curriculum and implementation guide to promote utilization by Texas school district personnel.

¹ Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Annual Report and Databook, 2009.

- Utilizing current community relationships, schedule additional *Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse* trainings for the school districts in Dallas community, to be held following the current grant period.

Activities: DCAC has already developed a curriculum on recognizing and reporting child abuse for school personnel to be delivered using a train-the-trainer format. The curriculum includes a two-part video and interactive activities. During the relevant grant period, DCAC will to the following:

- Update existing curriculum and accompanying materials to ensure compliance with CJA grant requirements;
- Develop data tracking system to capture output and outcome information;
- Plan and implement train-the-trainer workshop;
- Conduct trainings for school professionals in Mesquite School District;
- Analyze data from trainings;
- Work with education organizations to understand current training process and to develop an implementation plan for disseminating the training throughout Texas; and
- Plan trainings to be conducted throughout Dallas ISDs following the grant period.

Evaluation: DCAC will use pre and post test evaluations to measure the increase in knowledge of relevant topics of educated school personnel.

Targets:

- 90% of educated school personnel will correctly answer at least 80% of post evaluation questions.
- 40 school professionals trained as curriculum facilitators, resulting in 3,000 teachers and school professionals trained on the *Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse* curriculum. (Train-the-trainer training to occur during grant period, May 1 – July 31, 2010; school professional training to occur after grant period, August 1, 2010 – September 30, 2010, to accommodate Mesquite ISD schedule.)

Project Budget

Category	Description	Expense
Salaries	Salaries for Senior Education Specialist (20%) and Education Associate (5%)	\$ 2,594.00
Benefits	Benefits include contributions to social security and employee health and life insurance	\$ 656.00
Travel		-
Equipment		-
Operating & Supplies	Modification to educational training video and trainee booklet	\$ 3,000.00
	Replication of 140 DVDs and trainer manuals	\$ 952.00
	Design for trainer manual	\$ 1,500.00
	Printing of 7,000 trainee booklets and associated handouts	\$ 16,298.00
Total		<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>

Texas Children's Justice Act (CJA) Program



Purpose

Section 107(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) authorizes grants to states to support programs designed to improve:

1. Handling of child abuse and neglect cases, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner which limits additional trauma
2. Handling of cases of suspected child abuse and neglect related fatalities
3. Investigation and prosecution of cases of child CAN
4. Handling of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems who are victims of abuse and neglect

In particular, grant funds should be used to implement CJA Task Force recommendations in the following three categories:

- A. Activities to improve the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect...
- B. Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques...
- C. Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures...

CJA Task Force

In accordance with the requirements of the federal grant, Texas maintains a multidisciplinary Task Force on Children's Justice to oversee program activities. At three year intervals, the Task Force conducts a comprehensive assessment of the law, policy and the handling of child abuse and neglect cases and makes policy and training recommendations for systemic improvements.

Use of Funds

CJA funds should be used to support projects which fit the grant purpose, address specific Task Force recommendations, and show potential for system-level improvements and broad statewide impact.

Texas Children's Justice Act (CJA) Program

2010 – 2012 Children's Justice Act Project Task Force Recommendations Approved April 24, 2009

- A. Activities to improve the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect...
 - 1. Provide MDTs with adequate support, training, and networking opportunities, so they will stay well-engaged and coordinated.
 - 2. Support local and statewide multidisciplinary training for child-protection professionals on one or more of the following topics: Disabilities, Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC), Substance Abuse, Cultural Competency, Engaging Families and Youth, Mental and Behavioral Health, Sexual Exploitation, and Child Trafficking.
 - 3. Support the development and promotion of training for first responders.
 - 4. Ensure forensic interviewers are adequately supported and trained, including opportunities for more peer reviews.
 - 5. Support strength-based, family-focused initiatives.
 - 6. Support training opportunities for CPS staff designed to strengthen levels of accountability, enhance staff support, and improve workforce retention.
 - 7. Develop and strengthen collaborative partnerships.

- B. Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques...
 - 1. Support the use of specialists with expertise on disabilities to serve as single, consistent advocates for children with disabilities through the entirety of their case.
 - 2. Support the use of specialized child-protection professionals to focus on children in PMC.
 - 3. Support the creation and/or expansion of coordinator positions to help the child victim and the victim's family access and complete services.
 - 4. Encourage the use of specialized courts or highly committed, specialized judges to hear child abuse and neglect cases.

- C. Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures...
 - 1. Encourage the revision of investigative protocols for dealing with children with disabilities.
 - 2. Encourage the revision and/or development of protocols, policies, or best practices for first responders and schools.
 - 3. Support policies that retain CASAs and AAL after Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) has been awarded.