

# GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE ON JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

April 14, 2021, 10 AM  
Special Three Year Assessment Zoom  
Zoom Meeting

Attendance: The April 2021 attendance list can be found on the GTFJAC Website.

Agenda Item	Discussion <i>(brief summary)</i>	Action <i>(and by whom)</i>
Meeting called to order	Krystal Rich did a welcome.	The meeting was called to order at <b>10:07 AM</b>
Budget	Barry Adams from the Village discussed the current Village budget that was calculated through March 31, 2021.	
Three Year Assessment Presentation	Alison Johnson presented on Connecticut’s Three Year Assessment process. The report and executive summary had been distributed to the entire task force before the meeting. Alison discussed the data collection that occurred over the last year. Alison discussed the high-level areas that had universal themes.  This report will provide some of the data for Connecticut’s Three Year Assessment submission.	
Priorities Areas and Recommendations	Krystal presented a draft of the priority areas and recommendations.  <b>Role Clarity:</b> There was a discussion around role clarity in the MDT process. This is an area that should be a priority in the next three years.  <u>MDT 101 Training</u> – This would be for any person that is new to the system. Discuss roles and expectations. Ensure that there are agency policies and limitations included in the training. <u>POST</u> – We can explore the feasibility of having an MDT training curriculum that is part of the requirements for Law Enforcement (Beth, Michelle, and Kevin will follow up on this)  <b>Data Collection</b> – Data was referenced throughout the meeting. Several comments or proposed action areas can be placed under the data collection recommendation and presented in an annual report. OMS, CSAO has a new data collection system, parent project, child fatalities, MDT Evaluation data, CJA report card, annual survey of key stakeholders.	
<b>Other considerations</b>	<u>Physical Abuse Cases</u> – Severe physical abuse is a term that we do not clearly define. <u>Safe Haven Law</u> – 11-12 Safe Haven babies since COVID went into effect in the last 12 month period. Currently, is a narrow scope, and this is an area that we may want to review. <u>Opioid Epidemic</u> - Some parents succumb to their addictions, and some children will have needs based upon parental death. <u>COVID</u> – This year of isolation and change will have lasting effects on the well-being of children. There was additional discussion regarding obstacles to child protection during the epidemic. <u>Parent Project</u> – Nancy and Kevin were developing a project around the parent’s voice and addressing caregivers’ needs. This was a pilot project with the New Britain JD. Caregiver survey with post adjudicated cases. (Data collection & Innovation Projects)	
<b>Next Steps</b>	The Three-Year Assessment Recommendations will be distributed to task force members. Members will vote via email on the recommendations, priority areas, and the 2021-2022 budget.	

Agenda Item	Discussion ( <i>brief summary</i> )	Action ( <i>and by whom</i> )
	<p>Next week, GTF members will receive an email regarding the federal legislation and to describe the activities/action/policy changes your agency has taken in the following three areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, in a manner which reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim’s family and which also ensures procedural fairness to the accused;</li> <li>b. experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation cases, including the enhancement of performance of court-appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem for children, and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused; and</li> <li>c. reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation while ensuring fairness to all affected persons</li> </ol> <p>2. Briefly identify <b>your agency’s priorities</b> regarding training and policy for the three areas above (a-c) over the next three years (2021-2024).</p> <p>The compilation of these member agency responses will be included in Connecticut’s Three Year Assessment</p> <p>Kristen will then take the Three Year Recommendations, CJA Priority areas, and the member agency responses to develop Connecticut’s federal submissions for the Children’s Justice Act. This report is due to be submitted by May 28, 2021. It will need to be reviewed and approved by the DCF Commissioner and the Governor before submission.</p>	
	Meeting adjourned at 11:11 AM. There was a motion to adjourn. <b>The motion passed. Vos Winkel/Borecki M/S/P</b>	

Respectfully Submitted  
Kristen M. Clark  
GTFJAC Coordinator