

# GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

May 4, 2020 – 1:30 PM.

Zoom Meeting

Present(as listed in the Zoom chatbox request for signing): K. Lawlor, K. Rich, T. Sneed, K. Clark, P Schaeffer, S. Kristoff, B. Burke, M. Doherty, A. Johnson, R. Colangelo, F. Vos Winkel, J. Fitzsimons, T. DeVincenzo, Y. Young, H. Bey Coon, K. Butler-Kurth, C. Robak, B. Leaming, A, Asnes, M. Manning, N. Nesbitt, S. Zanker-Rivera, K. Anelli

Guest: P. Pisano

Agenda Item	Discussion ( <i>brief summary</i> )	Action ( <i>and by whom</i> )
Meeting called to order	Kristen did a welcome and reviewed the Zoom call procedures for the meeting.	The meeting was called to order at <b>1:35pm</b>
Approval of Minutes:	The March 2020 minutes were reviewed. Accepted with grammar edits. There was motion to approve the minutes with grammar edits. Kevin Lawlor Motion Second Tammy Sneed Motion passed with 15 votes	
<b>Budget</b>	<p><u>Excess Funds:</u> Funds in the Village portion of the CJA budget have accrued and there is an ability to re-allocate some of these funds. The use of funds from January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020, were reviewed and re-forecasted.</p> <p>The use of funds from May 2020 to September 30, 2020, was reviewed, re-forecasted, and reallocated. Reviewed budget for all the break outs from January allocations and adjustments that were made. November finding words will not come out of this budget as it falls within the FY21 budget. There are restrictions for spending the funds that are carrying over to September 30<sup>th</sup>. There was a suggestion to request to do a RFP for additional PPE items for teams. Kristen will research if funds can cover PPE for the centers. CACs are concerned about having the necessary equipment to do the forensic interviews. Does the CACs have protective zoom and the answer is yes, but there are some concerns as all disciplines can't use zoom or GoToMeetings. DCF cannot participate on these platforms unless they are calling in. Funds to print copies of the new standards for the centers was suggested. Request for funding a day event for child fatality. All request should be forwarded to Kristen and then they will be shared with the chairs. Kristen will send out the template for people to document their request which can then be shared with he chairs. Kristen and Krystal will revise the template and send out to the group.</p> <p><u>Stipend:</u> In the March meeting, there was a desire to create a stipend for the person who serves in the survivor and parent role. Members were asked to forward wording for an amendment to the By-Laws. At the time of the May meeting, one amendment was submitted.</p> <p>Article IV, Membership:</p> <p>Notwithstanding the Conflict of Interest policy outlined in Article IV, Section 4, Adult Survivor(s) and Parent Representative(s) who serve on the Task Force are eligible to receive reasonable compensation for participation in GTFJAC meetings. Committee meetings and workgroups of the GTFJAC <b>[are/are not]</b> covered by this provision. <i>(We would have to decide whether to include</i></p>	

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	<p><i>committee meetings.</i>) The rate of compensation shall be established in a policy document that is available to all prospective members".</p> <p>There was a motion that was passed in the March meeting that passed, now there needs to be a motion on the language to be included in the bylaws for GTF. Should there be a catch all statement in case there are others that should be compensated? There was concern that others will not fall within our scope based on CJA restrictions. Subcommittee participation should be covered under this bylaw amendment. There was a recommendation to remove adult and just include survivor. The language was updated by removing adult from survivors and it was added that they will be compensated for workgroups and committees.</p> <p>There was a motion to approve this language. Krystal Rich motioned second by Beth Leaming Motion Passed</p> <p>Need to look at the amount of allocation for the survivor and parent representative. Request for folks to think of dollar amounts \$25 - \$75 was information researched, plus deciding will it be a stipend as well as travel. Recommendation that the tri-chairs should come up with the payment amount. A small group make a recommendation on the amount rather than the whole committee discussing it and then bring back a recommendation to the board. Krystal will set up a call with the tri-chairs and send out to the committee to see who would like to participate in this discussion. The recommendation will be sent out in advance so a vote can be made at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>CJA Budget</u> CJA Meeting- Kristen and Krystal attended the 2020 CJA meeting in Washington DC in mid-March 2020. The draft of the 2020-2021 CJA application has been submitted to DCF for review before being forwarded to the Governor's Office. The CJA budget is the final piece that needs to be included in the application. The budget was presented to the task force for approval.</p> <p>This is \$1,300 less than last year. There was a motion to approve the CJA budget. Tammy Sneed Motion Second Beth Leaming Motion passed 16 yes 1 No</p>	
<b>Three Year Assessment</b>	<p>Three Year Assessment- The Task Force will need to develop a statewide needs assessment to conduct and write the Three-Year Assessment which is due in May 2021. The Task Force voted in March 2020 to find a consultant to assist with the development of these assessment tools and/or conduct the assessment. Several facilitators were engaged who know our system. To date, no facilitator has been identified who knows our system. Two names were forwarded of local facilitators who may not know our system.</p> <p>The Task Force needs to develop a scope of the work to solicit a facilitator to complete the work. Prior to the May meeting, one member of the Task Force let Kristen know of their desire to serve on the Three-Year Assessment committee.</p> <p>Krystal has some leads of facilitators who are interested. A committee to work on this project is needed. Kristen will send out to a communication to have people sign up to join the committee.</p>	
<b>Training Committee Report</b>	<p><u>Committee Update:</u> As reported in the March 2020 GTF meeting, the committee turned its focus on the development of additional statewide trainings to respond to Outcome Measurement Survey(OMS) data from Connecticut's teams which was provided to task force members. Five Areas of Interest Identified in MDT survey: <b>THESE WERE LISTED IN MARCH AS WELL.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Responding to sexually reactive children</li> <li>2) Understanding the role of each discipline on the MDT</li> </ol>	

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	<p>3) Understanding federal law enforcement’s response to child trafficking  4) Joint investigation process through disposition  5) Assessing for poly-victimization cases.</p> <p>The Finding Words subcommittee Co-Chairs reported to the Training Committee that they are looking at the feasibility of developing a session on the role of each discipline to be conducted on the first day of the Finding Words course. And possibly adding a practical hands-on activity on Thursday of the Finding Words course to assist students with growing their knowledge of the differing roles on the MDT and discuss the joint investigation process through disposition. If need be, they can expand on that when they report out on Finding Words.</p> <p>The third-highest response from the annual survey was understanding federal law enforcement’s response to child trafficking. The Training Committee Co-Chairs met with Sarala V. Nagala, Assistant United States Attorney and Wendy A. Bowersox, FBI Special Agent - Violent Crimes Against Children Unit regarding developing training that can be targeted to our MDT partners and other key stakeholders. They were willing to develop the training for Connecticut professionals. COVID 19 put this training on hold. In March 2020 the presenters were approached to convert this to virtual training and they indicated that it might be better received in person. As social distancing continues, we will revisit the child trafficking training format.</p> <p>The training committee chairs have connected with Zero Abuse Project (ZAP) to discuss resources around assessing for poly victimization cases. We received additional questions that Forensic Interviewers can ask during the closure stage of the interview protocol as well as their poly victimization protocol. And lastly, the committee will host a webinar around Investigating Polyvictimization Issues during our new virtual training series which will be detailed below.</p> <p>So that is where we are in addressing the topics that appeared in the OMS results.</p> <p>So in addition to that, since our March meeting, the COVID 19 pandemic has created an increase in school-age students online. There was a need to remind and educated parents, educators, and professionals of the dangers for youth to be exploited. (HART) developed a Child Exploitation and Internet Safety webinar for parents. Due to demand, the training was conducted two additional times. In late April, the Training Committee was approached by Tammy to support additional training in this area in conjunction with HART and CCA. We worked out the details and this training will occur May 18-19, 2020 and CCA is supporting those to sessions. One webinar will be designed for parents and the other training is designed for youth with the State Department of Education ensuring that training invites are distributed to all Connecticut School systems. If there is a need for additional training, we still have training funds that could support additional training in this area.</p> <p>The task force members suggested a presentation on Abusive Head Trauma based on interest statewide for this topic area. A statewide training was being developed to be held at New Britain Police Department on May 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> 2020. The first day of the training was to include multiple presentations addressing the response of law enforcement, child protection, and medical providers to a case of abusive head trauma where the child survived and the second day was to address a case of AHT where there the child did not survive. This training has been placed on hold due to COVID 19.</p> <p>In response to the pandemic and the need to continue to provide training to Connecticut professionals, the training committee leveraged our relationship with ZAP, developed and launched a statewide Connecticut specific virtual Lunch and Learn series in March 2020. The Connecticut only 90-minute sessions that were distributed statewide included topics:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to Child Abuse During the Pandemic presented by Victor Veith, JD, MA Director of Education &amp; Research Zero Abuse Project</li> <li>• Playing Nice in the Sandbox - Developing Effective MDTs presented by Rita Farrel</li> <li>• Corroborating Evidence presented by Victor Veith, JD, MA Director of Education &amp; Research Zero Abuse Project</li> </ul> <p>Krystal will be talking about the Response to Recovery conference. But based upon the Task Force’s vote in the January meeting to support the conference, the Training Committee was preparing to support the annual conference slated for May 2020. In April the training committee’s Lunch and Learn series was merged with Response to Recovery conference. And I will leave the details on that for when Krystal reports out on that. Krystal reported workshops will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Registrations went out yesterday so far 100 people registered for each session. Info will be sent out every four weeks. A call for proposal email was sent out this week as well.</p> <p>The Minimal Facts -- The Committee had a great response to our targeted marketing campaign that was initiated in early 2020. Once the state was shut down due to COVID 19, we placed that marketing campaign on hold due to the need to cancel in-person meetings. We hope to resume the marketing campaign as soon as we can convert our training to a virtual format. With that, we had several scheduled trainings canceled for the remainder of March, April, and May 2020. The Committee is working to convert the curricula to virtual training and will hope to finalize that at our meeting on Monday. The first training was conducted on April 27, 2020, via the Microsoft Teams Platform with the DCF Workforce Development trainers and Sue Lauippa.</p> <p><u>LMS(Learning Management System)</u> – The Task Force indicated that this can be funded with some of the unencumbered funds that need to be spent by June 30, 2020.</p> <p><u>Finding Words</u> – The 2020 courses are scheduled for the last week of April 2020, the last week of June 2020 were canceled. The committee is looking to hold the in-person training during the first week of November 2020. POST is going through some restructuring and will not be able to accommodate us in April and June. Those two courses will be held at Klingberg in Hartford and New Britain respectively. The November course will be at POST. Michelle discussed the two-day training focused on prosecutors related to trauma. The Zero Abuse project will be working with her on this project. This was a grant that she applied for an received. October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2021.</p>	
<b>MDT Evaluation</b>	<p>The committee will schedule the next round of evaluations and this will be based upon their NCA accreditations to ensure that there is limited overlap. The first evaluation will be the teams that are associated with the Hartford CAC.</p> <p>There is a need for new members on the committee. The committee is looking to streamline the evaluation and have an evaluation subcommittee that does the observations. Looking at Zoom for the committee meetings moving forward.</p> <p>Follow Up Evaluations - The committee would like to generate a report for gaps and barriers in a team and present it at the GTFJAC. This would allow for any issues with a statewide or agency-specific perspective to be presented at GTFJAC and addressed through members on the Task Force.</p> <p>There will be meetings with all the executive committees of each of the teams to roll out the new documents (State Standards, Protocols, and Standard MOUs).</p>	

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	Due to COVID have not met with everyone the next meeting is next week with the committee. Standardizing MOUS, plan to start evaluations in the Fall. Materials will be sent out several months in advance.	
<b>Other Business:</b>		
<b>New Business:</b>	Future Presentation Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech therapist working with children with disabilities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements:</b>		
	Meeting adjourned at <b>3:00pm</b> . Motion to adjourn Faith second Kevin Lawlor Motion passed	

Respectfully Submitted,

Yvette Young(Captured notes during the meeting)

Kristen M. Clark  
GTFJAC Coordinator