

Texas Children's Justice Act Project
2007 Performance Report and Application

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Governor's Letter

Applicant Information

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2007 CJA Performance Report

I. CJA Task Force

Texas has established and maintained a multidisciplinary CJA Task Force ("Task Force") composed of professionals with knowledge of and experience with the criminal justice system, and the systems handling child physical abuse, child neglect, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child maltreatment related fatalities. The Task Force meets four times a year, unless more frequent meetings are needed. Currently, the Task Force is restructuring its operations to ensure that the CJA funds are spent efficiently and in a manner that most benefits victims of child abuse and neglect. At their April 2007 meeting, the Task Force appointed a bylaws committee, an assessment committee, and discussed methods to recruit new membership. Additionally, the Task Force explored strategies for collaborating with other entities, including the task force that oversees the court improvement program funds, the Supreme Court Task Force on Foster Care. The Task Force plans to meet again in August for a day and a half strategic planning session.

II. CJA Projects October 2006 – April 2007

A. *Activities Undertaken to Improve the Investigative, Administrative, and Judicial Handling of Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect*

1. **Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. (CACTX)**

CACTX offers assistance to local CACs by coordinating and providing training, providing technical assistance, and offering resources and funding. CACTX completed five initiatives during this reporting period:

- Multidisciplinary Team Training
- Forensic Interview Planning and Training Sessions
- Forensic Interviewer Peer Review
- Reference/Resource Lending Library
- Medical/Mental Health Forums

a) **Multidisciplinary Team Training**

CACTX sought to conduct three to five sessions of Advanced Multidisciplinary Team Training (MDTT) for established teams to implement changes based on previous evaluations with particular emphasis on centers experiencing expansion and the accompanying growth of demands on their teams.

Outcomes and Impact

Two sessions of Advanced MDTT were conducted for CAC teams affiliated with the centers in Odessa and in San Antonio. There were forty-four members of MDTTs in attendance. Both of the tenured teams that accessed this training opportunity during the grant cycle reported anecdotally and through the participant evaluations that the information provided was helpful to team members in strengthening their understanding of and commitment to the CAC's team approach and in addressing the specific needs of child victims and their families in the investigation and prosecution processes.

Because this advanced training is offered upon request, it was difficult to project how many CAC teams will access it in any given year. However, program staff did invest time during this grant cycle to assess Advances MDTT curriculum to update the materials and create options allowing for greater flexibility in modifying the training to best meet the specific needs of individual teams. In addition, training activities related to this offering were assessed and modified.

b) **Forensic Interview Trainer Planning Session**

The goal of this initiative was to facilitate two one-day Forensic Interview Trainer Planning Sessions for six to eight trainers participating in the forensic interview training. The trainers assessed current curriculum and session formats, built past recommendations into the training curriculum, and updated the information and materials based on new research and recent court rulings.

Outcomes and Impact

Three full-day assessment and planning sessions were held. A team was appointed to address suggested changes to be implemented throughout the year. Topics addressed were: curriculum changes, revision of training activities, possible credentialing or certification, training locations, and training schedules. The curriculum was updated and continues to be reviewed on an annual basis to reflect changes in case law and judicial opinions.

Thirty-three forensic interviewers attended the following forensic interview trainings:

"Basic Interview Process: Practical Application for Forensic Interviewers" – nine participants

"The Forensic Interview Process Enhanced" – nine participants

"Beyond the Sexual Abuse Interview/Defending Your Interview and Yourself in Court" – fifteen participants

Bringing together the core team of forensic interviewing trainers is invaluable to ensuring the training approach is consistent and in line with the goals and objectives set forth in the CAC training model. In addition, the assessment and review of curriculum, materials, teaching activities, and general approach has resulted in continued modifications and updates that ensure the most current information and methods are being shared with the forensic interviewers working in the MDT setting. This rapidly evolving field requires a concerted effort to maintain current and relevant training vehicles.

c) Planning Session for Regional Peer Review Lead Interviewer Program

The goal of this project was to plan and facilitate a one-day planning session for the six Regional Peer Review Lead Interviewers to evaluate the peer review project and develop a strategic plan for continuing the project throughout the state.

Outcomes and Impact

A thorough review of the Peer Review program, forms, sample focus topics, resource library materials, the use of the mini-libraries, and communication skill development training revealed that an average of 56 interviewers representing 37 CACs attended each session, and that sessions were conducted quarterly throughout the state. The program's goals are to:

- Enhance Lead Interviewers' ability to conduct productive meetings focusing on participatory discussion methods.
- Ensure a positive learning experience for all forensic interviewers participating in these vital peer review sessions.
- Cultivate training of volunteer facilitators to support and coordinate the Regional Peer Review sessions.
- Provide new interviewers with the training needed to become lead interviewers within their respective groups.
- Allows opportunity for Lead Interviewers to network and share information, ideas, approaches and provide support for one another throughout the year.

Six new Lead Interviewers, each assigned to one of six regions in the state, benefited from basic training on how to fulfill their role as volunteer facilitators of sessions throughout the year. Their ability to conduct productive meetings focusing on participatory discussion methods ensures a positive learning experience for all forensic interviewers participating in these vital peer review sessions

d) Reference/Resource Lending Library

This initiative worked to enhance the ongoing education of forensic interviewers throughout the state by expanding a mini-lending library provided to each Lead Forensic Interviewer in the Peer Review project, as well as continuing to provide lending materials for all team members and staff working in the CAC setting.

Outcomes and Impact

Mini-lending libraries have been enhanced and additional materials added to the lending library. Making current and relevant literature in the form of books and research articles available and easily accessible to each regional group of interviewers has enhanced their ability to effectively include research review in their regional meeting discussions, ultimately elevating the level of expertise for interviewers participating in the project.

e) Medical and Mental Health Forums

The forums are designed to enhance the knowledge base of medical and mental health professionals affiliated with CACs and emphasize the value these professionals bring to the CAC multidisciplinary team. CACTX's goal was to conduct one medical and one mental health forum to be attended by fifty individuals.

Outcomes and Impact

CACTX hosted one medical and one mental health forum attended by thirty-three participants. The Medical Forum featured a morning presentation by George A. Edwards, M.D., focused on child physical abuse. His presentation covered diagnosis of physical injuries, review of cases and the benefits of team work. It was followed in the afternoon by a panel representing Austin Children's Hospital CATCH (Child Assessment Team at Children's Hospital) Team. The CATCH Team assists the clinician in evaluation and managing abused children, expands the multidisciplinary team approach through consultation, acts as a liaison to Child Protective Services, tracks cases of child abuse, and provides quality assurance on cases of child abuse in collaboration with the CAC in Austin, the District Attorney's Office, and Travis County Sheriff's Office.

The Mental Health Forum presented two topics the following day the Mental Health Forum. Her morning presentation, "Parent Child Interaction Therapy" (PCIT), outlined the components of an empirically-based approach in treating behavior problems in young children. This approach was recently tested with physically abusive parents and was found to be effective in reducing subsequent physical abuse of children. The afternoon presentation, "Working with Non-offending Mothers," addressed current research on non-offending mothers in child abuse cases including a continuum of behaviors from non-offending, to failure to protect, to offending; the reactions and needs of non-offending mothers; the factors that predict belief, support, and protection of the child' effective intervention programs with non-offending mothers; and key references for additional reading.

Physical abuse of children is an area the majority of CACs and their multidisciplinary teams are focusing on more in recent years as they recognize the value of the team-approach to these investigations, despite the fact that a forensic interview may or may not be necessary. This training provided vital insight into how the multidisciplinary team approach benefits the outcome of physical abuse cases and according to evaluations, effectively elevated the level of expertise of those medical and mental health professionals who attended.

2. Attorney Ad Litem Training

CJA provides awards of up to \$3,000 to local bar associations or other nonprofit groups for attorney ad litem trainings. The purpose of these trainings is to improve the representation of children in foster care. Young Lawyers Associations, local bar associations, and nonprofit organizations throughout the state are

periodically notified about the availability of funds. During this reporting period five training programs were funded and are described below.

Outcomes and Impact

Lubbock County Bar Association

CJA provided Lubbock County Bar Association with a grant that allowed them to produce DVDs and extra course materials of a live ad litem training seminar. The extra materials and DVDs allowed the training seminar to be offered year-round, as opposed to the once-a-year standard. Seventy-nine people attended the live seminar, and the bar association received five copies of the three-DVD set.

The Parenting Cottage

Another ad litem grant was given to the Parenting Cottage, a 501c(3) organization devoted to developing the strengths of children and their parents. The Parenting Cottage hosted "Strengthening Texas and Resorting Families: It Starts Here – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders." The conference focused on issues of awareness, prevention, medical issues related to FASD, intervention issues related to the justice system, educational issues, behavioral issues, supportive resources and referrals for families. The conference integrated knowledge and experience to improve outcomes by focusing on practice-based strategies and research-based evidence. Approximately 150 lawyers, judges, corrections officers, police officers, foster care workers, social workers, program providers, educators, and other support workers attended the conference.

Texas Foster Families Association

CJA granted funding to Texas Foster Families Association (TFFA) for its 2006 Conference, "Accept Me as I Am, So I May Learn What I Can Become." The conference provided information about how fostering in Texas in changing and how to prepare for the changes ahead. Their annual conference trained 800 participants who work to improve the well-being of children and their families.

CASA of Trinity Valley

CASA of Trinity Valley hosted a two-part attorney ad litem training entitled "Representing Texas Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases. Part I provided an overview of child protection litigation in Texas, and Part II concentrated on the role of the Child's lawyer. Fifty-six lawyers and CASA volunteers attended the program.

3. Texas CASA, Inc

Texas CASA advocates for abused and neglected children in the court system through the development, growth and support of local CASA programs. Texas CASA completed two initiatives during the reporting period:

- Statewide Evaluation Study Feasibility
- Marketing for CASA Volunteer Recruitment

a) Statewide Evaluation Study Feasibility

There has been a long-standing need to evaluate the impact CASA volunteers have on the children they serve. This project will be entering its second year. Texas CASA used the first year to begin creating the methodology and implementation plan for a statewide evaluation of outcomes for children served by CASA. An evaluation of this scale will be a significant undertaking, and the proper development of the evaluation is critical to its validity and ultimate acceptance. The results of this effort could impact policy regarding the handling of child abuse cases in Texas, and possibly nationwide.

This study targeted previous, existing, and possibly future children in the foster care system. It will also include the local CASA programs, volunteers, Child Protective Services workers, legal professionals, families, etc.

During the reporting period, CASA convened an Outcomes Study Group made up of 26 local program participants. CASA provided a facilitator to lead participants through a the detailed discussion of CASA activities related to the three identified outcome areas and reviewed data systems capabilities in these areas. Staff prepared a report for distribution to the entire CASA network for review and consensus building around outcome measures and CASA activities.

Staff reviewed and analyzed the Child Advocates Inc. study – Making a Difference in the Lives of Abused and Neglected Children – Research on the Effectiveness of a Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. This study was a multi-year project begun in 1999 that compared children with a CASA, with those without a CASA using (descriptive data) CPS case files, (survey and interview data) family, caretaker and child interviews. The study focused on the resiliency of children and "protective factors" (things that help children overcome trauma) specifically two domains: an interested and caring adult, and available resources. The study showed children with a CASA received more services, had fewer placement changes, passed more courses and had better school conduct and that parents of these children received more services.

Staff reviewed and analyzed a 2006 US Department of Justice audit of the National CASA Association. This audit assessed CASA's performance against four outcome measures for cases involving CASA volunteers as compared with non-CASA cases. Outcomes measured were; length of time in foster care, increased provision of services, percentage of cases permanently closed, and achievement of reunification or adoption. The report showed that the more appropriate services provided, the more likely children are to be adopted and less likely to be reunified. Children in cases with a CASA were in foster care slightly longer than non CASA cases. This was explained by a possible selection bias with a CASA being assigned to more difficult cases by judges.

Staff reviewed and analyzed the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study – Improving Family Foster Care. This is one of very few studies that examined how former foster youth have fared as adults, and what changes in foster care services could improve their lives. This study also provides information as to which foster care services hold the greatest promise for improving outcomes for foster youth. Placement stability had a significant positive impact on all measures. The presence of a significant adult in a child's life, and completion of school (obtaining a high school diploma) were two other significant impact measures.

After review and analysis of the above studies, regional discussions were conducted throughout the network regarding child outcomes that are within a CASA's control. Texas CASA distributed an activity plan derived from the Leadership Summit that provides a list of activities that affect positive child outcomes with regard to permanency, medical/mental health and education.

Outcomes and Impact

After careful review, undertaking a statewide evaluation study to demonstrate how children with CASA have better outcomes than children without a CASA is not, in our current opinion, a study that would be practical or particularly meaningful.

The reasons/factors that have led us to this conclusion:

- 1) There are too many other factors that affect outcomes for children. Distinguishing correlation from causality - did the actions of a CASA cause a certain outcome - was a concern raised by local program staff and by volunteers at retention focus group meetings. CASA often has cases in which volunteers perform extraordinary advocacy work, yet the outcome, a safe permanent home, is not achieved.
- 2) Currently, CASA programs willingly accept, and judges most often acknowledge, appointing a CASA to the more difficult or troubling cases. Often referred to as selection bias, this is a well documented issue in CASA research and study. Local programs have also raised concerns that an outcome study might cause a local program to consider the type or difficulty of cases they accept.

3) For these and other reasons, most previous research and studies about the effectiveness of CASA have focused not on child outcomes, but rather on measures. The most common measures have been length of time in care, number of different placements while in care, increased number of services to children and their parents, the reoccurrence of abuse, and the number of children adopted. These are process-driven outcome measures. A further advantage is that these process-driven measures can also be counted within the time frame of a case.

4) There is also one other factor that has weighed in on our deliberations in assessing the practicality and usefulness of a statewide outcome study. In 2006, Child Advocates, Inc., our CASA program in Houston and the largest CASA program in the United States, released a report on a longitudinal study that explored the effects of CASA on children in care, their biological and foster care providers, their environment and the court system. This study provides a current basis of comparison of cases with CASA and cases without CASA and our efforts along these same lines would be duplicative at this time.

In addition, this study does, unlike other studies on CASA effectiveness, focus on child-oriented outcomes including self-esteem and school performance. It explored the effectiveness of a CASA around the issues of resiliency and protective factors and highlighted the role protective factors play.

Through the processes and collaborative network deliberations on this grant project aimed toward developing a plan for studying CASA effectiveness is, CASA staff learned that:

- CASA can potentially direct its advocacy for children more effectively if local program staff and volunteers are provided information/training on findings and factors as shown by completed studies such as Houston's recently released study.
- Careful review and adherence to CASA standards and strengthened quality assurance processes will assure consistency in CASA output measures and activities on children's cases. Placement stability for example, a factor determined by many studies to positively affect a positive outcome for children, could be an area in which quality assurance monitoring could assure CASA outputs, activities and advocacy efforts toward that goal.
- There is a need within our network for improved data collection systems as most local programs keep minimal data in an electronic data system with the majority of case documentation being done in case file notes.
- A statewide satisfaction survey including attorneys, judges, child welfare workers, foster parents, parents and providers would yield important information and assistance in assessing CASA advocacy.

b) Marketing for CASA Volunteer Recruitment

While the CASA network in Texas has grown substantially, there is a continuing need for technical assistance and increased public awareness. The core needs of the network are to attract and retain volunteers and to maintain the infrastructure needed to support these volunteers. During state fiscal year 2005, there were 41,305 children in the Department of Family and Protective Services' care due to abuse and neglect. Of those, CASA served 18,949 with 4,636 volunteers. The number of children in foster care has been increasing by over 10% each year, so the need for a large volunteer pool is becoming critical. Current volunteers are becoming increasingly fatigued by their efforts to serve as many children as possible. In addition, the ratio of children per volunteer has been increasing. Our goal is to continue to increase the volunteer base so that it can accommodate our mission to provide every child who needs a CASA with a CASA.

Outcomes and Impact

1) Child Abuse Prevention Month. CASA created sample written materials for local program use (to include letter to the editor, governor's proclamation, press release). These materials are posted on CASA's Website and staff also plans to include them as a portion of the Alcoa PR Kit. In addition, staff provided 4,784 End Child Abuse blue ribbon car magnets to 66 programs for appreciation of their volunteers, staff and board.

- 2) Hispanic Yellow Pages. An ad was placed in the publication serving Bastrop, San Marcos and Austin areas. There will also be an informational piece about how to report child abuse.
- 3) Brochure Distribution (African American/Spanish). During the reporting period more than 7,200 brochures targets to African Americans and/or Spanish speakers were distributed to local programs. In addition, CASA customized more than 25,000 tri-fold brochures for non-targeted recruitment efforts.
- 4) Take Your Legislator to Court. During the reporting period, Texas CASA worked with five local programs in Amarillo, Beaumont, Dallas, San Antonio and Kaufman County to co-host events. These events are designed to give policy leaders and their staff members an opportunity to observe firsthand the family court proceedings that drive foster care cases in their local community. The events are attended by legislative officials, CPS workers, CASA representatives and local court personnel.
- 5) ATPE (Association of Texas Professional Educators) online training. Texas CASA has partnered with ATPE to create a web-based training utilizing portions of the Casey "Endless Dreams" curriculum. It will be available to the general public as well as ATPE's more than 100,000 members and will highlight information that is Texas specific. Texas CASA will also place this training on its website to be available to local program staff and volunteers.
- 6) Articles in the following association newsletters; Parent Teacher Association, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and ATPE. Texas CASA interviewed CASA volunteers who are also part of these organizations. Articles telling the CASA story and how to get involved were published or will be published in newsletters this spring.
- 7) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Conference. Hosted a booth at this event to increase awareness and received many contacts from local chapters who want to become more involved. Delta Sigma Theta is an African American sorority. Cathy Allen, Texas CASA board president, presented in the general session at this event and discussed the disproportionality of minority children in the child welfare system and the need for more diverse CASA volunteers.
- 8) Managing 14 statewide series 5K events. Our efforts include providing materials such as flyers, car magnets and race course signage that illustrates child abuse awareness. We also are providing technical assistance in the areas of recruitment, retention, and public awareness for all of these events.
- 9) Created diverse banner panels. These seven foot panels can be used or duplicated for local programs when conducting minority volunteer recruitment.
- 10) NAACP state convention. Hosted a booth at this event to increase awareness. Cathy Allen, Texas CASA board president, presented at the general session and we forwarded names of interested parties to local programs. Also hosted a booth at state Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce convention as well as the Texas Women's Conference.
- 11) Developed a memorandum of understanding with Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) for faith-based recruitment. We are in the process of identifying interest in partnering with DFPS in areas where DFPS has faith-based recruiters around the state.
- 12) Child Advocates San Antonio is working with an African American pastor to cultivate and establish relationships with the faith-based community in their county.
- 13) Held several meetings with the local Austin program on establishing a faith-based recruitment effort.

4. ChildSafe

ChildSafe provides services in a safe environment for child and adolescent victims of sexual abuse. At the center professionals ensure that the child's needs - emotional and medical - come first. The mission of ChildSafe is to restore dignity, trust and hope to children traumatized by sexual abuse. ChildSafe facilitates the investigative process through a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) while providing therapeutic services designed to reduce trauma. By carefully assessing each child's needs, enhancing family strengths and abilities to support their child, ChildSafe is at the forefront in providing awareness, treatment and education. During the reporting period, some 1,800 children and families came to our organization in search of support, strength and most importantly, healing. The ongoing projects CJA partially funded during the reporting period are:

- Telemedicine, Training, and Consultation
- Annual Child Abuse Interdisciplinary Conference
- Child Abuse Resource Enforcement (CARE) Program

Outcomes and Impact

a) Telemedicine, Training, and Consultation

During the reporting period the medical team provided 600 hours of training to 63 medical professionals, which is a 41% increase over the previous year.

b) Annual Child Abuse Interdisciplinary Conference

More than 400 participants from a variety of related fields including law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, medical and mental health, attended the annual conference. The conference attracted more law enforcement, licensed chemical dependency counselors and staff from substance abuse programs than in previous years. This may be because the conference emphasized drug endangered children and the topic was addressed by one of the keynote speakers. Evaluation results once again demonstrated that the workshops offered were effective and provided information that was useful to the participants. Of the non-nursing participants, 95 percent rated the workshops as "Excellent", while 82 percent of the nursing participants strongly agreed that the workshops were effective (up from 80 percent last year) and an additional 15 percent agreed somewhat that the workshops were effective.

c) CARE Program

The Child Abuse Resource Enforcement (CARE) Program is a primary partner in the multidisciplinary team, which consists of Child Protective Services, law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, medical professionals, and therapists. CARE personnel often encounter information important to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, which is shared on an ongoing basis with investigative agencies and at weekly case meetings. Staff often provide specific case information regarding family dynamics or risk factors during our regular case staffing process with MDT partners. In addition, case information is provided by our case coordinators that work with law enforcement and child protective case workers on a daily basis. Lastly, training sessions with MDT members includes an initial data analysis of CARE and its impact on understanding the dynamics of child sexual abuse which can improve the use of expert testimony in child sexual abuse cases.

During the reporting period, CARE case coordinators provided coordination with investigative partners (CPS, law enforcement) on 355 cases, an increase of 31 percent. This increase is reflective of the increased involvement by MDT members through the Child Welfare Strategic Alliance which brought on an additional 10 MDT partners on-site. Also during the reporting period coordinators made more than 1,500 follow-up contacts with clients.

5. Shaken Baby Alliance Serious Physical Child Abuse Training

The Shaken Baby Alliance is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization whose mission is to provide support to families and professionals, prevention of child abuse, and justice for innocent victims. To complete this mission, various training programs have been developed for multidisciplinary professionals involved in cases of child abuse, and for parents,

foster parents, and teenagers. The program components for the Serious Physical Child Abuse and SIDS Program funded by CJA in the reporting period included the following:

- Five Serious Physical Child Abuse and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Regional Training Institutes for a target number of 750 Multidisciplinary Professionals.
- Case Consultation Services for a minimum of 200 professionals.
- Ten On-Site Legal Trainings.
- A minimum of 3 Community Education Programs on Physical Child Abuse and SIDS for Multidisciplinary Team Members.

Outcomes and Impact

a) Five Serious Physical Child Abuse and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Regional Training Institutes for a target number of 750 Multidisciplinary Professionals

A total of nine trainings were provided to 1021 multidisciplinary child abuse professionals utilizing the curriculum approved by the Curriculum Development Team. The increase in number of trainings was a direct result of partner agencies hearing through word of mouth about the training from their colleagues and asking The Shaken Baby Alliance to produce additional trainings. Companion funding was sought from agencies requesting additional training in order to stay within budget. On a seven-point evaluation scale, with seven being the best rating, the average rating for all nine trainings was a 6.5. The target outcome of this project was met and surpassed.

b) Case Consultation Services on 200 cases

Case consultation services were provided as requested from various investigators and prosecutors throughout the state. On average, The Shaken Baby Alliance receives a call per day asking for assistance in some manner, which is an estimated 261 cases. Many of these calls are easily handled by answering simple investigative or legal questions while other cases require an extensive amount of staff and professional volunteer time. Full Case Consultation Services were provided on approximately 104 cases, some of which include multiple cases for the same county. These services included: document review, technical assistance with the investigation (including the scene investigation), photographing of the scene and injuries, assistance with interviewing/interrogation, identification of experts, organizing documents, developing demonstrative evidence, providing journal articles and other resource materials, and other requested assistance as needed by professionals involved in the serious physical child abuse cases. Many of these cases required 20-60 hours of staff time and often more in order to meet the needs of the agency requesting assistance. In addition to paid staff, many volunteer hours from various professionals including physicians, law enforcement officers, CPS investigators, child advocates, and lawyers were utilized to meet this high demand for services. The target outcome of this project was met and surpassed.

c) Ten On-Site Legal Trainings Delivered In Partnership With Local Agencies

After assembling the Curriculum Development Team and a sub-development team dedicated to the legal curriculum, work began on the separate legal curriculum. An outline was developed and part of the content was written. Three major events occurred simultaneously which led The Shaken Baby Alliance to ask for and receive a plan change to the Action Plan. First, through several meetings with key personnel of the Department of Family and Protective Services and meetings, phone calls, and emails with prosecutors in many different locations across the state (rural and urban), it was established that a huge need had been identified that we had not previously identified. This need was training on how to be an effective witness for investigators working child abuse cases on both the civil and criminal sides of the case. This information began a series of discussions that we needed to address this very important issue because it was directly impacting numerous cases throughout the state. The other two events occurred in succession and included the termination of the Training Director/Civil Staff Attorney and the diagnosis of breast cancer of the major contributor to the civil legal curriculum.

Because such a huge need had been identified that was having direct and detrimental effects on numerous cases, the Action Plan was changed to address this critical need for this specific type of legal training. The development team assembled and began the process of revising the newly developed outline and curriculum to develop it into a Tips for Testifying section of the curriculum. This curriculum, with a corresponding PowerPoint, was developed to include

the following subject matter: jury selection, pre-trial preparation, answering questions appropriately and effectively, exculpatory and mitigating evidence and how it relates to Brady and investigators, the importance of being a prepared witness, direct examination, cross examination, courtroom lingo, and dressing appropriately. In addition, a section on Timeline Development was created and a companion PowerPoint presentation to train professionals in utilizing investigative information to develop a visual tool for use as demonstrative evidence. We continued to provide legal training as requested for professionals involved in both the civil and criminal legal proceedings of child abuse cases. We utilized companion funding from various sources in order to provide this information to a maximum number of participants. Below is a listing of 15 trainings where the developed Tips for Testifying and/or Timeline Development curriculum sections were utilized (excluding the previously identified Regional Training Institutes and the Community Education Programs under Program Component #4) and provided to over 300 professionals. After modification to the Action Plan, the target outcome of this project was met and surpassed.

d) Community Education Programs on Physical Child Abuse and SIDS for Multidisciplinary Team Members (Minimum of Three Trainings)

Throughout the year, The Shaken Baby Alliance is frequently invited to provide training to a particular community after a participant attends one of the trainings and wants to share the information he/she learned with other members of his/her multidisciplinary team. Further, having built strong partnerships with various agencies, we are frequently able to combine resources and provide this outstanding training to an even larger number of multidisciplinary child abuse professionals. Below is a list of 27 trainings provided to over 500 professionals with various agencies utilizing existing funds and partnered funding. Due to an outstanding number of requests for training from various agencies and a willingness to form strong partnerships, the target outcome of this Program Component was met and surpassed.

The Serious Physical Child Abuse and SIDS Program met and exceeded program goals. Training was provided to over 1,800 multidisciplinary child abuse professionals in order to give these professionals the skills needed to effectively identify, investigate, and prosecute child abuse cases. Evaluation data and comments provided by participants show that the training was of high quality and participants clearly gained knowledge that will aid them in their respective disciplines. Case consultation services continue to be requested and the need far exceeds the ability of The Shaken Baby Alliance staff to provide the requested services. The materials that were provided to participants were noted on evaluations to be useful and of very high quality. This partnership between the Texas Children's Justice Act Project and The Shaken Baby Alliance is successful and has directly impacted the ability of multidisciplinary child abuse professionals to gain valuable knowledge in order to protect children, obtain justice, and prevent future abuse.

6. Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (TADEC): and Drug Endangered Children Training

The Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (TADEC) was formed in an effort to protect Texas children living in volatile drug environments. The Shaken Baby Alliance is an umbrella organization for TADEC. Professionals from law enforcement, child protective services, the criminal justice system, medical and mental health professions, educators, and other child advocates have come together to make children a priority. The term "Drug Endangered Children" (DEC) refers to children living in drug environments, including methamphetamine labs. These children are exposed to toxic chemicals utilized in the manufacture of illicit drugs (which can lead to severe medical concerns), are at increased risk for child abuse and neglect, and without intervention, are at the greatest risk for repeating the cycle of addiction in their own lives.

The DEC movement is truly a multidisciplinary approach, raising awareness amongst members of law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, and the medical and mental health communities. The DEC Steering Committee agreed that the Target Group identified was accurate and in order to address the needs of DEC, all professionals who may potentially come in contact with these children must be involved in the DEC team and implement established protocols, or children may continue to fall through the cracks and be exposed to dangerous situations, neglect, abuse and sometimes death. A goal was set to bring these vital agencies together, and implement the DEC protocols. CJA funded the following five projects during the reporting period:

- Ten Drug Endangered Children Regional Trainings for Multidisciplinary Professionals.
- Statewide Protocol Development & Implementation.
- Program Implementation and Case Consultation Services.
- Website Development and Updates

a) Ten Drug Endangered Children Regional Trainings for a total of 1750 Trained Multidisciplinary Professionals

A total of ten trainings were provided to 2079 multidisciplinary child abuse professionals utilizing the curriculum developed and approved by the DEC Steering Committee. Due to an outstanding number of requests for training from various agencies and a willingness to form strong partnerships, an additional 22 trainings were provided at various conferences and in partnership with other agencies resulting in 2073 *additional* professionals receiving information on DEC. The combined number of participants for all DEC trainings is 4152. On a four-point scale, with four being the best score, the average rating given for nine of the ten trainings was 3.75. (Amarillo College required that we use their scoring form and it was based on a five-point scale. The target outcome of this project was met and surpassed.

b) Statewide Protocol Development and Implementation

Statewide, inter-agency protocols were developed and implemented in conjunction with the DEC Initiative of the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and several other community and government agencies. In addition, MOUs were developed and were signed with key agencies throughout Texas. The protocols developed included those to address the following disciplines: CPS, Law Enforcement, Medicine, Law, and Psychosocial. These protocols gave the various professionals from these disciplines directions on the best practice methods to address the special needs of DEC. Without this education and protocols, children were often left in the drug environment, removed without being contaminated, placed in the custody of other drug abusing family members, and often not identified as DEC and provided needed mental health services. Through the developed protocols and multidisciplinary training, the needs of DEC are finally being addressed in a systematic and beneficial manner.

c) Program Implementation and Case Consultation Services

Through the program implementation, Case Consultation services were provided and DEC teams were established in many counties throughout the state. As the teams were developed, additional technical support was provided to the teams to facilitate their development. A total of 47 teams were developed. At each training, participants were asked to join the local DEC team via a registration form. TADEC then provided technical support to the team to provide guidance in starting and building an effective multidisciplinary DEC team by providing a DEC Program Action Plan sheet for teams to follow

d) Website Development and Updates

A website was developed that is located at www.texasdec.org. The home page includes information about the Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and buttons lead to additional pages to get information about the Training Calendar, Protocols, Links, Registration, and Contact information. Updates were provided throughout the year to keep information current. The website was used as the primary communication tool to provide information about DEC. Online registration was available and many participants provided feedback that the website was very helpful and provided needed information.

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 in Child Abuse Cases

1. Texas Lawyers for Children, Inc.

Texas Lawyers for Children (TLC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve case outcomes for abused and neglected children by enhancing the quality of legal services they receive. TLC operates an online legal resource center with a multitude of legal materials and information, including

contributions provided by practitioners around the state. TLC has continued to work at an aggressive pace to complete all activities it had targeted. Its goals for this period can be divided into four areas:

- Development of the website with new services and materials.
- Outreach to attorneys and judges to inform them about using the site to improve case outcomes for children.
- Educating other states about how to improve the handling of child abuse cases through this template.
- Development of the site as a template so this project can be replicated nationwide.

Outcomes and Impact

a) New Website Services and Materials

The newly added "What's New" function to the homepage has become invaluable as a timely and effective way to inform judges and attorneys of new developments in law, medicine, and psychology. A flurry of new subscriptions and site activity happens after every "What's New" news item posting.

The Colleague Connection email network is now widely used by subscribing attorneys. Attorneys across the state are frequently posing questions to their peers and receiving helpful responses. A number of attorneys who have posted questions have described themselves as being first-time ad litem attorneys who are grateful for the mentoring they have received through this service. A statewide dialogue has begun to flourish, reaffirming the site as one that fosters statewide collaboration and sharing of information.

TLC has attracted nationally known experts in law from across the U.S. to share information with subscribers by answering calls and emails from Website subscribers, and medical experts who do the same. Furthermore, TLC's multidisciplinary Advisory Committee is able to help TLC accept requests from subscribers to conduct general research on legal, medical, or mental health issues that are not case-specific, and has begun compiling notes taken by research attorneys at conferences to offer subscribers access to important information.

b) Outreach Efforts to Inform More Judges and Attorneys About the Website

TLC has been able to make connections within the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, the National Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), and the Texas Supreme Court Task Force on Foster Care. Additionally, TLC has presented information regarding its Website at major conferences hosted by the Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA), the State Bar, the Texas Center for the Judiciary, and Texas Association of Court Administrators. TDCAA published two articles in its newsletter on how government-employed attorneys can benefit from using the site, and TLC was featured in the "Home at Last" publication of Texas resources that aids legal professional in achieving the best outcome for children in court cases.

c) Educating Other States

TLC's project vision also includes the replication of its tool nationwide to help other states improve their handling of child abuse cases. This would not only make the most of CJA's investment, it would also help substantially more children receive improved services in court. TLC made a presentation at the annual NCJFCJ conference, and received a tremendous response that led to an increase in national awareness of the project, including further presentations at NCJFCJ, the National Association of Counsel of Children, and the national "Home at Last" coordinator's office. Finally, these outreach efforts culminated in the anticipated licensing of the template to California. TLC is currently negotiating with another state as well and until it refines its processes, TLC will work with one state at a time to help with Website deployment.

d) Development of the Website as a Template

TLC hired a Systems Coordinator to create and document processes for TLC to use as it grows in scope and function. By streamlining processes and creating procedures, it can maintain a cost-effective model of

operation even as it grows. TLC's Operations Manager has successfully implemented an online accounting system that allows TLC to continue to maintain fiscal documentation and control, streamlining the process of providing information to independent auditors. TLC continues to refine its Website's administrative functions, making it easier to maintain and reducing the amount of training that will be necessary for other states. Finally, TLC is creating and collecting documentation on all Website processes, to help other states train their personnel in creating and maintaining data for their site.

This project is a model program that improves the representation of children who have been abused and neglected by providing state-of-the-art resource tools to lawyers and judges. This project thereby allows for more prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings and enhances the effectiveness of judicial action in child abuse cases.

C. Activities Undertaken to Reform State Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Protocols, or Procedures to Protect Children from Abuse

1. Drug Endangered Children Protocols

TADEC has developed protocols for multidisciplinary drug endangered children (DEC) teams and has worked to increase the number of such teams in the state. DEC teams advocate intervention on behalf of these children and urges communities to build collaborative, effective teams to provide coordinated services and support for these child victims. These teams include first responders, family protective services, law enforcement, medical and mental health professionals, prosecutors, child advocates, substance abuse treatment providers, educators, and other community leaders and concerned citizens. While the primary purpose of a multidisciplinary team is to create a safety net for children, ensuring that they will not fall through the cracks of the system, it can also ensure that the interests of all concerned parties are addressed and identify service gaps and breakdowns in coordination or communication between agencies or individuals. Coordinated multidisciplinary investigations enhance information gathering, evidence integrity, interventions, and comprehensive treatment services for children and their families.

Upon removal from a dangerous environment, drug endangered children need the immediate attention of child welfare services and assessment by medical and mental health professionals. If parents have endangered children, their actions may necessitate prosecution, termination of parental rights or court supervision of family reunification. DEC teams help ensure that all the needs of each child are met and that evidence is gathered to support the management and prosecution of each case. DEC teams seek the long-term goal of providing safe, supportive and drug-free environments which permit children to prosper.

2. Legislative Initiatives

In Texas, there is membership overlap and collaboration between the CJA Task Force and the Court Improvement Program Supreme Court Task Force on Foster Care. Members of these committees were instrumental either in developing and supporting many legislative initiatives in the 80th Texas Legislature to improve the handling of child abuse cases in Texas. The following are a few of those initiatives:

a) SB 759 addressed several mandates of two federal laws passed in 2006. The Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act said that states must have in effect a rule insuring that foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers of a child in foster care are notified of any proceedings held with respect to the child. The Texas Family Code had already provided for notification in permanency hearings, and the task force's legislative subcommittee added language to include all hearings in Senate Bill 759, which is currently engrossed in the legislature. The federal Child and Family Services Act of 2006 has a provision that requires the state courts to consult with a child in any permanency hearing in an age-appropriate manner. SB 759 provides the stipulation that

the court will consult the child in a developmentally appropriate manner if the child is four years of age or older.

b) **HB 2140** (and its companion, SB 758) would amend several provisions of Senate Bill 6 from the previous Legislature, including the following:

- Adds two years to the deadline, until 2009, for DFPS to privatize substitute care.
- Repeals the privatization of case management in 100% of cases and requires a pilot project for 10% of cases.
- Requires DFPS to develop a plan for reducing caseloads.

c) **SB 1410** would require DFPS to ensure that average caseloads for CPS caseworkers do not exceed certain limits. That number would be an average of 24 cases at any time for conservatorship and investigative caseworkers.

c) **SB 982** would allow grandparents to receive foster care payments, and give priority to grandparents with incomes below the federal poverty level who do not have access to other types of financial assistance.

Application for FFY 07 CJA Funds

CJA Projects for FFY 07

1. Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc (CACTX) (\$80,000.00)

This project is related to the following 2006 Task Force Recommendations:

- Continue to promote joint training of CPS, law enforcement and medical staff, and encourage addition of judicial and court staff.

A. Advanced Team Leadership Training

Project Objectives

- Cultivate leadership among core team disciplines accomplished by bringing together established multidisciplinary teams facing similar challenges and shared interests.
- Give key leaders the opportunity to identify strategies for strengthening their team.
- Offer insight and motivation that ensures a strong foundation for the local programs and individuals providing direct support for abused and neglected children.

The Number and Characteristics of the Individuals to be Targeted

The Advanced Team Leadership sessions will address the evolving needs of established CAC teams in an effort to strengthen these teams and provide them with opportunities to learn from one another. Through this training, teams facing similar challenges and shared interests as well as shared demographics will come together to cross-train with peers from comparable CACs and communities. CACTX proposes to develop the curriculum and offer one, three-day pilot inviting 4-6 individual teams (18-20 individuals) working within similar environments and facing common challenges. Teams will be selected from one of the following populations:

- Large Urban Centers
- Mid-size Centers
- Small Rural Centers

Approach

CACTX will work with a project consultant to develop curriculum, finalize the general format for the training, identify participant selection criteria, and develop appropriate training session activities and materials. Trainings will include the following components: team training, team building activities, conflict resolution strategies, effective communication strategies, assessment of local protocols and procedure, and networking opportunities. CACTX program staff will serve as individual team facilitators during the sessions, providing a 1:1 ratio of facilitator/team during small group break-out session. Participants will be given evaluations to measure any changes in their knowledge attitudes, and/or behaviors. The pilot session is scheduled for September 25-27, 2007.

Results Expected

- Develop concrete strategies for addressing unique challenges that will allow local CACs to continue to provide effective support and resources for families in crisis.
- Improve communication and cooperation between individual members of multidisciplinary teams and among leaders within the team member agencies.

The Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of the State Systems of Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Advanced Team Leadership training provides opportunities for teams to develop strategies for compromise and collaboration through sessions on conflict resolution strategies and effective communication strategies. These strategies enable team members to meet their specific obligations

without further harming the very children they have dedicated themselves to protecting

Supporting the collaborative model of the MDT with the Advanced Team Leadership training ensures a continued commitment to true joint investigative efforts. The opportunity to network with other tenured MDTs, discuss common challenges, and assess their local protocols and procedures, ensures elevated expertise among professionals conducting child abuse investigations and prosecutions and providing services to child abuse victims. This in turn helps facilitate prosecution of perpetrators through effective fact finding and strong case development.

B. Enhancing Team Facilitation Training

Project Objectives

- Provide specific training and direction for professionals responsible for facilitating multidisciplinary team meetings and relationships within the CAC setting.
- Develop and improve the team interaction and meeting skills of multidisciplinary team (MDT) members working in CACs.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals to be Targeted

CACTX proposes to conduct one three-day session of this training for an estimated 12-15 MDT participants.

Approach

The training will address requisite skills for the enhancement of team interactions and meetings including the building of team norms, encouraging participatory discussion methods, and assessing the productivity of team interactions. A pilot session of this training is slated to be conducted in July, 2007. Participants will be given evaluations to measure results regarding changes in knowledge, attitudes, and/or behaviors of the participants.

Results Expected

The success of a multidisciplinary team meeting is directly tied to the effectiveness of the team facilitator. The Enhancing Team Facilitation training has the potential to have a huge impact on teams participating in the training by helping team facilitators deal with the dynamics of various disciplines interacting together.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Enhancing Team Facilitation training will provide facilitators with insight into strategies for identifying system issues that impact cases and team dynamics as well as helping to promote collaborative decision-making and healthy, productive methods for addressing conflict. This leads to a more productive, neutral environment for the team meetings, which enhances the coordination and collaboration among team members.

C. Networking Forums for CAC Directors

Project Objectives

- Allow for vital cross-training and information sharing designed to cultivate leadership, encourage tenure among CAC leaders, and grow the movement statewide.
- Gather information to launch new initiatives designed to meet the evolving needs of local centers.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals to be Targeted

Two distinct populations of CAC executive directors have been identified as target audiences for the pilot sessions: (1) Directors affiliated with large, urban CACs and (2) Directors affiliated with multi-county CACs. Each of the two one-day forums will reach 15 executive directors.

Approach

Building on the concept of cross-training and information sharing as a learning tool, CACTX proposes to conduct two one-day forums for CAC directors in an effort to bring together those leaders working with centers and teams of similar size and scope and issues of concern for open, facilitated dialogue, sharing of ideas, peer support and mini-training opportunities. Participants will be given evaluations to measure changes in the knowledge, attitudes, and/or behaviors of the participants.

Results Expected

Cross-training and information sharing is the hallmark of the Networking Forums for CAC Directors. These forums, tentatively scheduled for June 2007, will give CAC Directors from across the state of Texas the ability to learn from challenges faced, and overcome, by others.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

Providing an atmosphere where CAC Directors can share ideas and concerns, as well as attend training, ensures that the leaders working with centers and teams are provided with a strong network of support. This network is vital to ensuring the success of directors in performing the administrative duties and activities needed for the CAC and team to function coherently and successfully provide the full array of services designed to reduce additional trauma to victims of abuse and neglect.

D. Forensic Interview Training Enhancement

Project Objectives

- Enhance and develop forensic interviewer training and peer support.
- Assess and revise the current forensic interview curriculum addressing new legal rulings and legislation.
- Provide and orientation for Regional Peer Review Lead Facilitators updating them on curriculum changes and issues to address in regional peer review meetings.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals to be Targeted

Each session will be held once during the course of the project (a total of 2 sessions):

- Forensic Interviewer Trainer Curriculum Evaluation - 6-8 trainers (both contract and program staff trainers)
- Regional Peer Review Lead Facilitator meeting - 6 participants

Approach

The program's goal is to continue the enhancement and development of forensic interviewer training and peer support initially developed and piloted with CJA funding in FY04 through FY06. This phase of the project will fund annual meetings to assess and revise the current forensic interview curriculum in response to new legal rulings and legislation and an orientation and training session for Regional Peer Review Lead Facilitators who are responsible for facilitating regional peer reviews for forensic interviewers across the state.

Results Expected

- Reduction in the number of times children are victimized through having to endure multiple interviews.
- Review and revision of current Forensic Interviewer Trainer Curriculum to reflect changes in legislation, legal rulings, and accepted practices.
- Continue support of ongoing forensic interviewer training and technical assistance services to elevate the level of expertise among CAC forensic interviewers in a rapidly changing landscape.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Forensic Interview Training Enhancements are vital to ensuring competent and knowledgeable individuals are interacting with these children when they are most vulnerable. What occurs during that first interview with a child victim or child witness can dramatically impact that child's ability and willingness to fully and truthfully disclose his or her experiences now and in the future. It is the disclosure process that allows professionals to determine what, if any, trauma a child has experienced and then to develop an appropriate strategy and approach to the healing process for that child. What occurs during that first interview can also influence the level of cooperation and support those victims and non-offending family members are willing to provide for agencies working to investigate, prosecute and intervene with these difficult cases.

Clearly, the forensic interview process is a critical key to the success of children's advocacy centers and all professionals working to meet the needs of these children in their communities. Yet, despite the critical importance of this process, the quality and availability of consistent, comprehensive training opportunities for forensic interviewers and other key members of CAC multidisciplinary teams in Texas was inadequate prior to the development of our Block Training curriculum. We have further enhanced the expertise and effectiveness of forensic interviewers in Texas through the Peer Review project. In the most recent annual Membership Satisfaction Survey, 100% of the responding center directors whose forensic interviewers participate in CACTX Peer Review Project indicated they believed these sessions were effective in elevating the knowledge and enhancing the skill sets of their respective forensic interviewers.

2. Attorney Ad Litem Training (\$10,000.00)

This effort is related to this 2006 Task Force Recommendation:

- **Improve legal representation in child abuse cases.**

CJA will continue to provide awards of up to \$3,000.00 to local bar associations for training attorneys ad litem. The CJA Task Force is also continuing to explore ways in which it can partner with the CIP Task Force to develop a strategy for providing a more complete system of training across the state.

Project Objectives

Attorney Ad Litem training seeks to improve the quality of representation for children and families involved in the Child Protection System by providing high quality, ongoing, multidisciplinary training to child abuse professionals.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals to be Targeted

This project targets an array of child abuse professionals, especially though, attorneys that represent children and families. This in turn benefits both the parents and children involved in the child welfare system. Last reporting period, more than 1,000 individuals were trained.

Approach

This project involves the following strategies.

- Identifying areas of concern to be addressed by training.
- Identifying trends and developments that may be beneficial to child abuse professionals.
- Developing high quality curriculum.
- Soliciting respected and experienced trainers.

Results Expected

Well developed ad litem training will improve the quality and consistency of representation received by children and families in the child welfare system.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

Ad litem and multidisciplinary training initiatives work together to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect. Furthermore, such programs improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings and enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse cases.

3. Texas CASA, Inc. (\$228,000.00)

This project is related to the following 2006 Task Force Recommendations:

- **Improve legal representation in child abuse cases.**
- **Continue to promote joint training of CPS, law enforcement and medical staff, and encourage addition of judicial and court staff.**

A. Statewide Evaluation Study Feasibility

Project Objectives

- Determine the effectiveness of what CASAs do for children
- Identify factors that influence positive outcomes for children and ensure CASAs provide services that involve these factors

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

This study will target previous, existing, and possibly future children in the foster care system. It will also include the local CASA programs, volunteers, CPS workers, legal professionals, families, etc.

Approach

- Adoption of comprehensive program standards. Complete review/revision/merger of National CASA and Texas CASA standards and policies creating a standards/policy document approved by the Program Advisory Group, local CASA program regional representatives, and the Texas CASA Board of Directors.
- Publish and educate local programs on new standards. Provide education and information around these standards via regional meetings, e-bulletins, conference calls and individual on-site meetings as requested by local programs and local program boards. Develop supporting materials to offer narrative explanations of process, standards and how to use best practices.
- New quality assurance (QA) monitoring processes. Develop a new, more comprehensive process that is more collaborative and with greater focus on recognition of best practices and assistance.
- Develop written protocols for administering revised QA monitoring processes.
- Provide training to the network about revised QA monitoring processes.
- Consumer Survey. Develop and prepare to “roll out” a consumer survey. Designed as further compliment to the QA process, this survey will be distributed statewide to local judges, attorneys, caseworkers, foster parents, and service providers. Since such a project has never been done before, we believe we should “pilot” this first to one region, to follow with a full roll-out to all areas of the state in FY 2008.

Results

Upon completion of this project, CASA will have identified and begun implementing strategies that increase the likelihood of positive outcomes for children. CASA will meet this challenge by enhancing its quality assurance process.

Extent to which Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

The public in Texas has become increasingly aware of the crisis in the child welfare arena, and there has been significant legislative concern about how to address this problem. With this outcome study, there will be concrete data on how future child abuse and neglect cases may best be served in Texas.

B. Increased Outreach to Recruit and Retain CASA Volunteers

Project Objectives

- Build public awareness of what CASA does and its need for additional volunteers

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

In addition to the standard services Texas CASA provides, we have begun collaborating with the Harvest Family Life Ministries (HFLM) and other faith-based outreach groups to increase awareness of CASA throughout diverse communities of faith. HFLM is a faith-based ministry that provides loving, healing care for children and instructional support for families and individuals who have faced quality of life dysfunctions. In addition, this project will increase the number and diversity of CASA volunteers. This project is intended to benefit the network statewide. The communications and program capacity efforts will be targeted to local program board and staff. Public awareness will target likely volunteers with an emphasis on increasing the number of available volunteers and continuing to diversify the volunteer pool. The faith-based component initially targets the staff of CASA programs located in Wichita Falls and Midland, as pilot projects. Additionally, the project will target members of faith-based communities throughout Texas and the children served by HFLM.

Approach

The communications component of this project will include staff resources to create and distribute a monthly e-newsletter to interested parties. This e-newsletter will provide a low cost means to communicate information based on need. The content may include information regarding technical assistance, capacity building, legislative developments, etc. The public awareness component will consist of numerous ads and brochures targeting individuals who are likely to become volunteers. These documents will also be designed to increase the diversity of the network in concert with the goals accomplished with prior CJA funds. The expansion of local program capacity will be accomplished by facilitating 18 mini-regional trainings around the state to discuss best practices.

HFLM plans to establish church partnerships throughout Texas Child Protective Services (CPS) Regions 2/9. Their current success comes in part from the commitment of various churches to take on the program as a ministry. Once HFLM has created this ministry with the leaders of the church, it asks for varying levels of commitment from church members. Information about CASA is now included in the commitment form given to churches. This network of churches provides an ideal venue from which to recruit diverse volunteers who share a demonstrated interest in child welfare. Texas CASA's goal is to provide support to local CASA programs that are working to become a part of the HFLM model.

Results

As a result of these efforts the number of children served will increase. Texas CASA is also creating an evaluation tool for local programs to rate our ability to meet their needs. This will help us to further maximize the use of CJA funds by ensuring that our activities are directed toward value added processes. Texas CASA expects to have results from this evaluation available for its year-end report to CJA. In addition, Texas CASA plans to measure results based on the number of participating churches, the number of CASA volunteers recruited, the demographics of those volunteers, and whether a ministerial alliance has been established in a given community.

Extent to which Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

Currently, less than half of all children involved in the child protection system have an assigned CASA volunteer. By increasing the volunteer network and their capacity to advocate for kids, the percentage of

children served will increase. A larger network of local volunteers will ultimately improve outcomes for children, because a greater number of children will have a constant, independent advocate throughout the child welfare process who can also help locate resources to assist in moving the child to permanence. By establishing a partnership with HFLM and other faith-based ministries, children will enjoy the benefit of caring, committed CASAs, and the extended network of individuals who can assist in various aspects of a child's development. In addition, children will benefit from being placed in close proximity to their biological family home.

4. Childsafe (\$146,769.00)

This project is related to the following 2006 Task Force Recommendations:

- Improve communication and more efficient handling of child abuse cases by professionals through the use of technology.
- Continue to promote joint training of CPS, law enforcement and medical staff, and encourage addition of judicial and court staff.

A. Telemedicine, Training, and Consultation

Project Objectives

- Continue to provide one week training courses for medical and nursing professions on conducting medical evaluations of child sexual abuse.
- Continue to provide consultation to other telemedicine sites on child physical and sexual abuse cases.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

This initiative targets medical professionals across the state. ChildSafe anticipates providing training to 20 trainees.

Approach

The medical team, under the direction of Dr. Nancy Kellogg, will continue to provide one week training courses for medical and nursing professionals on conducting medical evaluations of child sexual abuse. In addition, Dr. Kellogg will continue to provide consultation to other telemedicine sites on child physical and sexual abuse cases. In the last year the medical team provided 600 hours of training to 63 medical professionals, which is a 41% increase over the previous year.

Results

Dr. Nancy Kellogg will provide medical consultation to telemedicine sites regarding child physical and sexual abuse cases. The medical team will provide training to medical professionals on conducting child sexual assault exams. ChildSafe anticipates providing training to 20 trainees.

Extent to which Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

This project improves the quality of investigations of child sexual abuse by creating a network of professionals who conduct forensic examinations and support each other by providing second opinions through the use of telemedicine. This project also increases the availability of, and access to, quality training for medical professionals, and improves the quality of care statewide through the use of peer review.

B. Child Abuse Conference

Project Objectives

- Host annual Child Abuse Interdisciplinary Conference.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

This conference attracts law enforcement, child protection professionals, prosecutors, and medical and mental health professionals. ChildSafe expects 400-450 participants.

Approach

The upcoming conference targets increased participation from multidisciplinary team members to include CPS, law enforcement, and medical professionals. The conference continues to attract front-line practitioners who are daily working with children and offering training that assist them in their day to day work.

Results

ChildSafe will plan, implement and conduct the 2006 Child Abuse Interdisciplinary Conference for 425 participants. Eight-five percent of the participants (including nursing and non-nursing attendees) will rate the information gained from the conference as effective.

Extent to which Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system. Child abuse professional are better equipped to do their jobs, and the children and families in the system benefit from having well-trained professionals to serve them.

C. Care Program

Project Objectives

- Continue coordination efforts between the Child Abuse Resource Enforcement Program and investigative partners

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

The Child Abuse Resource Enforcement (CARE) Program is targeted at the families involved in the child welfare system. The CARE Program is a primary partner in the multidisciplinary team, which consists of Child Protective Services, law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, medical professionals, and therapists. ChildSafe anticipates enrolling 300 cases in the CARE program.

Approach

The focus of CARE is to heal the family to help the child, which in turn can help the investigative and legal systems process the child abuse case. We often provide specific case information regarding family dynamics or risk factors during our regular case staffing process with MDT partners. In addition, case information is provided by our case coordinators that work with law enforcement and child protective case workers on a daily basis. Lastly, training sessions with MDT members includes an initial data analysis of CARE and its impact on understanding the dynamics of child sexual abuse which can improve the use of expert testimony in child sexual abuse cases.

Results

CARE Program Case Coordinators will coordinate with Multidisciplinary Team partners including law enforcement, child protective services and the district attorneys office on 390 cases. Case Coordinators will provide follow-up contact to 1,600 clients. Case Coordinators will enroll 300 clients and their families in the CARE Program for services.

Extent to which Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

The Child Abuse Resource Enforcement (CARE) Program is a primary partner in the multidisciplinary team, which consists of Child Protective Services, law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, medical professionals, and therapists. Since CARE is administered by ChildSafe rather than investigative agencies, the relationship between the families of CARE and the agencies affiliated with CARE tends to be more trusting and enduring than long term services administered by investigative agencies. As a result,

CARE personnel often encounter information important to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, which is shared on an ongoing basis with investigative agencies and at weekly case meetings. The focus of CARE is to heal the family to help the child, which in turn can help the investigative and legal systems process the child abuse case.

5. Shaken Baby Alliance (\$280,833.95)

This project is related to this 2006 Task Force Recommendation:

- Continue to promote joint training of CPS, law enforcement and medical staff, and encourage addition of judicial and court staff.

A. Serious Child Abuse and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Regional Training Institutes for Multidisciplinary Professionals

Project Objectives

- Host Five Regional Training Institutes

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

These Regional Training Institutes will serve a multidisciplinary audience including medical personnel, law enforcement, prosecutors, attorneys ad litem, legal personnel, parent educators, prevention specialists, DFPS staff, child care providers, Head Start personnel, and social service providers. An estimated 1,000 professionals will be educated at these trainings.

Approach

The course content will be an updated version of the highly evaluated curriculum presented in previous years, and will include:

- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome – Natural Death vs. Homicide
- Medical Aspects of Child Abuse – An overview of physical child abuse including skin injuries (bite marks, bruises, burns), fractures, abdominal injuries and head injuries, and sexual abuse.
- Forensic Investigative Techniques – Utilizing joint investigations, scene investigation/reconstruction, injury photography, interviewing techniques, record gathering, timeline development, and case preparation to develop strong cases for prosecution.
- Legal Aspects - How investigators, prosecutors, and other professionals involved in child abuse cases can impact a case from offense to prosecution, including charging options, preparing for trial, expert witnesses, demonstrative evidence, punishment issues, and tips for testifying in court for the child abuse professional.
- Tools You Can Use! – An overview of the services available from the Shaken Baby Alliance for investigators and attorneys working child abuse cases.

Results

A maximum of 200 participants will be trained at each of the institutes. The goal is to receive an average overall program rating of at least 6.25 on a scale of 1-7. Continuing Education Units (CEU), Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE), and Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits will be available to these participants.

Extent to which Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

The trainings continue to attract front-line practitioners who are daily working with children. Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system. The better equipped they are to do their jobs, the better they can serve children and families.

B. Two Day Advanced Investigations Training

Project Objectives

- Host seven two-day Advanced Investigations trainings.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

These Advanced Investigations trainings will be targeted to investigators of child abuse (both CPS and law enforcement) but other disciplines such as medical personnel, law enforcement, prosecutors, attorneys ad litem, legal personnel, parent educators, prevention specialists, DFPS staff, child care providers, Head Start personnel, and social service providers will be welcomed. An estimated 1,400 professionals will be educated at these trainings. A minimal amount of CJA funds will be utilized to provide this training in partnership with companion funding through the Shaken Baby Alliance. All faculty, travel, and materials will be provided through the companion funding.

Approach

The course content will be an updated version of the highly evaluated curriculum presented in previous years, and will include:

- Sudden Infant Death
- Medical Aspects of Child Abuse
- Scene Investigation and Photography
- Timeline Development
- Legal Aspects
- Tools You Can Use!

Results

An estimated 1,400 professionals will be trained. Continuing Education Units (CEU), Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE), and Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits will be available to these participants. The average overall program evaluation will be at least 6.25 on a scale of 1-7.

Extent to which Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

The trainings continue to attract front-line practitioners who are daily working with children. Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system. The better equipped they are to do their jobs, the better they can serve children and families.

C. Training program for Physicians, Nurses, and Advanced Health Care Providers: Bites, Breaks, Burns, & Beyond: Recognizing and Treating Child Physical Abuse

Project Objectives

- Host four one-day trainings for physicians, nurses, and advanced health care providers.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

Four one-day trainings will be conducted for approximately 150 persons per event. This training program is designed for physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who diagnose and treat physical abuse in children.

Approach

Cases of child abuse present major challenges to those professionals charged with the task of recognizing, diagnosing, and treating these children. Entitled "Bites, Breaks, Burns, & Beyond: Recognizing and Treating Child Physical Abuse," the course teaches medical professionals how to work with investigative and legal personnel and to prepare for court. The training course presumes the participant has a basic understanding of mechanisms of injury associated with child abuse and is designed to provide further knowledge from experts in the field of child abuse. Such topics include:

- Practical experience in recognizing and diagnosing child abuse
- Accidental vs. non-accidental injuries
- Differential diagnosis of conditions that can be confused with child abuse

- Working with other members of the multidisciplinary team
- Testifying in court

Results

This training will be provided to approximately 600 professionals, and the overall program evaluation will be at least 6.25 on a scale of 1-7.

Extent to which Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

Well-educated medical professionals impact the entire child welfare system. The better equipped they are to do their jobs, the better they can serve children and families.

D. First Responder/Community Trainings/Conference Workshops

Project Objectives

- Provide brochures and handout material at ten First Responder trainings.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

The Shaken Baby Alliance is routinely requested to provide training to various First Responder groups, community groups, and at conferences. The funding provided through this grant will provide brochures and handout material to the participants. Facility and travel expenses will be provided with funding provided through the host sites and the Shaken Baby Alliance. Materials will be needed to accommodate approximately 300 participants.

Approach

Prepare training materials for First Responder trainings.

Results

Approximately 300 First Responder participants will have materials and handouts.

Extent to which Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

Well-educated medical professionals impact the entire child welfare system. The better equipped they are to do their jobs, the better they can serve children and families.

E. Two-day Conference on Child Abuse, Child Death, and Drug Endangered Children

Project Objectives

- Host one two-day conference on Child Abuse, Child Death, and Drug Endangered Children.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

An estimated 200 multidisciplinary professionals will be trained.

Approach

This conference will include these tentatively scheduled presentations by nationally recognized experts on topics including:

- Physical Child Abuse
- Abusive Head Trauma
- Sexual Child Abuse
- Filicide
- Investigating Child Abuse
- Conducting Forensic Interviews with Child Victims and Witnesses
- SIDS – Uncovering the Facts
- Case Studies – Experts Panel
- Victim Family Panel

- Sexual Abuse
- Methamphetamine Lab Awareness
- Prosecution of Child Abuse
- Child Abuse and Domestic Violence
- Drug Endangered Children
- Child Death Scene Investigation
- When Babies Cry

Results

This training will be provided to approximately 200 professionals and an average overall score of 6.25 on a scale of 1-7 will be achieved.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

The trainings continue to attract front-line practitioners who work daily with children. Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system. The better equipped they are to do their jobs, the better they can serve children and families.

6. Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (\$204,160.80)

This project is related to this 2006 Task Force Recommendation:

- Continue to promote joint training of CPS, law enforcement and medical staff, and encourage addition of judicial and court staff.

A. Drug Endangered Children Regional Trainings for Multidisciplinary Professionals

Project Objectives

- Host five Regional trainings.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

These trainings will serve a multidisciplinary audience to include law enforcement, child protective services, members of the legal community, medical and mental health professionals, and other concerned professionals that may come into contact with drug endangered children. Each conference can accommodate up to 175 participants.

Approach

The course content will be based on information from the TADEC Training Curriculum and needs identified during the 2005/2006 training cycle and modified to address the needs of Texas professionals. Topics to be addressed will include:

- General DEC Issues
- Identification of Drugs and the Drug Environment
- Joint Investigation of DEC Cases
- General Medical Effects
- Prosecuting DEC Cases
- Psych-social Needs and Solutions
- Who Does What? (mock case presentation)

Results

This training will be available to approximately 875 professionals and the overall program evaluation will be at least 6.25 on a scale of 1-7.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

The trainings continue to attract front-line practitioners who work daily with children. Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system. The better equipped they are to do their jobs, the better they can serve children and families.

B. Support existing DEC teams

Project Objectives

- Develop a communication strategy in support of existing Texas DEC teams.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

Existing DEC teams will be identified and approached with an assessment tool to identify ways TADEC could support them.

Approach

Identify needs of existing DEC professionals by creating, disseminating (via email), and compiling an assessment tool.

Results

We will achieve a minimum 10% return of the assessments, and develop an online newsletter for DEC team members.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system.

C. Statewide Protocol Development and Implementation

Project Objectives

- Updated and implement statewide protocols.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

Members of existing DEC teams will be targeted, as well as all training participants.

Approach

TADEC will continue to take a leadership role in the development and implementation of statewide interagency protocols that will clarify the roles and responsibilities of all involved entities dealing with DEC. TADEC will bring together members of local, state, and federal law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, and medical and mental health professionals to write effective protocols, based upon successful protocols from other states and modified for Texas. These protocols will outline the DEC Team process from the initial awareness of a DEC in a drug environment and through their long-term case planning and placement status. TADEC will also work with these agencies and local DEC programs on the implementation of these protocols and any necessary modifications that need to be made based on each jurisdiction's local needs.

Results

Statewide protocols will be updated and their implementation furthered.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system.

D. Program Implementation Case Consultation Services

Project Objectives

- Support creation of new DEC teams.
- Provide case consultation services to those who request it.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

Counties and regions who request TADEC support will be targeted.

Approach

Counties and regions who demonstrate significant interest and commitment to adopting statewide protocols to create DEC teams will receive support. Additionally, TADEC staff will provide case consultations on an as needed basis.

Results

Child welfare professionals who have difficult cases will receive case consultations, and new DEC teams will be developed. Measure success by achieving a minimum 10% return of the assessments.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system.

E. Website Development and Updates

Project Objectives

- Update and modify the existing DEC website.

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

Current and prospective TADEC Website users in the child protection community will be targeted.

Approach

With technical assistance, TADEC will maintain and continue to enhance a comprehensive website that will contain resources regarding DEC, links to other DEC Alliances and websites, including the TADEC, and training information and schedule for the TADEC Regional trainings.

Results

Ongoing Website updates help fulfill the overall training mission by serving as a substitute for training. Updating and modifying the DEC Website will provide online resources and links to the latest research findings relevant to DEC issues.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect

Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system.

F. Two-day Conference on Child Abuse, Child Death, and Drug Endangered Children

Project Objectives

- Host One Two-day Conference on Child Abuse, Child Death, and Drug Endangered Children

Number and Characteristics of Individuals Targeted

These trainings will serve a multidisciplinary audience to include law enforcement, child protective services, members of the legal community, medical and mental health professionals, and other concerned professionals that may come into contact with drug endangered children. Each conference can accommodate up to 175 participants.

Approach

TADEC and Shaken Baby Alliance will partner to host this conference. It will include these tentatively scheduled presentations by nationally recognized experts on topics including:

- Physical Child Abuse
- Abusive Head Trauma
- Sexual Child Abuse
- Filicide
- Investigating Child Abuse
- Conducting Forensic Interviews with Child Victims and Witnesses
- SIDS – Uncovering the Facts
- Case Studies – Experts Panel
- Victim Family Panel
- Sexual Abuse
- Methamphetamine Lab Awareness
- Prosecution of Child Abuse
- Child Abuse and Domestic Violence
- Drug Endangered Children
- Child Death Scene Investigation
- When Babies Cry

Results

An estimated 200 participants will be trained. At end of conference, we will identify a 25% increase in the number of legitimate statewide DEC teams in the state.

Extent to which the Activity Contributes to the Reform of State Systems Handling Child Abuse and Neglect

Because well-educated child abuse professionals are better able to secure the safety of children, they positively impact the entire child welfare system. Well-educated child abuse professionals impact the entire child welfare system.

Appendix A
CJA Task Force Members

Roy Block	President, Texas State Foster Families, Inc. (experienced in working with children with disabilities)
Alfredo Chavez	Judge, 65 th District Court, El Paso (family law judge)
Cathy Crabtree	Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (child advocate)
C. Ed Davis	Retired Deputy Director for Legal Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and Board member, Texas CASA (child advocate/attorney)
Cozette Fogus	Lieutenant San Antonio Police Department, Director, Sex Crimes Unit (law enforcement)
Floyd T. Getz	Judge, County Court at Law #3 (family law judge)
Joe Gagen	Chief Executive Officer, Texas CASA, (child advocate)
Rolf Habersang, M.D.	Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Amarillo Pediatrician (health/ experienced in working with children with disabilities)
Emily Helm	Deputy General Counsel, Texas Youth Commission (attorney/advocate)
Joyce James	Assistant Commissioner, Texas Child Protective Services (CPS)
David Montague	Assistant Tarrant County District Attorney (attorney)
Valerie Milholland	Assistant Harris County Attorney, Division Chief, Children's Protective Division, Juvenile Courts (attorney)
Shane Phelps	Assistant, Brazos County District Attorney (attorney)
Fairy Rutland	Director, Appeals Division, Texas Department of Human Services and member State Bar of Texas Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. (attorney/child advocate)
Larry Thorne	Judge, 317 th Judicial District Court (family law judge)
Gerry Williams Ginny Woods	General Counsel, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (attorney) CIP/CJA Grant Projects Director (attorney/CJA staff)

Appendix B

Certification Regarding Lobbying

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.



Executive Director
Texas Center for the Judiciary

Appendix C
Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

Texas Center for the Judiciary certifies that it will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

- (a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
 - (b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about --
 - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - (2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
 - (c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);
 - (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will --
 - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
 - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
 - (e) Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;
 - (f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted --
 - (1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
 - (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;
 - (g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).
- (B) The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

Texas Center for the Judiciary
1210 San Antonio, Suite 800
Austin, TX 78701

Appendix D
Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension,
and Other Responsibility Matters

- (1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
- (a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency;
 - (b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and
 - (d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Appendix E
Certification Regarding Environmental Tobacco Smoke

Public Law 103227, Part C Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro Children Act of 1994, requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor routinely owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for provision of health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity. By signing and submitting this application the applicant/grantee certifies that it will comply with the requirements of the Act.

The applicant/grantee further agrees that it will require the language of this certification be included in any subawards which contain provisions for the children's services and that all subgrantees shall certify accordingly.

Appendix F
Standard Form 424

Appendix G
Standard Form 424 A