

MINUTES of Texas Children’s Justice Act Task Force
Meeting date: July 24, 2009

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Texas Children’s Justice Act Task Force, was held at the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Austin, TX on July 24, 2009. The meeting convened at 9:07 a.m., Chair Hon. Larry Thorne presiding.

Members in attendance:

Roy Block	Joyce James
Cathy Crabtree	James Lukefahr
Audrey Deckinga	Valerie Milholland
De Shaun Ealoms	Dan Powers
Jon Evans	Fairy Rutland
Rolf Habersang	Larry Thorne
Denise Hyde	Gerry Williams

Members not in attendance:

Cozette Bustamante
Joe Gagen
Margaret Lalk

Staff in attendance:

Colette Bonstead
Heidi Penix
Ginny Woods

Guests in attendance:

Dan Capouch
Cathy Cockerham
Susan Miller
Mena Ramon
Carl Reynolds

Welcome and Introductions: Judge Thorne welcomed members and guests. The Task Force welcomed new member Audrey Deckinga, the Assistant Commissioner of Child Protective Services, Department of Family and Protective Services and the new CJA Grant Administrator, Heidi Penix.

Adoption of Revised Agenda: Motion was made by Judge Thorne, and seconded by Fairy Rutland, to revise the agenda to move the Legislative Update and the report from the partnership criteria working group to follow the DFPS update. Motion carried without opposition.

Collection of Conflict of Interest Statements: Members completed conflict of interest statements for the upcoming grant year. Members with conflicts must abstain from voting on the 2009-2010 Implementation Plan.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Rolf Habersang, and seconded by Cathy Crabtree, to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2009 meeting. Motion carried without opposition.

DFPS Update by Audrey Deckinga, CPS Assistant Commissioner, DFPS. Ms. Deckinga discussed a pending grant proposal with the National Implementation Center to develop a model to get services into those areas with they are needed, in order to keep kids out of the system or if removal is necessary, place them close to home.

Legislative Update by Gerry Williams. Mr. Williams summarized important new legislation affecting the child welfare system from the recent legislative session. A written report was included in the meeting notebook.

Partnership Criteria Working Group Report by Gerry Williams. Having already approved partners for the upcoming grant year, the working group has decided to postpone the revision and discussion of the criteria until the next grant cycle.

CFSR Update and Fatherhood Roundtable Report, by Dan Capouch, Accountability Division Administrator, DFPS. Mr. Capouch gave an update on Round 2 of the Texas Child and Family Service Review. Cross-cutting themes of Program Improvement Plan (PIP) will be (1) Addressing workforce issues to build critical decision making and strategic practice implementation skills; (2) Building placement capacity; (3) Addressing barriers to permanency; and (4) Strengthening the FBSS program.

One initiative stemming from the PIP is a series of roundtables. The CJA Task Force has agreed to host a roundtable on fatherhood to develop practices and guidelines to help engage fathers in child protection. The roundtable will occur sometime after Oct. 1, 2009. Judge Larry Thorne, Roy Block, Rolf Habersang, Dan Powers, Jon Evans, William Briley, and De Shaun Ealoms were appointed to the roundtable working group. Dan Capouch, Kenneth Thompson and Stacy Lake will be the DFPS contacts for this project.

Grant Proposal Review Committee Report by Ginny Woods. Ms. Woods discussed the results of the Grant Proposal Review Committee meeting which took place July 23, 2009. A written report was included in the notebook materials.

Motion was made by Rolf Habersang, and seconded by Dan Powers, to approve the 2009-2010 Implementation Plan, as recommended by the committee. All members with a recorded conflict of interest abstained. Motion carried without opposition.

Legislative Committee Report by Ginny Woods. Ms. Woods presented the committee's recommendations for interim studies. Motion was made by Joyce James, and seconded by Valerie Milholland, to approve the proposed recommendations for legislative interim session review. Motion carried without opposition. A written report was included in the notebook materials.

Nominating Committee Reports on Officer and Member Elections by Fairy Rutland. Ms. Rutland presented the recommended slate of officer nominees. The Officers' Nominating Committee recommended Judge Thorne and Valerie Milholland to serve a third term as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. A written report was included in the notebook materials.

The Members' Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of nominees: **Kriste Burnett**, Assistant District Attorney, 83rd/112th Judicial District Attorney's Office (Cleburne); **Randi King**, Assistant District Attorney, Jefferson County Attorney's Office, (Beaumont); **Judge Chris Oldner**, District Judge, 416th Judicial District Court (McKinney); **Tom Gaylor**, Deputy Executive Director, Texas Municipal Police Association (Austin); **Trista Miller**, Region 7 Youth Specialist, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) (Austin); **Daniela Carrasco**, Region 9 Youth Specialist, DFPS (Midland); and **William Briley**, Father, Volunteer Advocate, and Member of the DFPS Statewide Parent Collaborative (Lubbock). A written report was included in the notebook materials.

Members discussed methods to ensure that diversity and key Task Force values were adequately represented by the membership. Cathy Crabtree and Joyce James volunteered to work with CJA staff to develop a matrix to guide future elections. Another suggestion included utilizing non-member “consultants” to advise the Task Force and participate in meetings. Following the discussion, the Task Force elected new members by ballot.

Grantee Presentations:

- 1) **Children’s Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX)** by Cathy Crabtree, Executive Director, CACTX. To date, a total of 192 individual child abuse professionals have been trained through CACTX’s Team Leadership Training, Train the Trainer, MDT Trainings, Networking Forums and Team Facilitation Training. A summary of the presentation was included in the meeting notebook.
- 2) **Texas Foster Family Association (TFFA)** by Roy Block, Executive Director, TFFA. Mr. Block discussed TFFA’s 2008 Annual Conference.
- 3) **TCU Institute of Child Development** by Karyn Purvis, Director, TCU Institute of Child Development. Ms. Purvis discussed the goals and outcomes of the Texas Judicial Summit – a 3 day conference (May 11-13, 2009).
- 4) **Texas Office on the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities** by Patricia Bailey, Special Projects Coordinator, Texas Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Bailey discussed their free online training program, *Understanding FASD & Intervention Strategies for Children*. This training program is designed for professionals and volunteers who work with children to promote awareness of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and the effects of alcohol exposure to the developing fetus.

Budget Update by Colette Bonstead. Ms. Bonstead reported on the current status of the CJA program budget, including the estimated amount of rollover funds into FFY ’10. CJA staff will report an official rollover amount at the October Task Force Meeting. The current budget was included in the meeting notebook.

New Business/Next Steps

- 1) Joyce James and Ginny Woods discussed the possibility of Task Force members hosting or participating in an Undoing Racism Workshop. The total cost of hosting the workshop would be \$15,000, but CJA may be able to partner with Casey Family Programs or DFPS. Fairy Rutland agreed to participate in the August 2009 workshop in Austin on behalf of the Task Force.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at **1:42 p.m.**

These minutes were approved at a Texas Children’s Justice Act Task Force meeting on October 23, 2009.
