

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

Quarterly Meeting

March 14, 2018 – 1:30PM.
Chief State Attorney's Office, Hartford, CT

Present: S. Sedensky, T. Sneed, K. Anelli, H. Bey-Coon, K. Butler-Kurth, E. Borecka, K. Clark, L. Cordes, M. Doherty, S. Hamilton, A. Johnson, S. Kristoff, John Leventhal, K. Rich, P. Schaefer, F. Vos Winkel, S. Zanker-Rivera, Y. Young

Guests: P. Pisano,

| Agenda Item | Discussion (<i>brief summary</i>) | Action (<i>and by whom</i>) |
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| Meeting called to order | | The meeting was called to order at 1:35PM |
| Approval of Minutes: | Approval of February 2018 minutes. Change to 0-18 on first page. | There was a motion to approve the February 2018 minutes. The motion passed. Sedensky/Doherty M/S/P |
| | <p>Retreat Recommendation #1: Use the next six months to develop a framework and plans for the next federal grant application which is due May 2018. Four ad-hoc groups will be established to replace all the existing workgroups and committees as follows:</p> <p>2. Training (volunteer lead: Margaret Doherty) The Training Committee has the following <u>responsibilities</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review specific requests for funds up to \$1,000 for training of MDT committee members to enable them to better perform their roles as MDT members and professionals within their specific disciplines. • Evaluate existing training opportunities for MDT members and evaluate the unmet needs for training of MDT members. • Make recommendations for structural and procedural changes to the Governor's Task Force for Justice for Abused Children to most efficiently and thoroughly meet the training needs of GTFJAC members and the professionals within their disciplines. <p>Year to date accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee has reviewed 5 individual training fund requests, approved 4 and sent 1 back for additional information • With CCA, applied for & been awarded a development grant of \$10,000 from Northeast Regional Child Advocacy Center (NRCAC) to develop one-two day training broader than Minimal Facts but not exclusively focusing on the forensic interview (Finding Words) training, specific to Connecticut needs. • Developed specific recommendations for moving forward. <p>Specific recommendations:</p> | There was a motion to approve the recommendations of the training committee. The motion passed. Doherty/Johnson M/S/P 1 opposed. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have one “Training Committee” with one annual budget with an annual request deadline; with sub-committees for Finding Words faculty and Minimal Facts faculty and developers • Minimal Facts process and oversight needs to be reviewed and updated • GTF and CCA to develop a yearly training agenda after surveying the needs and preferences of all team members and coordinators and to revise the “training funds request form” <p>Discussion: <i>At the following training committee meeting, there was discussion around the training proposal that is attached above. There is a survey tool that was developed and will go out to MDT coordinators and team members. This will assist with ascertaining the needs of the team and will be completed on an annual basis. The requests will also be submitted on an annual basis, reviewed and approved. Minimal Facts will also be analyzed to ensure that all components are working. There is a need to update the curriculum and better coordination. The MDT Team Survey was presented with the additional questions submitted around the specific training needs. There is a need to review the structure and look to see if there is a way to maximize the funds and resources to ensure that there is a larger number of professional trained. There is a desire to have a training four times a year that includes, MF, Interviewing, Professionals coming on to the team, Dynamics around child abuse. There were additional funds that have been secured for curriculum development. There is a desire for a more comprehensive training that is shorter than Finding Words but longer than Minimal Facts. The state needs to take more responsibility</i></p> <p><i>Finding Words – Large undertaking and commitment. The current FW chair is advocating for the committee to remain a standing committee. There is a lot of work that goes into the coordination of this training. \$410 per student is spent on Finding Words. There is a need to review the budget for Finding Words as there are up to 80 people that are trained in this area. Is there a need to look at from the original students, how many are still practicing in the field? Can we look at what is done long term in its influence? We should be looking at all our trainings, who we are reaching and are they meeting the goals.</i></p> <p><i>By-laws will need to be changed in order to have the one combined training.</i></p> | |
| Retreat Recommendation 2 | <p>Recommendation #2: Discuss possible restructuring of the GTF meeting schedule and agenda.</p> <p>Retreat participants noted several issues: there never seems to be enough time on the agenda to have substantive discussion of issues; most of the substantive discussions occur at Executive Committee; the role of the Executive Committee; frequency of GTF meetings given that if a meeting gets cancelled GTF could go for six months without meeting; system barriers need to be a standing agenda item with action and accountability; meetings should include education on emerging issues and the membership and terms of membership need to be reviewed. Should the GTFJAC full meeting do more of the substantive work?</p> <p>Discussion: <i>The Executive Committee does not include all disciplines and voices may not be heard. Perhaps having more frequent GTF meetings. The by-laws would need to be reviewed and updated if there is a change in Standing Committees for GTFJAC including executive committee. There is a need to ensure that the body is aware of the work and not have the full GTFJAC rubberstamp items that the Executive Committee had already discussed. Perhaps a structure of Bi-Monthly meetings with active committee work.</i></p> <p><i>Membership – Looking at who is in the By-Laws. We need to update this to match Program Instruction and Legislation. There is a need to include more representation from the teams such as coordinators and folks who are doing the direct</i></p> | <p>There was motion to change the meeting times to bi-monthly meetings. The motion passed. Vos Winkel/Rich M/S/P 2 Abstentions</p> <p>There was a motion to eliminate the Executive Committee and have meetings</p> |

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| | <p><i>service perhaps one from the core disciplines on a team (ie. investigators, mental health, advocates). There would be a need to look at who would have the ability and would be categorized as members non voting. Parents who have gone through the Connecticut system.</i></p> | <p>contain full membership. The motion passed. Vos Winkel/Rich M/S/P 2 Abstentions</p> |
| Budget Update | <p>The PSA and Village documents were in the meeting packet. The full task force reviewed the PSA documents from year one of the PSA as well as two and three.</p> <p>There was a proposal that will be submitted around Child Fatality review to look for GTF funding around a consultant. This would have implications on more interaction with the MDTs. Currently we are looking at taking the review of child deaths at the state level from the Child Fatality review panel. Perhaps there is a way to pilot this activity in one or two communities.</p> | <p>Faith will submit a written proposal.</p> |
| GTF Coordinator Update: | <p>Reminder that the Three Year Assessment is due this year. Members are asked to review the document from the last Three Year Assessment and ensure that their biography is up to date and make changes to their organizations sections.</p> <p>Priorities: Analysis of case outcomes in the areas of prosecution and case adjudication. How has the training and initial response effected better outcomes for children? Data – Statewide Assessment and utilize the Village Evaluator to develop this data and create a statewide report. NCA Trak – Connecticut will be piloting an ability to collect and analyze statewide data. We may be able to have input on some of the variables asked. Legislation – There needs to be more sharing of legislative activity. Conversation at a deeper exploration on a specific bill or policy that includes some reflective work.</p> <p>Children with Disabilities is an area that needs to have more robust conversation at the GTFJAC level. DCF, Forensic Interviewer to discuss working with this population at an upcoming meeting. This may be able to rolled into the Statewide Assessment piece. Look at ways to group some of the infrastructure issues ie how is this effected by data? How are children with disabilities incorporated into the conversations around issues, gaps etc in the state.</p> <p>Budget – We will continue to review the CJA budget to ensure we are aligning with the priorities that were identified. The budget was reduced from the previous year. We can take money from the Statewide Assessment line and the Training committee if needed. We can also look for ways to put this funding back into the budget however should accept the budget as amended in case this is not possible.</p> <p>Training- The budget would include all training. The normal 10,000 that is given each year. The additional 10,000 that we will receive from DCF for year 2-3 of the Village PSA and the 30,000 from the Finding Words budget. There will be a total of \$50,000 that the Training Committee will be able to manage for 2018-2019. \$40,000 will be reflected on the CJA grant application with another \$10,000 provided based upon Village invoice to DCF.</p> | <p>Yale may have a resource that can be of assistance in this area.</p> <p>There is a motion to vote on the CJA priorities 2018-2019 as amended. The motion passed. Borecka/Cordes M/S/P</p> <p>There was a motion to take \$831 from the Training Committee Budget. The motion passed. Rich /Schaefer M/S/P 1 opposed</p> <p>There is a motion to accept the CJA budget as</p> |

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| | | amended. The motion passed. Sedensky/Koreth_burth M/SP 1 Abstention |
| Other Business: | May meeting to start at 1:30PM on May 17, 2018 Is there a need for a June meeting or can we switch to the bi-monthly meeting schedule? . Agenda items Prioritize the order in which we take on issues. Looking at Education for the Task Force. Vacancies 30 th Anniversary of GTFJAC will occur in 2018. | Check with CSAO |
| New Business: | | |
| Announcements: | | There was a motion to adjourn which was moved and properly seconded. The motion passed. Vos Winkel/NesbittM/S/P |

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen M. Clark,
GTFJAC Coordinator