

MINUTES of Texas Children's Justice Act Task Force
Meeting date: January 23, 2009

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 23, 2009. The meeting convened at **9:10AM**, Chair Hon. Larry Thorne presiding.

Members in attendance:

Roy Block
Lt. Cozette Bustamante
De Shaun Ealoms
Cathy Crabtree
Jon Evans
Dr. Rolf Habersang
Joe Gagen
Margaret Lalk

Dan Powers
Fairy Rutland
Gerry Williams

Members not in attendance:

Hon. Fred Chavez
Joyce James
TaNeika Wood
Valerie Milholland
Denise Hyde
Dr. James Lukefahr

Staff in attendance:

Colette Bonstead
Cherisse Robison
Ginny Woods

Guests in attendance:

Jackie Bowman
Dan Capouch
Susan Miller
Bonnie Cone

David Davis
Carl Reynolds
Jeff Rich
Tiffany Roper

Welcome and introductions, by Hon. Larry Thorne. Judge Thorne welcomed members and guests.

Approval of minutes: Motion was made by Cathy Crabtree, and seconded by Fairy Rutland, to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2008 meeting. Motion carried without opposition.

Bylaws Committee Report, by Joe Gagen, Bylaws Committee Chair. Proposed amendments to the Task Force bylaws were sent out via email 1/12/2009, meeting the 10 day notice requirement for proposed amendments. The Bylaws Committee recommended the approval of proposed changes. Motion was made by Margaret Lalk, and seconded by Dr. Rolf Habersang, to approve proposed bylaw amendments. Motion carried without opposition. See Attachments A and B.

Appointment of Nominating Committee. Judge Thorne appointed Margaret Lalk, Fairy Rutland, Dan Powers and Dr. Rolf Habersang to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will be responsible for reviewing biographical summaries or resumes of proposed nominees and making recommendations for Task Force membership to the Task Force. Only names placed in nomination by the committee will be considered by the Task Force for membership. The Task Force will discuss membership needs at the April Task Force meeting, and Task Force member elections will be held in July.

Report on Budget, by Colette Bonstead, CJA Financial Associate. Ms. Bonstead updated the Task Force on the current status of the budget. A motion was made by Dr. Rolf Habersang to

release an additional \$25,000 in funds remaining for new projects for training-related grants. The motion was seconded by Dan Powers. Motion carried without opposition. See Attachment C.

CJA Status Report, by Cherisse Robison, CJA Grant Monitor. Ms. Robison reviewed the project plan and timeline.

Discuss and Prioritize Preliminary Recommendations, by Ginny Woods, CJA Project Director. Ms. Woods provided a recap of the work the Task Force has done thus far on the CJA Assessment. After the December working group sessions, the Task Force had generated approximately 130 strategies. CJA staff was then able to further consolidate these strategies into 58 strategies and 17 broader recommendations, and then categorize the recommendations into the three CJA assessment categories. See Attachment D.

The Task Force was then given the opportunity to discuss, alter, or add specific strategies. The Task Force made the following changes:

- Strategy 1(e) Support the development and promotion of issue-specific (both core and complicated issues) cross-systems and joint-training of AALs and GALs.
- Strategy 1(i) Encourage the development and promotion of structured child abuse trainings or certification options for law enforcement professionals and first responders.
- Strategy 1(j) Ensure forensic interviewers are adequately supported and trained for the pending national certification standard, including opportunities for more peer review and training.
- Strategy 3(a) Support the development and promotion of local and statewide, quality training for GAL and CASAs and foster parents and relative caregivers, including the beyond minimum training module for CASA volunteers.
- Strategy 6(d) Support the development and implementation of case-tracking systems.
- Strategy 8(a) Support the use of specialized caseworkers, lawyers, CASA volunteers and supervisors, and caregivers to focus on PMC youth.
- Strategy 12(h) Support efforts to ensure CASAs are appointed as GALs.

Following the discussion, each Task Force member chose their favorite ten strategies. The twenty-three strategies receiving the most interest were redistributed among the four working groups. See Attachment E.

The Task Force then divided into working groups to further discuss the selected strategies.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at **1:45 PM**.

These minutes were approved at a Texas Children's Justice Act Task Force meeting on April 24, 2009.

From: Ginny Woods
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 10:53 AM
To: Alfredo Chavez (COdom@epcounty.com); 'Angie Martin'; Cathy Crabtree; De Shaun Ealoms (deshaun.ealoms@dfps.state.tx.us); Denise Hyde; Dr. James L. Lukefahr, MD; Dr. Rolf Habersang, MD; Fairy Rutland; Gagen Joe (jgagen@texascasa.org); Gerry Williams; 'Jackie Bowman'; 'JonTEvans@aol.com'; Joyce James; Joyce James (suzanne.scharle@dfps.state.tx.us); jpaasch@co.jefferson.tx.us; Judge Fred Chavez; Judge Fred Chavez (achavez@epcounty.com); Kromrei Liz (Liz.kromrei@dfps.state.tx.us); Larry Thorne (jc317@co.jefferson.tx.us); Larry Thorne (kwebster@co.jefferson.tx.us); Lt. Cozette Fogus; Margaret U. Lalk (mlalk@txcyber.com); Mari Kay Bickett; Powers, Dan; Rolf Habersang MD (tstarkey@emedltd.com); Roy Block (president@tffa.org); Roy Block (royb@pathway.org); Roy Block (royblocktsfpi@aol.com); Valerie Milholland (valerie.milholland@hctx.net)
Cc: Cherisse Robison; Colette Bonstead
Subject: 10 day required notice of proposed amendments to CJA Task Force Bylaws

Attachments: Proposed amendments to bylaws.1.08.09.doc
Greetings Task Force:

The Bylaws Committee has asked the Task Force to consider several changes to the CJA Task Force Bylaws at the January 23rd meeting. This constitutes your 10 day notice as required of proposed amendments. Please review the attached document in preparation for discussion at the Task Force meeting.



Proposed
amendments to bylaws

Sincerely,

Ginny Woods, J.D.
Project Director, CJA
Texas Center for the Judiciary
(512) 482-8986 phone
(512) 469-7664 fax

Amend Article III, Section 2, to read as follows:

Project Approval. ~~In the event funds are subawarded to fulfill Task Force recommendations, CJA staff will evaluate grant applications for completeness and content using a scored evaluation instrument. A Grant Proposal Review Subcommittee of the Task Force will review the staff's evaluations and make initial funding recommendations to the Task Force. The Task Force will review the subcommittee's initial funding recommendations and make final funding recommendations to the Governor's Office or its designee. The Task Force's final recommendations should be afforded great respect, but the~~ All grant applications shall be reviewed using the appropriate process previously adopted by the Task Force. At a minimum, applications should be evaluated for completeness, compliance with federal grant requirements, and alignment with the strategic goals of the Task Force. Ultimate funding decision lies with the Governor's Office or its designee. The Task Force recommendations will be shared with the Office of the Governor, or designee, which has final decision making authority for funding.

Amend Article IV, Section 6, to read as follows:

Section 6. ~~New members may be nominated by any current member or who has~~ Any current member may submit the name of a potential nominee to the Nominating Committee no later than 30 days before the Task Force meeting at which the nomination of members will be considered. The member must have obtained consent of the nominee and who has provided must submit the nominee's biographical summary or resume at the time the potential nominee's name is submitted. The Nominating Committee shall confer for the purpose of reviewing potential nominees, and if the committee elects to recommend nominee(s), their name(s) shall be submitted to the Task Force, along with appropriate biographical summaries or resumes. Only names placed in nomination by the committee will be considered by the Task Force for membership. New members are elected by the current members of the Task Force by a majority vote of those present. ~~and subject to the approval of the Governor's office.~~

Amend Article VII, Section 1, to read as follows:

Section 1. ~~Committees shall be formed at three-year intervals to coincide with adoption of Task Force recommendations.~~ The Chair and Vice-Chair shall determine the number of committees needed and the focus of each. At a minimum, there shall be at least one committee charged with overseeing the assessment process required by the Children's Justice Act.

Amend Article VIII, Section 1, to read as follows:

Section 1. The Task Force shall schedule meet ~~meet~~ at least four meetings ~~times~~ a year, with additional meetings called by the Chair if necessary. A meeting schedule with at least three future meeting dates set shall be established at the beginning of each federal fiscal year. The Chair shall establish meeting dates in consultation with the Task Force. Meetings may be cancelled by the approval of a majority of the Task Force members.

Amend Article VIII, Section 4, to read as follows:

Section 4. Members must be present to vote on matters under consideration by the Task Force, ~~except in the case of elections or matters previously discussed at a Task Force meeting which~~ that at the discretion of the Task Force Chair matters may be carried out voted upon by e-mail ballot. Only duly elected Task Force members are permitted to vote.

Amend Article X, Section 1, to read as follows:

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended upon majority vote of the Task Force membership at a duly announced meeting at which a quorum is present, provided that proposed amendments are distributed to members at least ten days in advance of the meeting. ~~Amendments must be certified by counsel of Governor's Office or counsel of designee to ensure compliance with the federal regulations.~~

These Amendments were adopted in accordance with the Bylaws of the CJA Task Force on January 23, 2009.

APPROVED:_____

Fiscal Year: October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2008

Income		Total Grant Income	\$ 1,459,652.14
	GY 07 Remaining Funds:	Operating Expenses	\$ 258,476.35
	GY 08 Grant Income:	Project Expenditures	\$ 784,685.54
		GY 08 Unexpended Funds:	\$ 416,490.25

Total Grant Income	\$ 1,459,652.14	Total Grant Income	\$ 1,459,652.14
	\$ 100,000.00	Budget Reserve	\$ -
	\$ 263,200.08	Operating Expenses	\$ 263,200.08
	\$ 876,869.42	Total Budgeted	\$ 876,869.42
	<u>\$ 219,582.64</u>	Funds Remaining for New Projects	\$ 219,582.64

Ad Item	Budget	Actual Expenses to Date	Balance
CASA of Hidalgo	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,800.67	\$ 199.33
Bluebonnet CAC/Tri-County CASA	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -
Childsafe	\$ 122,496.00	\$ 122,496.00	\$ -
CAC	\$ 91,638.00	\$ 88,051.00	\$ 3,587.00
El Paso Human Services	\$ 2,183.00	\$ 2,183.00	\$ -
Gregg Cty Drug Ct Site Visit	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 736.50	\$ 1,763.50
Shaken Baby Alliance	\$ 199,997.00	\$ 199,997.00	\$ -
Texas Casa	\$ 230,997.00	\$ 204,537.59	\$ 26,459.41
TX Casa - Tech Conf	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,153.26	\$ 346.74
Greater Dallas Council	\$ 193,058.42	\$ 150,478.43	\$ 42,579.99
CJA Task Force	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 7,752.09	\$ 17,247.91
Total Budget	\$ 876,869.42	Total Expenses	\$ 784,685.54
		Balance	\$ 92,183.88

Attachment C

CJA Budget
Fiscal Year: October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009

Attachment C

1/22/2009

Income	
GY 08 Remaining Funds:	\$ 416,490.25
GY 09 Grant Income:	\$ 1,356,331.00
Interest Income:	\$ 1.88
Total Grant Income	\$ 1,772,823.13
Budget Reserve	\$ 100,000.00
Operating Expenses	\$ 294,800.00
Total Budgeted	\$ 1,302,874.00
Funds Remaining for New Projects	<u>\$ 75,149.13</u>

Total Grant Income	\$ 1,772,823.13
Operating Expenses	\$ 60,715.31
Project Expenditures	\$ 143,417.92
FY 09 Unexpended Funds:	\$ 1,568,689.90

	Budget	Expenses to Date	Balance
Abilene Police Department	\$ 42,909.00	\$ -	\$ 42,909.00
CAC of Hidalgo County	\$ 96,421.00	\$ -	\$ 96,421.00
CAC of Smith County	\$ 45,789.00	\$ 7,329.07	\$ 38,459.93
CAC of Texas	\$ 94,922.00	\$ 17,348.73	\$ 77,573.27
CAC of Texas - Forensic Interview	\$ 2,345.00	\$ 2,345.00	\$ -
CAC of Tom Green County	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 12,220.65	\$ 37,779.35
CASA of Hidalgo County	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
CASA of Trinity Valley	\$ 43,036.00	\$ 6,751.18	\$ 36,284.82
Dallas CAC	\$ 65,700.00	\$ 7,703.17	\$ 57,996.83
Greater Dallas Council on A & DA	\$ 99,999.00	\$ 22,669.56	\$ 77,329.44
Navarro County CAC	\$ 24,625.00	\$ 3,794.85	\$ 20,830.15
Northeast CAC	\$ 7,474.00	\$ -	\$ 7,474.00
Nueces County CAC	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 11,231.94	\$ 63,768.06
County CAC	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00
TCU Institute of Child Development	\$ 57,125.00	\$ -	\$ 57,125.00
Texas CASA	\$ 251,916.00	\$ 45,319.87	\$ 206,596.13
Texas Foster Families Association	\$ 12,372.00	\$ -	\$ 12,372.00
TX Office for Prev of Dev Disabilities	\$ 61,129.00	\$ 3,657.71	\$ 57,471.29
UTHSC-SA	\$ 141,750.00	\$ -	\$ 141,750.00
Zero to Three	\$ 69,362.00	\$ -	\$ 69,362.00
Training Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Alliance for Children	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Center for Child Protection	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Gregg County Family Law Council	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00
CAC of Brazoria County	\$ 4,983.25	\$ -	\$ 4,983.25
CAC of the South Plains	\$ 3,976.75	\$ -	\$ 3,976.75
Dallas CAC	\$ 4,240.00	\$ -	\$ 4,240.00
CJA Task Force	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 3,046.19	\$ 21,953.81
Total Budget	\$ 1,302,874.00	Total Expenses \$ 143,417.92	Balance \$ 1,159,456.08

CJA TASK FORCE PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

CATEGORY A- Activities undertaken to improve the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect in a manner which reduces additional trauma to the child victim:

Rec. 1 Support the development and promotion of training and education for child-protection professionals and other stakeholders, including multidisciplinary and cross-training opportunities on topics such as PMC youth, substance abuse, children with disabilities, cultural competency, engaging families and youth, the role of CASAs, mental and behavioral health, MDTs, and child trafficking.

Strategy 1(a) Support a committee to research and make recommendations regarding an ideal judicial education curriculum to satisfy mandatory training requirements on child abuse and neglect.

IDEAS

- Explore whether mandatory training requirements are helpful.
- Seek clarification regarding the child abuse and neglect judicial training requirements.
- Make recommendations regarding what judicial education on CPS issues should look like.

Strategy 1(b) Support judicial training opportunities which provide hands-on, practical demonstrations and training alongside other disciplines.

IDEAS

- Train judges on how to interview a child, or how to effectively utilize CASA volunteers.

Strategy 1(c) Partner with National Institute for Trial Advocacy to develop and implement training for attorneys who represent DFPS, parents and children in child protection cases.

Strategy 1(d) Partner with Texas District and County Attorneys Association to implement CPS training for prosecutors and DFPS regional attorneys.

Strategy 1(e) Support the development and promotion of issue-specific (both core and complicated issues) cross-systems training of AALs and GALs.

IDEAS

- Training topics might include special immigrant juvenile status, mental health issues, or ICWA.

Strategy 1(f) Support ongoing training opportunities for CPS caseworkers and supervisors.

IDEAS

- Training topics might include cultural competency, understanding the realities of foster care, assessing the best interest of the child, how to engage families, how supervisors can effectively support caseworkers, or understanding the MDT concept.

Strategy 1(g) Support local and statewide multidisciplinary training for child-protection professionals.

IDEAS

- Training topics might include PMC youth, mental and behavioral health issues, children with disabilities, substance abuse issues, trauma-informed care, child trafficking, or how to deal with cross-cultural issues.

Strategy 1(h) Support the development and promotion of training for first responders, such as teachers, medical professionals, patrol officers; and mental health professionals on child protection issues

IDEAS

- Training topics might include the CAC/MDT process, CPS, investigator, and law enforcement roles, investigative practices, the single interview concept, how to handle children who have been victims of abuse, and the dynamics of child abuse.

Strategy 1(i) Encourage the development and promotion of structured child abuse training or certification options for law enforcement professionals.

Strategy 1(j) Ensure forensic interviewers are adequately supported and trained for the national certification standard, including opportunities for more peer reviews and training.

Rec. 2 Support programs which promote or enhance cross-discipline collaboration as a means to effectively handle child protection cases.

Strategy 2(a) Provide MDTs with adequate support, training, and networking opportunities, so they will stay well-engaged and coordinated.

IDEAS

- Support trainings for new and existing MDTs which provide cross-training and networking opportunities, training on core and emerging issues, or training by other MDTs.
- Support the development of dedicated facilitator/coordinator positions for MDTs.
- Encourage medical and mental health, substance abuse, and school and education professionals to participate on MDTs, especially in rural areas.

Strategy 2(b) Support initiatives of Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.

Strategy 2(c) Support the expansion of the Zero to Three court-team concept.

Rec. 3 Support efforts to provide each child with a well-trained advocate to represent his or her best interests.

Strategy 3(a) Support the development and promotion of local and statewide, quality training for GAL and CASAs, including the beyond minimum training module for CASA volunteers.

Strategy 3(b) Support CASA volunteer recruitment efforts.

Strategy 3(c) Support programs to ensure the quality of local CASAs volunteer services.

Rec. 4 Support efforts to properly assess and enhance service coordination for children and families.

Strategy 4(a) Support creation and/or expansion of coordinator positions to help parents and relative caregivers access and complete services from the beginning of the case.

IDEAS

- Support creation and expansion of CAC Family Advocate positions.

Strategy 4(b) Support local efforts to assess and expand existing service and placement resources.

IDEAS

- Support county capacity assessments.
- Support the development of community resource books.
- Support efforts to integrate community resources and faith-based services into already existing systems (e.g. CPS, schools, hospitals, etc.).

Strategy 4(c) Support the development and promotion of best practices for providing children with quality, standardized assessments.

IDEAS

- Encourage the use of NCAC standard for assessments.
- Encourage CPS to place certain kids in residential assessment centers.

Rec. 5 Support the development and promotion of programs which enhance meaningful participation by children, youth, parents, kin, and foster families involved in the child-protection system.

Strategy 5(a) Ensure children are properly supported and accommodated during civil and criminal investigations and court proceedings, including children with disabilities.

IDEAS

- Support the development of court schools to educate children about court process and decrease trauma associated with testifying.
- Support creation and expansion of CAC Family Advocate positions.
- Support development of special waiting rooms for children.
- Develop a relationship with the DA.
- Encourage and support the use of videotapes and dolls.

Strategy 5(b) Support programs or activities designed to increase participation by youth and foster families in court hearings.

Strategy 5(c) Support strength-based, family focused initiatives.

IDEAS

- Support the expansion of FGDM pre-removal.
- Engage CPS's Family Focus Division.
- Support efforts to re-examine families as an option for permanent placement.
- Support programs to enhance relative searches and utilize the kinship model, esp. in cases involving families with substance abuse issues.
- Support education programs with youth and parent input.
- Support initiatives to engage incarcerated parents.

Rec. 6 Support the use of equipment and technology to create shared databases, increase the flow of information, or provide better services for children.

Strategy 6(a) Identify and promote efforts to utilize videoconferencing.

Strategy 6(b) Identify and maintain database of judges that hear CPS cases

Strategy 6(c) Explore the development of an interstate database of child-protection organizations to provide information to parties handling cases that have an out-of-state component.

Rec. 7 Identify and promote best practices to improve the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.

Strategy 7(a) Support efforts to publish best practices, resources, and programs that address mental and behavioral health issues in the child protection system.

CATEGORY B - Steps taken to establish experimental, model, or demonstration programs to improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or to enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action:

Rec. 8 Encourage the development of specialized child protection professional and volunteer positions. (i.e. special caseworkers, special lawyers)

Strategy 8(a) Support the use of specialized caseworkers, lawyers, and CASA volunteers and supervisors to focus on PMC youth.

IDEAS

- Support development and expansion of Texas CASA's PMC initiative.

Strategy 8(b) 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.

Rec. 9 Support innovative models for parent and child representation.

Strategy 9(a) Explore the expansion of public defender model for parent and child representation, esp. into rural areas.

Strategy 9(b) Explore other state funding for offices of child representation.

Strategy 9(c) Explore the use of the law office model for child representation (Los Angeles model).

Rec. 10 Support the development and promotion of creative visitation initiatives.

Strategy 10(a) Explore the replication of Jefferson County's teaching visitation model.

Strategy 10(b) Explore ways to increase visitation opportunities by utilizing non- traditional visitation locations.

Rec. 11 Encourage the use of model courts or specialized judges to handle CPS cases.

Strategy 11(a) Support development of a statewide system of associate judges to hear CPS cases.

IDEAS

- Engage PJs in discussion about using associate judges to hear CPS cases.
- Use both OCA associate judges and county associate judges.
- Counties that have resources can hire their own associate judges or state may provide funding if needed.
- Work with DFPS to identify areas that have CPS issues or bottlenecks.
- Survey judges to see who is interested in having associate judges hear CPS cases.

Strategy 11(b) Support the development of model Texas CPS Courts.

IDEAS

- Partner with NCJFCJ to provide model court designation.
- Support Judicial Commission's designation of best practice courts.
- Explore the expansion of CPS/Family Drug Courts.

CATEGORY C - Activities undertaken to reform State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols or procedures to protect children from abuse:

Rec. 12 Support state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to improve quality advocacy or to enhance support for children, youth and families.

Strategy 12(a) Support policies that retain CASAs and AAL after PMC has been awarded.

Strategy 12(b) Support efforts to develop uniform fee schedule for attorneys representing children and parents.

Strategy 12(c) Support strategies to engage CASA in placement decisions. (Family Code requires caseworker to consult with CASA, but not happening due to CPU.)

Strategy 12(d) Support policies and procedures to increase caseworker involvement/accountability in placement decisions.

Strategy 12(e) Support policies that would increase kinship support for specific relatives.

Strategy 12(f) Extend crisis intervention services by DSHS to CPS kids and parents to keep kids out of care.

Strategy 12(g) Explore possibility of continuing PAL benefits if youth returns home.

Rec. 13 Support state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to improve investigations.

Strategy 13(a) Encourage the revision and/or development of protocols, policies, or

best practices for first responders and schools.

Strategy 13(b) Support efforts by local law enforcement agencies to develop policies or protocols to encourage all law enforcement divisions to collaborate with MDTs.

Strategy 13(c) Support efforts that ensure MDT case selection protocols are consistently followed so that cases aren't selected on an individual basis.

Strategy 13(d) Explore the possibility of refining and revising current policy requirements mandating that all conversations are audio-taped.

Strategy 13(e) Encourage the revision of investigative protocols for dealing with children with disabilities.

Rec. 14 Support state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures which provide for the prompt resolution of child protection cases.

Strategy 14(a) Support policies that require relative information no later than status hearing.

Strategy 14(b) Support efforts to reduce the re-traumatization of children in the judicial system by eliminating long waits for trials.

IDEAS

- Support Victim's Rights Bill/Speedy Trial Bill – CACTX.

Rec. 15 Support state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures, which enhance support and resources for caseworkers and supervisors.

Strategy 15(a) Support legislative initiatives to increase state funding to hire more caseworkers.

Strategy 15(b) Support policies that set maximum "realistic" levels for caseloads, which take into account travel.

Rec. 16 Support state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures on handling cross-jurisdictional cases and supporting the fostering of relationships among parties in different jurisdictions.

Strategy 16(a) Border/Mexico: Examine practices border CACs have employed when working with Mexican police, etc.

Strategy 16(b) Cross-county: Establish protocols between MDTs on how to handle cross-jurisdictional cases.

Strategy 16(c) Cross-county: Help to promote an environment where DAs and prosecutors respect MDT professionals in other jurisdictions.

Strategy 16(d) Federal: Establish protocols for local MDTs and CACs to employ when working with federal agencies in child abuse cases.

Strategy 16(e) Encourage the development of protocols on how to handle sex trafficking cases.

Rec. 17 Support evaluative and assessment efforts pertinent to the reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures.

Strategy 17(a) Examine the effectiveness of CPU.

Strategy 17(b) Support long-term studies that focus on what happens to children who are removed from drug environments.

	Strategies	Votes	
1h	Support training for first responders and mental health professionals	14	Group 1
1g	Support local and statewide multidisc. training for child protection professionals	11	Group 1
2a	Provide MDTs with adequate support, training, and networking opportunities	6	Group 1
1i	Encourage structured child abuse training and certification for law enforce.	4	Group 1
1j	Ensure forensic interviewers are supported and trained	4	Group 1
13e	Encourage revision of investigation protocols for children w/ disabilities	4	Group 1
8a	Support the use of specialized caseworkers, lawyers, etc. to work on PMC	8	Group 2
5c	Support strength-based, family focused initiatives.	6	Group 2
1f	Support training for CPS caseworkers and supervisors	6	Group 2
12f	Extend crisis intervention services to keep kids out of care	5	Group 2
12a	Support policies that retain CASAs and AAL after PMC has been awarded	4	Group 2
13a	Encourage revision/development of best practices for first responders & schools	8	Group 3
4a	Support coordinator positions to help families access and complete services	7	Group 3
7a	Support best practices that address mental and behavioral health issues	7	Group 3
8b	Support the use of disabilities specialists to serve as single advocate	6	Group 3
4c	Support promotion of best practices for giving children standardized assessments	4	Group 3
14b	Support efforts to reduce re-trauma. by eliminating long waits for trials	4	Group 3
1d	Partner with TDCAA for training for prosecutors and DFPS attorneys	7	Group 4
11b	Support the development of model Texas CPS courts	7	Group 4
1b	Support judicial training opportunities that provide hands-on demos	5	Group 4
6a	Identify and promote efforts to utilize videoconferencing	4	Group 4
9a	Explore the expansion of public defender model for parent and child rep	4	Group 4
11a	Support development of statewide system of Associate Judges for CPS cases	4	Group 4
	Secondary Issues		
1a	Support a committee to make recs re: an ideal judicial educ curriculum	3	
3a	Support local and statewide training for GALs and CASAs	3	
4b	Support local efforts to expand existing service and placement resources	3	
6b	Identify and maintain database of judges that hear CPS cases	3	
12h	Support efforts to ensure CASA's are appt as GAL's	3	
13b	Support protocols encouraging all law enforce. divisions to collaborate w/ MDTs	3	
15b	Support policies that set maximum realistic levels for caseloads	3	
10a	Explore replication of Jefferson County's teaching visitation model	3	
12e	Support policies that increase kinship support for specific relatives	3	
15a	Support legislative initiatives to increase state funding to hire more caseworkers	3	
3c	Support CASA quality assurance programs	2	
5b	Support programs to increase youth and foster family participation in court	2	
6c	Explore the development of an interstate database of child-protection orgs	2	
5a	Ensure children are supported during investigations and court proceedings	2	
14a	Support policies that require relative information no later than status hearing	2	
1e	Support cross-systems training for AALs and GALs	1	
2b	Support Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children initiatives	1	
3b	Support CASA volunteer recruitment efforts	1	
6d	Support, develop & implement case-tracking	1	
10b	Explore the use of non-traditional visitation locations	1	
12c	Support strategies to engage CASA in placement decisions	1	
12d	Support increased caseworker involvement/account. in placement decisions	1	
12g	Explore possibility of continuing PAL benefits if youth returns home	1	
16b	Establish protocols btwn MDTs on how to handle cross-jurisdictional cases	1	
17a	Examine the effectiveness of the CPU	1	
1c	Partner with NITA for training for attorneys representing DFPS, parents, and children		
2c	Support Zero to Three concept expansion		
9b	Explore other state funding for offices of child representation		
9c	Explore the use of the law office model for child representation		
12b	Support development of uniform fee schedule for attorneys of parents & children		
13c	Support efforts to ensure MDT case select. protocols are consistently followed		
13d	Explore possibility of revising requirements that all conversations be audio-taped		
16a	Examine border CACs' practices for working with Mexican police		
16c	Promote an environment where DAs/prosecutors respect out-of-county MDTs		
16d	Establish protocols for local MDTs/CACs to employ when working with the feds		
16e	Encourage development of protocols on how to handle sex-trafficking cases		
17b	Support LT studies on what happens to children removed from drug environs.		
Total		189	