

GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE ON JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

March 9, 2022 – 1:30 PM.
Zoom Meeting

Attendance: The March 2022 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	There was an introduction of Zoom attendees, and attendance was taken.	The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm
Approval of Minutes:		There was a motion to approve the January 2022 minutes. The motion passed. Asnes/Lawlor M/S/P
Budget	The current Village budget was presented. This budget will end in 2023.	
Legislation	<p><u>AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.</u> GTF pulled together a working group of content experts: coaching Coalitions, content experts, and other folks working on this issue. Kelly Anelli, Bridget Koestner, Faith Vos Winkel, Krystal Rich, and Kristen Clark participated in a working group. The final product was received from the graphic designer and was sent out to individuals who had inquired about the legislation. The documents will be uploaded to the website for the public to access. Perhaps a press release should be completed to announce this document: traditional media and sports media.</p> <p>HB 5243. Adult Sexual Misconduct. Several groups raised concerns about the language. In particular, sections 10-12 discuss local boards of education and child care facilities conducting child abuse allegations. This is the antithesis of the Minimal Facts Discoverers Training, which was developed and adopted by Connecticut in 2012. The training was developed and vetted by DCF, the CSAO, SDE, The CT state Police, POST, Yale Child Sexual Abuse clinic, and the Connecticut Children’s Alliance before being approved by GTFJAC. CT has a statewide system in place to conduct these types of interviews through our multidisciplinary teams and child advocacy centers, and victims should not be interviewed multiple times as this will not only taint the investigation, it is not in the best interest of the child victim. Every time a child has to retell their abuse, it has a potential traumatic effect on the child. There was a robust discussion among GTFJAC members. Members agreed that there needs to be more training for entities not involved in the investigative process.</p>	<p>Kristen will send GTFJAC an email with the final product.</p> <p>Krystal will send out language to GTFJAC regarding HB 5243. GTFJAC members will write emails to the legislators who are hearing this bill.</p>
MDT Evaluation	The Central and North Central teams have been completed, the team sent in their response, and the North Central documents were sent to GTFJAC for discussion at the March meeting. The chairs reviewed the document. It was highlighted that telehealth is a viable option for some medical appointments. KCAC has reached out to CCMC to identify ways to offer the outreach calls.	There was a motion to approve the North Central MDT Evaluation. The motion

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		passed. Asnes/Vos Winkel M/S/P
CCA Update	<p>The 2021 MDT data was shared with the GTFJAC. The NCATrak allows CCA to pull statewide data and is looking at data across several years in particular areas. This report will include this and trend data.</p> <p>1. Review 2021 Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Updates to reporting in 2022 including receiving of services/ updates to demographic categories (see data) b. OMS data- Outcome Measurement Survey – There are several surveys that go out to MDT partners, youth, and families. The initial caregiver survey gets real-time feedback. The follow-up survey also gives robust data. CCA is a part of a group with 3 other states and NCA to develop additional DEI questions that will be standardized across the country. We are looking to add questions to the MDT, caregiver, and youth surveys. As a pilot, CCA added a few narrative questions to the MDT survey that was more general in nature than the last round of the OMS survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. MDT Survey-291 responses overall (we had to have a few teams resend because of an initial low response rate so we just received all feedback at the start of March) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Questions added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What additional trainings and or services do you or other team members need to better serve diverse populations? b. What additional trainings and/or services do you or other team members need to better serve children with disabilities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>* feedback related to addressing needs early in on the MDT process. Needing additional training and increasing access to outside services</i> ii. Youth Survey- 159 responses from youth since July of last year. Out of the 159 responses over 75 youth added comments to the narrative questions, providing specific feedback. We are working now to categorize those and highlight the specific feedback. iii. Initial Caregiver Survey-537 responses (29/30% of children served) in 2021 iv. Follow-up Caregiver Survey- 92 responses in 2021 (5% of children served) in 2021 <p>CCA will finalize our report on this data and send it out to the task force.</p> <p>2. OVC – In collaboration with the Hartford States Attorney, CCA received a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to develop and enhance the multidisciplinary response to trafficking victims in Hartford County. There will be postings for three roles for this program. The Division of Criminal Justice has posted the job posting for the Task Force Coordinator and CCA will be posting the two advocate positions.</p> <p>3. Child Abuse Prevention Month-partnering with OEC on a social media campaign, trainings, and activities throughout the month.</p> <p>4. Legislation- CCA reviewed HB5243 and has submitted testimony and outlined concerns to the Committee on Children.</p> <p>5. Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Response to Recovery Workshops will continue each month. 	

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	<p>b. CCA’s training and education coordinator will be certified this month in a few child abuse prevention training curricula and will be hosting a training of trainers and sending more information over the next couple of months.</p> <p>c. Parent Leadership Summit- Partnering with the Office of Early Childhood and CREC to put on a statewide parent leadership summit. This summit is being designed and led by a group of parent leaders. The summit is meant for parents and will take place virtually on September 17th.</p>	
HART	<p>NCMEC – In 2020, there was a 98% increase in predators attempting to recruit youth. The numbers in Connecticut have also risen. Tammy shared the data with the Task Force. Before COVID, the average was 208 cases. And in 2021, the numbers increased to 241. There is a concern that cases regarding males are under-reported. Children of color continue to be victimized at a higher rate. No one of Asian descent was reported in 2021. This continues to be a concern, and there needs to be focused efforts in engaging this population. Perhaps the US Attorney’s office can be a resource to assist in this area. There may be some ties into this community after the Asian Hate Crimes were investigated. Native Americans are also a population where there needs to be some focused outreach.</p> <p>There continues to be robust HART training throughout Connecticut.</p> <p>HART Listserv: If you would like to be added to the HART Listserv, please get in touch with Tammy Sneed at TAMMY.SNEED@ct.gov</p>	
CJA Update	<p><u>CJA Application</u> The Program Instruction came out today. Generally, in March, we review and vote on the proposed priorities and budget for the upcoming year. There was a reduction in the funds allocated to Connecticut.</p> <p>The annual report is due on May 31, 2022, and will be submitted to DCF on May 6, 2022. GTFJAC members will be asked to update their biographies.</p> <p><u>CJA Annual Meeting</u> The annual Children’s Justice Act meeting will occur virtually on May 4-5, 2022. Kristen will ask the Children’s Bureau if additional members can attend the virtual sessions.</p> <p><u>CJA Leadership Team</u> The CJA Coordinators that serve on the Leadership Team work together to identify ways to support the large CJA grantee community, provide mentorship to their fellow grantees, and engage in ongoing communication and support with one another. In late November, Mandy Bowden from South Carolina left for another opportunity, which created a vacancy for the Leadership Team.</p> <p>Kristen’s name came up as a CJA Coordinator with considerable experience from the group of states that were part of Mandy’s portfolio. (Alabama, Connecticut, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee) With almost 20 years as a CJA Coordinator, they felt it was important to have seasoned coordinators willing to answer questions and support others. Typical expectations include participation in quarterly Leadership Team conference calls; occasional proactive outreach to the six assigned mentor states to see if there is peer support that they need; responding to any requests for support or consultation from mentor states; providing input/consultation to the Children’s Bureau and Center for States when planning new resources, annual meeting agendas, grantee quarterly calls, etc.; and working as a group to plan/lead one session at the Annual Grantees Meeting.</p>	<p>Kristen will send GTFJAC the 2022-2023 CJA Priorities and Budget for Vote.</p> <p>Kristen will solicit updated biographies for the GTFJAC members for the annual application.</p>

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<p>Three Year Assessment</p>	<p><i>Recommendation #1: Enhance communication, collaboration, and role clarity through training.</i></p> <p>The GTFJAC Training Committee has partnered with CCA to provide statewide training during the previous reporting period. The Task Force will assess the activities and outcomes of the training committee to ensure the committee addresses the training needs identified through the Three-Year Assessment, OMS survey results, and other data collection activities.</p> <p><u>The committee has the following responsibilities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review specific training offered and ensure it will enhance providers statewide to enable them to better perform their roles as MDT members and other professionals within their specific disciplines. • Assess existing training opportunities and evaluate the unmet needs for training of MDT members in terms of the investigation, assessment, intervention, and prosecution of child sexual abuse. • 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, law and judicial professionals, and the professionals within their disciplines. <p>The Training Committee chairs met with Kevin and Krystal to address the structure of the committee.</p> <p>The training committee chairs would like to focus on statewide training efforts that affect the system. (Discipline-specific training, support to MDTs, topic area training.) There is a need to attain data around the training needs of professionals throughout the state. A statewide training agenda/outline can be developed based on the needs. The training committee can also focus on topic areas that are outside of the team-specific areas.</p> <p>The GTF chairs want the committee to focus on goals in the three-year assessment. There is a need to ensure that this is not a duplication of efforts as CCA and NRCAC are already doing some of that piece and had a plan in place before the three-year assessment was finalized. CCA has acquired specific grants to address teams’ training needs throughout the state.</p> <p><u>Membership of the Committee</u> – The GTFJAC chairs received feedback that the training committee needs to reflect the membership of the teams and that some of the committee members do not have MDT experience. The training committee membership was reviewed: (And their current status)</p> <p>Susan Hamilton – Public Defenders Hakima Bey-Coon – Office of the Victim Advocate Elizabeth Leaming – Prosecutor Krystal Rich – CCA (GTF Tri-Chair, Finding Words Co-Chair) Margaret Doherty -- CAFAF Michelle Colleoni – MDT Coordinator Michelle Manning – Prosecutor (Finding Words Co-Chair) Peggy Clouser - Local LE SUSAN KRISTOFF – DCF (Minimal Facts TOT) TAMMY SNEED – DCF (GTF Tri-Chair)</p>	<p>There was a motion that the GTFJAC develop a new framework for the committee. The motion was rescinded. Manning/Bey-Coon</p> <p>There was a motion that the GTFJAC be sent an email regarding the status of the Training Committee. The motion passed. Manning/Bey-Coon M/S/P</p>

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	<p>Carolyn Signorelli – AAG (Reassigned) Suzanne Laiuppa – Local LE (Retired and now OVS) William Meier – Local LE (Retired) DYSHAWN THAMES – DCF (DCF Workforce Academy and Minimal Facts) Jill Fitzsimons-Bula – MDT Coordinator Bill Silva – Connecticut Association of Schools LAURA WILKERSON DCF (DCF Workforce Academy and Minimal Facts) Elizabeth Hitzel – CAC Advocate (No longer at Klingberg) Andrea Asnes - Medical Cheyenne Ferris CAC Mental Health (No longer at Klingberg) Karen Boisvert - POST William Steck - POST Brian P Reilly - POST</p> <p>The GTF chairs relayed that to create discipline-specific training, there is a need for professionals on the committee that represent the disciplines. The GTF chairs felt that the committee was too large and that a smaller committee would be more efficient. This will ensure that folks can fully participate and have ownership of the work developed. CCA has hired a Training Coordinator, and this position should be included on the training committee to ensure that duplication of training does not occur. There can also be some collaboration on some trainings with CCA and GTF.</p> <p>Other suggestions: Have a couple of people put on 2-3 trainings per year or on a biennial basis. Perhaps a signature training. The newly composed training committee can receive the suggestions and work on trainings specific to topic areas.</p> <p><u>Suggestions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report at GTFJAC meeting under recommendation #1 for the Three Year Assessment. • Pair down the training committee. Including some current members and adding others based on areas of need. • Come up with an annual training committee plan. • Ascertain projects that will include CCA collaboration. (For example, support Response to Recovery) • Budget – Continue to fund statewide projects vs individual scholarships • Judges Training – Similar to training in fall 2018 or 2019. Also, we can receive feedback on what is missing from the Judge’s school and send suggestions to Judge Carroll. • Review the By-laws of the Training Committee. <p><i>Recommendation #4: Begin to address racial disparities and implicit bias through training, policy/protocol changes, and updates to MDT standards and evaluation criteria.</i></p> <p>GTFJAC developed an RFP to send to the four identified individuals and other potential consultants. . The tri chairs reviewed the 1st draft. This RFP was reviewed at the January GTFJAC meeting, voted on by the GTF electronically, and distributed to potential</p>	

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	<p>consultants and the public. Two responses were received by the March 8, 2022 deadline. The responses were sent to GTFJAC for review before the meeting.</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We discussed any feedback at the meeting and opened it up for people to join the Tri-Chairs in a small group to review and score the applications. (this small group can interview the two if applicable). 2. We will send the scores to the full task force for an electronic approval/vote. 3. Invite the consultant to our May meeting. 	<p>There was a motion for a small group, with an individual with a business background, to review the proposals.</p> <p>The motion was passed.</p> <p>Manning/Sneed</p> <p>M/S/P</p>
Other Business:	Legislative Priorities. We can share legislative agendas with the members, and Kristen can send an email to the membership.	
New Business:	<p><u>Training Committee Chair</u> – This will be addressed in the email to GTFJAC to discuss the Training Committee structure.</p> <p><u>Remote Meetings</u> – This setting makes it much easier to attend the meetings. Perhaps an in-person retreat can be included or a specific occasion when the task force needs to meet in person.</p> <p><u>Future Presentation Topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send suggestions to Kristen Clark. • The Task Force can review the use of non-accredited centers for interviews. Also, discussing the use of centers by homeland security. • OVS Training Topic – Koren provided a list. Compensation Program, Court Process, CT SAVIN, Victims’ Rights, Orders of Protection – Complete an overview of the OVS process. • Family First Prevention Act. (Sharon Davis – DCF) • Legislative Update on the current 2022 session. <p><u>Congratulations</u></p> <p>Faith Vos Winkel will be retiring on April 1, 2022, and Sue Kristoff will be retiring on June 30, 2022. Congratulations to both of them, and job well done!!</p>	<p>There was a motion to meet remotely for the next year, with a goal of at least one in-person meeting.</p> <p>The motion passed.</p> <p>Schaeffer/Brown</p> <p>M/S/P</p>
Announcements:		
	Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm . There was a motion to adjourn. The motion passed. Vos Winkel/Schaeffer M/S/P	

Respectfully Submitted

Kristen M. Clark
GTFJAC Coordinator