

# GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

## Quarterly Meeting

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

**Present:** S. Sedensky, K. Clark, H. Bey-Coon, A. Doroghazi, M. Gallagher, S. Guess, M. Giovannuci, A. Glaser, D. Hallas, A. Johnson, J. Leventhal, T. Montelli, B. Pellisier, C. Signorelli, C. Spak, J. Marron, F. Wolman

**Guests:**

Agenda Item	Discussion <i>(brief summary)</i>	Action <i>(and by whom)</i>
Meeting called to order		
Approval of Minutes:	Approval of December 2012 minutes. Giovannuci was misspelled.  Review of November 2012 Executive Committee Minutes	There was a motion to approve the minutes. <b>It was moved and properly seconded to accept the minutes of the December 2012 meeting. MSP Montelli/ Giovannuci</b>
<b>Budget Update:</b>		
	DCF CJA Budget Update- There was a concern around the state budget shortfall and whether the task force will be effected. State dollars are being used to fund teams and these are federal funds which are an earmark. There was a discussion around if there would be funds in from CJA to fill the shortfall if state funds are cut to the teams? It was suggested that there should be a system in place to mobilize the GTFJAC if cuts occur around contacting individual's elected officials. Currently there has been no talks at DCF to cut these funds as part of their 10% recessions. Additional details will be provided in the next couple of weeks.	There was a motion to approve the CJA Budget. <b>It was moved and properly seconded to accept Pessiler/Montelli</b>
<b>GTF Coordinator Update:</b>	<p><b>CJA Application:</b></p> <p><b>CJA Application TimeLine:</b>            March 14, 2013- Chairpersons receive portions of grant they need to update with 12-13 progress.            April 8, 2013- Information is due to GTF Coordinator            April 25, 2013- CJA grant is sent to DCF Commissioner            May 9, 2013- CJA grant is sent to Governor Malloy            May 26, 2013- Final CJA grant is sent to Department of Health and Human Services- Children's Bureau- DC.</p> <p><b>CJA Grantee Meeting:</b>            The annual CJA Grantee meeting will be held from Tuesday, April 23<sup>th</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria, VA just outside of DC. The state's participation in the meeting is a requirement of CJA funding and is listed as an</p>	

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	<p>assurance in the governor's letter. The State Liaison Officers (SLO) will be meeting at the same time. The CJA Meeting will be held in conjunction with the <i>Preventing Child Maltreatment and Promoting Well-being: Network for Action (NFA)</i>. The NFA will bring a diverse group of representatives from Children's Bureau grant clusters and many national networks and organizations to gather and support national action to prevent and respond to child maltreatment and promote well-being for children and families.</p>	
<p><b>CCA Director Update:</b></p>	<p>CCA had applied for and received preliminary approval for the 2013 Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center Chapter Development Grant in the amount of \$12,000. This grant will help cover personnel and operating costs for CCA as well as adding a contract position of Book keeper. We are also in the process of applying for this year's National Children's Alliance Chapter Support Grant in the amount of \$122,000 which funds both the chapter and subgrants to the eight accredited CACs in the state.</p> <p>We are also looking to host a Finding Words Update day-long training. Some of the FW Faculty have expressed they would be willing to speak at this training as long as CCA handled all the logistics and coordination. We are in the process of developing a budget which we believe would fall under \$5K. We will be asking Executive Committee for its approval in April.</p> <p>It appears we will be sending approximately 4 CCA members to the NCA Leadership Conference this year in Washington DC June 2-5<sup>th</sup></p>	
<p><b>Committee Reports:</b></p>		
<p>Executive Committee:</p>	<p>DCF Executive Committee Co-Chair position update- The position is being staffed through the Training Academy and will be staffed by Dr. Schultz until at least June 2013. There is a desire to have this position person identified by July 2013. This will be an internal position.</p> <p>There is a need to elect two new members to the executive committee. Individuals have been approached and may be willing to serve.</p> <p><b>Election Timeline:</b>  Nominations- March 13- March 20, 2013  Slate Revealed- Approximately March 22, 2013  Electronic Voting – March 25- April 1, 2013 (Please be sure to vote!!)</p>	
<p>Finding Words Committee:</p>	<p>The April 2013 course has been canceled. The next course is in October 2013. – In October 2012, the collaboration with our national partnership has changed. Also, there is a change to the current faculty and the Finding Words binder. There is one team who may send two people to CornerHouse for the training.</p> <p>The faculty will have a retreat on Friday, April 5, 2013.</p> <p>The faculty has been training new actors and doing a refresher course for the current actors in the Heartbeat Ensemble.</p> <p>Four faculty members attended San Diego Conference on Child Abuse and Maltreatment.</p> <p>When Words Matters will be held July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown in Columbus Ohio.</p>	
<p>MDT Evaluation Committee:</p>	<p>New Member Nominations-</p> <p>The GTFJAC approves all committee members on the MDT Evaluation Committee.</p>	

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	<p><b>Paula Schaeffer</b> earned her Master's in psychology at Southern Connecticut State University. She was previously employed at the Yale Child Study Center Trauma Clinic as a research assistant. At the trauma clinic she had the opportunity to interview victims of domestic violence. For the past six years she has been working for the Yale School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Child Abuse Programs. She works in two capacities with the Department of Pediatrics: 1) Research Associate and 2) Administrative Coordinator of the Child Sexual Abuse Clinic. As a research associate, Paula has had the opportunity to interview non-offending parents of sexually abused children to help understand their experience.</p> <p>Paula participates in five MDTs: New Haven, Milford, Bridgeport, Middletown and Waterbury. She coordinates data for the MDT agendas as well as act as a resource to MDT coordinators in relation to the clinic. Paula is a member of the South Central CAC management team collaborating with two MDT coordinators to organize the CAC. Paula has previously participated on GTF subcommittees. She was involved in the MDT workgroup to reallocate the funds for MDTs across the state. She participated in a NCAtrak data work group when NCAtrak was first introduced and was invited and is participating on the GTF NCAtrak subcommittee.</p> <p><b>Setta Mushegian</b> After graduating from the University of Connecticut in 2006 with a Bachelors Degree in Women's Studies and Philosophy I made the conscious decision to put all of the theory I had learned in my classes into practice – <i>to be change</i>. That year, I began my work at The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education as an Administrative Assistant and volunteer on their 24-hour crisis hotline.</p> <p>Since coming to The Center in 2006 I have: performed as their Community Educator; volunteered in Armenia at The Women's Resource Center twice to provide month-long educational trainings to their volunteers; graduated with my Master's Degree in Social Work from The University of Connecticut School of Social Work; and returned as a full time employee to The Center. In my current position as Senior Crisis Counselor/Child Advocate my responsibilities include both counseling victims of sexual violence and their families and providing educational presentations for professionals and community members in Lower Fairfield County. In this role I sit on several community task forces, am a member of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services and sit on both child sexual abuse response teams which together serve Greenwich, Stamford, Norwalk, New Canaan, Darien, Weston, Wilton and Westport.</p> <p><b>Patricia Johnson</b>- BA from the University of Michigan and a JD from Cornell. Has been an Asst. Attorney General in the Children Protection Department since 1997 and a supervisor assigned to juvenile court since 2000. For the last 15 years, she has worked exclusively on child neglect and abuse cases and a member of the Hartford MDT since 1999 serving on the executive committee.</p> <p><b>Lisa Pavlovic</b> earned her B.S. degree in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of Connecticut and Medical Degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School. She completed her pediatric residency at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia. During Lisa's time as Pediatric Attending at Portsmouth Naval Hospital, she developed and was Director of the Child Abuse Clinic at Portsmouth Naval Hospital. She also was also the Chair of Child Abuse and Spouse Abuse Case Review Committees for the Navy. Lisa went on to serve as a consultant in child abuse pediatrics at the Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan. After returning to the States, she then served as a consultant in child abuse pediatrics for the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Currently Lisa is employed by the Yale School of Medicine as a child abuse pediatrician and is the Medical Director of the Child Sexual Abuse Clinic. She sits on the New Haven MDT and is a member of the New Haven executive committee.</p>	<p>It was moved and properly seconded for all four new members to be appointed to the committee.</p> <p><b>M/S/P Fricks/Hallas</b></p>

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Training Committee:	<p><b>Committee Update-</b> There have been no requests for training money. There is a need for new members to sit on the training committee. Brad Pellisier has agreed to serve on this committee.</p> <p><b>Statewide Training—</b> The evaluation report was reviewed at the meeting.</p> <p><b>NCA Trak update-</b> There was a small workgroup meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 9:00AM at DCF Central office. At the September 2012 meeting, Mary Ann Poinelli presented a year's worth of data.</p> <p><b>Minimal Facts update</b> The next Minimal Facts Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 from 1-3PM at the Chief State's Attorney Office in Rocky Hill.</p>	<p>CCA provided a final report and fiscal report including receipts to close out the training, but that has not been reviewed by the executive committee and will be presented in April 2013.</p>
Membership Committee:	<p><b>Website-</b> GTFJAC is planning on developing a website that would include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A page for the history of the task force</li> <li>• A page that has the members of the task force and the committees/workgroups (could be with the above)</li> <li>• A page for Calendar of events- Committee meetings, trainings, May have the meeting minutes attached to dates</li> <li>• MDT evaluation forms for the teams to access during their evaluation process</li> <li>• Community Information-- Statewide information on the MDT's around the state and their resources</li> <li>• Links to partner agencies</li> <li>• Child Abuse resources both local, statewide and national. (Desire to have a CT Map with resources available)</li> <li>• Child abuse research including efficacy of MDTs and CACs (May link to CCA's page around this)</li> <li>• Press releases/ Photos</li> </ul> <p>We do not have a domain name as of yet. We would need it to be a state website. We will see if <a href="http://www.ct.gov/dcf/gtfjac/">http://www.ct.gov/dcf/gtfjac/</a> is available. We were going to go to the DAS website trainings with Scott Hoang when Mary Ann was on board but we still needed a state person to do the uploading as members of committee are not state employees. Working with DCF Webmaster David Brennan who quickly developed a home page.</p> <p><b><u>GTF Retreat Work Groups</u></b></p> <p>Victim Services and Advocacy Group – The Victim Services Workgroup has been looking into four areas of interest in recent months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Info sharing - how can organizations and service providers share information, training, and resources to prevent "reinventing the wheel" and to ensure that all child victims and their families interact with professionals who are up-to-date on best practices.</li> <li>• Using healthcare settings to share information - how can we get information into parents' hands <i>before</i> abuse occurs so they know warning signs of abuse and understand where to go for assistance? Would maternity folders be an option for this information?</li> <li>• Kids Court - for children who will have to testify, is this an effective option for reducing their apprehension and helping them understand the criminal justice process? Has CT had this program in the past?</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group is especially interested in the Bridging Program and what The Governor's Task Force can do to both support the program and develop a model to sustainably replicate it in other areas of the state. Peggy Pisano, Dr. Asnes and Theresa Montelli will be presenting at a national conference.</li> </ul> <p>Forensic Group – Committee Update – No meeting since June and no updated report. MDT/CAC Group – 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</p>	
CCA Update:	Ann Glaser and J. Marron just returned from the NE regional Child Advocacy Center Chapter summit. There are changes in the national accrediting process. State Chapters are being accredited. CCA was accredited in 2011.	
GTF Coordinator Update:	The 2013 GTFJAC meeting dates were distributed to the members.	
Old Business:	<p>There topic of the Forensic Interview report that is presented to the AAG is fact based and does not include the facts that lead the child to come to the forensic interview. For example there have been children who have disclosed to a trusted adult and then went home with the alleged perpetrator and the child did not disclose to the social worker or the forensic interview. The easy solution is for AAGs to sit on teams but the reality is that AAGs do not have time to sit on teams and attend meetings because they are in court. There needs to be a process between GTF, AAG and CCA to see how we can alleviate this situation.</p> <p>New Haven/Ansonia/Milford has been approved as a full CAC site. There will be a formal announcement soon.</p>	
New Business:		
Announcements:	n/a	There was a motion to adjourn which was moved and properly seconded. The motion. <b>MSP Montelli/Doroghazi</b>

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen M. Clark,  
GTFJAC Coordinator