

# GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

## Quarterly Meeting

December 2013 – 2:00pm.  
Chief State's Attorney Office, Rocky Hill, CT

**Present:** S. Sedensky, T. Sneed, K. Clark, H. Bey-Coon, L. Cordes, M. Doherty, A. Glaser, S. Guess, M. Giovannucci, A. Johnson, M. Kenny, J. Levanthal, J. Marron, T. Montelli, S. Pakele, B. Pellissier, C. Signorelli, C. Spak, F. Voswinkel

**Guests:** J. Bekoe, S. Jolissant, S. Kristoff, P. Pisano, K. Wytrykowska, C. Collins, C. Diemar, J. Marsten, K. Miller, J. Martin, K. Doyle

Agenda Item	Discussion <i>(brief summary)</i>	Action <i>(and by whom)</i>
Meeting called to order		
Approval of Minutes:	Approval of September 2013 minutes.	There was a motion to approve the minutes. <b>It was moved and properly seconded to accept the minutes of the September 2013 meeting. Pellissier/ Bey-Coon M/S/P</b>
<b>Budget Update:</b>	<p><b>DCF CJA Budget Update-</b> The budget was presented to the task force.</p> <p><b>Village Budget</b> was shared with the Task force. Members discussed the unencumbered funds.</p> <p><b>Unencumbered Funds-</b> After review of the above, the executive committee chairs report that we have \$50,000 of unencumbered funds that we will be looking to re-allocate.</p> <p>There was a vigorous discussion around the process for hearing proposals. It was decided to hear all proposals and vote on each as they were presented</p> <p><b>Kevin Doyle-</b> Presentation on request for funds for Training on Abusive Head Trauma in Paris. Discussed the impact on GTFJAC if allowed to attend the training in Paris. As a presenter, he would also make contacts nationally and internationally that would benefit the state. He has been the go to Prosecutor on this issue and a resource to other prosecutors in the state. The comment was raised around the perception of using government funds to travel to Paris. There was a response that this conference travels to a variety of sites and is the International Conference on Shaken Baby, and it is of note that a Prosecutor has been selected to present at this conference. Another member noted that cases have been lost when defense brings in a shaken baby expert. Prosecutors in Connecticut need to have increased resources in this area.</p>	<p>There was a motion to end discussion on the Kevin Doyle proposal. <b>It was moved and properly seconded. Sedensky/ Bey-Coon M/S/P</b></p> <p>There was a motion to vote on each of the proposals as they are presented. <b>It was moved and properly seconded. Giovannucci/Spak M/S/P 11Y/5N</b></p> <p>There was a motion to approve up to \$3,000 for The</p>

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	<p><b><u>Child Death Investigations- 2 day training Public Agency Training Council's Training Module: "Child Death Investigation"</u></b> Windham County MDT/CAC in conjunction with New London County MDT would like to host a 2 day training Public Agency Training Council's Training Module, "Child Death Investigation" in the Windham or New London area. The training will provide participants with a broad scope of knowledge regarding the mechanisms of death typically found with child deaths, as well as specific information and strategies for properly investigating the cases. The course also provides practical exercises for reconstructions of infant deaths and delves in-depth into cases for discussion. There was discussion around the possibility of hosting this training in another area of the state as well.</p> <p><b><u>Abusive Head Trauma Conference</u></b> The Connecticut Children's Alliance in partnership with the Abusive Head Trauma Working Group would like to propose a one and a half day seminar that will address the importance of a unified and coordinated approach to investigating severe physical abuse cases. The seminar will consist of a plenary welcome followed by several breakout sessions. The breakout sessions will seek interaction with the audience through questions and discussions. The seminar will seek to develop and foster strong working relationships among the various disciplines involved in the investigation and healing process of severe physical abuse cases.</p> <p><b><u>NCA Leadership Conference in Washington DC in June 2014</u></b> Support for 2 - 6 MDT coordinators or members to attend the NCA Leadership Conference in Washington DC</p> <p><b>Description of how the suggestion relates to CJA objectives and GTF recent focus areas:</b> The objectives of the CCA are in sync with CJA and GTF: to allow MDT/CAC providers to respond to child abuse victims in a timely and child friendly manner; to reduce trauma to children by ensuring coordinated response, timely information sharing, reducing the number of interviews required for successful investigations/prosecutions. The provision of a travel award for the Leadership conference will permit the state's providers to meet these objectives via the workshops, panels, lectures, and information sharing offered at this conference. <b>Timeline:</b> Travel arrangement and conference registration to be completed by April 30, 2014; travel to be completed in June 2014. <i>We are requesting GTF funds for at least two coordinators (new since last year's conference) and up to 6 participants (any number of MDT members/disciplines would benefit from this conference; in particular MDT/CAC Exec. Comm. members).</i></p> <p><b><u>Medical exam/Forensic Interview Brochure (Abbreviated) \$2,500</u></b> <u>Description of what is to be funded; A medical exam/forensic interview brochure</u> RESPONSE: A Forensic Interview and Forensic Medical Exam Informational Brochure. The brochure will include accurate and appropriately worded information. The brochure will be a ME/FI group project and developed with input from the various disciplines. Limited quantities will be distributed to all the MDT's in the State of CT. There is enough information to create one or two brochure on medical exam and forensic interview. This could cause</p>	<p>International Shaken Baby Conference. <b>It was moved and properly seconded. Giovannuci/Spak M/S/P</b></p> <p>There was a motion to support \$13,000 for the Child Death Investigation. <b>It was moved and properly seconded. Doherty/Pellissier M/S/P</b></p> <p>There was a motion to support up to \$15,000 for the Abusive Head Trauma Conference. <b>It was moved and properly seconded. Doherty/ Pellissier M/S/P</b></p> <p>There was a motion to support up to \$12,000 for the NCA Leadershi. <b>It was moved and properly seconded. Doherty/ Pellissier M/S/P 12Y/2N</b></p> <p>There was a motion to support the funding for Medical Exam/Forensic Interview Brochure for \$2,500. <b>It was moved and properly</b></p>

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	<p>confusion            There was a question around translating the brochure into other language. If this is done it will need to be completed by a certified translator. There was a suggestion to pilot the brochure and then translate it into Spanish. There was a comment that the human connection can be more valuable than the brochure. It is really the people contact that will make the difference. The families are in crisis at the moment and they go back to the brochure days or weeks later to reference the resources that are needed. This is something tangible that they can have when what they are going through is often not tangible to them.</p> <p><b>Juvenile Court Guides, \$5,000</b>            In 2008, with the assistance of the Governor's Taskforce on Justice for Abused Children, CONNSACS created a booklet entitled <a href="#"><u>Sexual Assault and the Juvenile Court Process, A Guide for Victims/Survivors and Their Families.</u></a>            The guide provides vital information about the juvenile court process and has helped numerous families become aware of their rights as crime victims, learn what assistance is available to them, and gain knowledge about court procedures. The guides contain a timeline for court proceedings; a glossary of terms; a list of "Who's Who"; along with tips to help victims and families prepare for court.</p> <p>Knowledge of the challenging court process can empower victims and their families who want to engage in the system. The guides have been well received and support our collective effort to limit additional trauma to the child victim through the sharing of information.</p> <p>CONNSACS and our member programs continue to receive requests for this publication, which is now out of print. We are requesting \$5,000 to print 1500 - 2000 new booklets by June of 2014. A committee will be created in Winter 2014 to update and revise the guide before reprinting a second edition in Spring 2014.</p>	<p><b>seconded.</b>  <b>Voswinkel/Signorelli</b>  <b>M/S/P 12Y/2N</b></p> <p>There was a motion to support the funding for Juvenile Court Guides for \$5,000. <b>It was moved and properly seconded.</b>  <b>Voswinkel/Bey-Coon</b>  <b>M/S/P 12Y/2N</b></p>
<p><b>GTF Coordinator Update:</b></p>	<p><b>CJA Grantee Meeting:</b>            The annual CJA Grantee meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA in conjunction with our 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect from April 28-29, 2014. The National Conference will be from April 29-May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The state's participation in the meeting is a requirement of CJA funding and is listed as an assurance in the governor's letter. Kristen Clark and Tammy Sneed will attend the meeting in accordance with the requirements. Additionally, DCF will present a workshop on the state's efforts in the area of domestic and human trafficking.</p> <p><b>CJA Application Timeline:</b>            March 2014 – CJA Budget Approved by GTFJAC            March 2014 - Request for updates from partner agencies, committee and workgroup chairs            April 2014 – Draft of Application is completed by GTFJAC Coordinator            May 2014 – Draft of Application submitted to DCF for review            May 2014 – Final Application, Letter from the Governor and Lobby Certification Submitted to HHS</p>	
<p><b>CCA Director Update:</b></p>	<p>CCA is hosting the Abuse Head Trauma working group, an assembly of medical and judicial professionals and MDT Coordinators. As you saw in the proposals submitted both a training is being planned.            Recently CCA held a Member Development Day at The Guest House in Chester. This day-long retreat consisted of team building, vision planning, and training on chapter expectations and activities. Additionally we celebrated the progress we have made as a nonprofit, since becoming incorporated in late 2009.            We are in the early stages of development of statewide activities for April - Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.            Our 2012 audit was completed with no recommendations.</p>	

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	<p>We are also in the process of updating and revising our MOU with the Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center who, as you know, provides training, technical assistance and financial support to all the NCA Chapters in New England and Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Additionally, we have a new coordinator for Middlesex Co. MDT, Susan Shirley.</p>																					
<b>Committee Reports:</b>																						
Executive Committee:	<p><b>Nominee: Laura Cordes</b> is the Executive Director of Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (CONNSACS), the statewide coalition of nine community-based sexual assault crisis services programs whose mission is to end sexual violence and provide high-quality, comprehensive, and culturally-competent services to victims. While previously serving as the CONNSACS Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Ms. Cordes organized key stakeholders to forward legislation which led to the establishment of the State of Connecticut Gail Burns-Smith Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program as well as legislation that secured the right for sexual assault victims to receive emergency contraception on site in hospital emergency rooms. Ms. Cordes has made numerous presentations and conducted dozens of trainings for community partners including healthcare providers, police cadets, and campus administrators to prevent sexual assault and improve support for victims. She is a statutory member of the State of Connecticut Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations and the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>There was a motion to approve Laura Cordes. <b>It was moved and properly seconded.</b>  <b>Spak/Bey-Coon M/S/P</b></p>																				
Finding Words Committee:	<p>Theresa Montelli and Kristen Clark are part of a national committee developing a new forensic interviewing protocol.</p> <p>Our 2014 Finding Words Connecticut dates are: March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and October 6<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.</p>																					
MDT Evaluation Committee:	<p><b><u>MDT Evaluation Reports</u></b> The Norwalk and Torrington reports were reviewed.</p> <p><b><u>Redesign First Round Update</u></b></p> <p>All First Round Teams have been reviewed. The chart below is a summary of their review process.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="386 971 1734 1476"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="386 971 663 1036">MDT</th> <th data-bbox="663 971 915 1036">Period Under Review (PUR)</th> <th data-bbox="915 971 1188 1036">Site Review Date</th> <th data-bbox="1188 971 1461 1036">Evaluation Team</th> <th data-bbox="1461 971 1734 1036">Status of Report</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="386 1036 663 1174">Children's Connection (Norwalk MDT)</td> <td data-bbox="663 1036 915 1174">11/15/11-11/15/12</td> <td data-bbox="915 1036 1188 1174">4/29/13</td> <td data-bbox="1188 1036 1461 1174">Theresa Montelli, Maureen Ornousky, Caroline Diemar (Shadow), Margaret Soussloff (Village)</td> <td data-bbox="1461 1036 1734 1174">Approved by GTFJAC 9/13</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="386 1174 663 1312">CAIT NW CT (Torrington MDT)</td> <td data-bbox="663 1174 915 1312">1/15/12-1/15/13</td> <td data-bbox="915 1174 1188 1312">6/20/13</td> <td data-bbox="1188 1174 1461 1312">Theresa Montelli, Maureen Ornousky, Tammy Sneed (Shadow), Margaret Soussloff (Village)</td> <td data-bbox="1461 1174 1734 1312">Approved by GTFJAC 9/13</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="386 1312 663 1476">Central CT MIT (New Britain MDT)</td> <td data-bbox="663 1312 915 1476">3/15/12-3/15/13</td> <td data-bbox="915 1312 1188 1476">9/24/13</td> <td data-bbox="1188 1312 1461 1476">Theresa Montelli, Caroline Diemar, Paula Schaeffer (Shadow), Margaret Soussloff (Village)</td> <td data-bbox="1461 1312 1734 1476">Reviewed by Evaluation Committee 11/26/13. Sent back to Team for further response to Areas for Improvement. To be</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	MDT	Period Under Review (PUR)	Site Review Date	Evaluation Team	Status of Report	Children's Connection (Norwalk MDT)	11/15/11-11/15/12	4/29/13	Theresa Montelli, Maureen Ornousky, Caroline Diemar (Shadow), Margaret Soussloff (Village)	Approved by GTFJAC 9/13	CAIT NW CT (Torrington MDT)	1/15/12-1/15/13	6/20/13	Theresa Montelli, Maureen Ornousky, Tammy Sneed (Shadow), Margaret Soussloff (Village)	Approved by GTFJAC 9/13	Central CT MIT (New Britain MDT)	3/15/12-3/15/13	9/24/13	Theresa Montelli, Caroline Diemar, Paula Schaeffer (Shadow), Margaret Soussloff (Village)	Reviewed by Evaluation Committee 11/26/13. Sent back to Team for further response to Areas for Improvement. To be	<p>It was moved and properly seconded to approve the Norwalk Report.  <b>Signorelli/ Glaser M/S/P</b></p> <p>It was moved and properly seconded to approve the Torrington Report.  <b>Pellissier/ Levantahl M/S/P</b></p>
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	East-Central MDT (Manchester MDT)	5/15/12-5/15/13	10/2/13	Theresa Montelli, Bethany Ferreira, Tricia Falcone (Shadow), Margaret Soussloff (Village)	returned by 12/13/13. To be reviewed by Evaluation Committee on 12/10/13.																																																	
<p>Originally, part of the Redesign was to include an All Team First Round Wrap-Up. The MDT Evaluation Committee decided to forego this meeting at this time and instead write a report on the First Round process to present to GTFJAC. The report is scheduled to be presented to the GTFJAC Executive Committee in February and then the March 2014 quarterly meeting. Teams will also receive a copy of the report.</p>																																																						
<p><b><u>Redesign Second Round Update</u></b></p>																																																						
<p>An Orientation for Second Round Teams was held Tuesday September 10, 2013. Four of the six teams participated. The two teams that couldn't attend the meeting received information. An updated schedule for the Second Round teams is as follows:</p>																																																						
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Training Committee:	<p><b>Committee Update-</b> There is a need for a new chairperson. Members of the committee have been approached.</p> <p><b>NCA Trak update-</b> Tammy Sneed has been researching the pros and cons of NCATrak data and the system. There was a workgroup that was convened on February 28, 2014.</p> <p><b>Minimal Facts update</b> Board meeting occurred in October. The next Board meeting will occur in January 2014 and a Train the Trainers in February. No written update submitted.</p>																																																					

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Membership Committee:	<p><b><u>Members:</u></b> The executive committee has begun to address the vacancies on GTFJAC in key areas. One name has been submitted to fill the vacancy for clinical social worker. CCA is working on securing a parent representative. Steve Sedensky has been tasked to make contact around getting law enforcement representatives.</p> <p>The following will fill the slot of one of the Private Clinicians on the GTFJAC. This is submitted for your information.</p> <p><b>Eliza L. Borecka, M.A., M.S.W., L.C.S.W.</b> works at The Sterling Center for Counseling and Family Relations, where she is the Senior Clinician and Associate Clinical Director. And responsible for Evaluation, risk assessment, and treatment of individuals who have engaged in sexually maladaptive behavior as perpetrators; Assessment and treatment of the victims of sexual abuse; Individual therapy; Group therapy; Family therapy; Family reunification; Supervisory training; Parental education; Community education; Coordination of treatment with DCF, Juvenile and Adult Probation Officers, DMHAS, DDS, and other mental health agencies.</p> <p><b><u>GTF Retreat Work Groups</u></b> <b>Victim Services and Advocacy Group</b> will reconvene to select a chair and to refocus the group.</p> <p><b>Forensic Group</b> – Committee Update – (As supplied in the Meeting Packet) The FI/Me workgroup has a meeting scheduled for January 2014.</p> <p><b>MDT/CAC Group</b> – Committee Update – This workgroup has been dormant as the original charge was around the redistribution. The workgroup may be re-engaged as new teams are formed and issues are identified by</p>	
Old Business:	DMST-(Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking) GTFJAC hosted a training before the meeting. It was well attended by professionals around the state.	GTFJAC will ensure that each team will have a DMST training during 2014.
New Business: Announcements:		There was a motion to adjourn which was moved and properly seconded. The motion. <b>Kenny/Giovanni MSP</b>

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen M. Clark,  
GTFJAC Coordinator