

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON JUSTICE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

Quarterly Meeting

September 14, 2016 – 2:00PM.
Chief State Attorney's Office, Hartford, CT

Present: S. Sedensky, T. Sneed, H. Bey-Coon, K. Butler-Koreth, K. Clark, L. Cordes, C. K. Diaz, M. Dougherty, A. Johnson, S. Mancini, T. Montelli, P. Pisano, K. Rich, P. Schaefer, C. Spak, F. Vos Winkle

Guests:

Agenda Item	Discussion (<i>brief summary</i>)	Action (<i>and by whom</i>)
Meeting called to order		The meeting was called to order at PM
Approval of Minutes:	Approval of March 2016 minutes. Review of April 2016 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes	There was a motion to approve the March 2016 minutes. The motion passed. Rich/Butler-Koreth 5 Abstentions M/S/P
Budget Update:		
	Village Update- The Village CJA budget was presented. Review of the Village Budget covered the previous fiscal year. There is \$11.636 that was carried over from the previous fiscal year. There was discussion around the use of this money. Additionally, this year is the last of the 3 year cycle for CJA. At the end of this fiscal year, all funds will need to be spent. Will need to monitor the spending to ensure that funds are spent down. There was discussion regarding placing these funds in Training as has been done in previous years.	There was a motion to move the \$11,636 to MDT training. The motion passed. Dougherty/Bey-Coon 1 AbstentionM/S/P
GTF Coordinator Update:	New Member Update- Nancy Nesbitt- Parent Representative. Information was provided to the GTFJAC regarding the new member. CJA Grantee Meeting: This occurred the last week in August in conjunction with the National Conference on Child Abuse in Washington, DC. During the conference, GTFJAC coordinator attended several workshops regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act as there have been new regulations that have gone into effect. Tribal Summit: The GTF coordinator and CCA Director received scholarships to attend the Tribal Summit to gain additional insight regarding engaging our Sovereign nations in Connecticut. Received a scholarship to attend the tribal summit. This was informative regarding trauma informed work within these populations, MDT development etc.	GTFJAC will continue to monitor the state's child and family services plan and the Court Improvement Plan.

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	<p>Bureau of Indian Affairs- Indian Child Welfare Act regulation update. This will occur in Albany, NY on Thursday, September 15, 2016. The GTFJAC Coordinator will attend this meeting.</p> <p>Peer Review: The GTFJAC coordinator is compiling a list of all professionals who conduct Forensic Interviews within the state of Connecticut. This list will be offered local, regional and statewide peer review opportunities. In addition, they will receive information regarding trainings, updated articles and white papers, updated research etc.</p> <p>The GTFJAC coordinator was approached by Brad McAuliff, a Professor of Psychology at California State University, Northridge who conducts research on children’s abilities as witnesses. He completed a three-year study entitled “Effects of Support Person Use on Children’s Stress, Accuracy, and Perceived Credibility” funded by the National Institutes of Health and is in the early stages of planning a follow-up grant. Research and practice have illuminated the effects of different interviewing strategies on children’s accuracy, yet less is known about what professionals do to prepare for a forensic interview. He designed a survey of forensic interviewers to learn more about what types of information they routinely seek and obtain prior to interviewing children. The survey has been reviewed and approved by the National Children’s Advocacy Center and Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center. He has asked that Connecticut Forensic Interviewers participate in the survey.</p> <p>The task force was sent the following documents in March 2016: Child and Family Service Review(CFSR) and the Annual Progress and Service Report(APSR). These are provided for your information. The Children’s Bureau in DC wants to ensure that state task forces are aware of these documents that are required by each state. We will have members of the DCF come and report out on this area on an ongoing basis to GTFJAC or its Executive Committee.</p> <p>Court Improvement Plan. The GTFJAC will seek regular updates and presentations at GTF meetings regarding the state’s progress in this area. The state of Connecticut’s CIP Monitor is a member of the Governor’s Task Force and will provide information to keep the task force informed of efforts in this area.</p>	
CCA Director Update:	<p>There is a new Central Coordinator. Michelle Desjardins.</p> <p>OMS- Satisfaction Surveys- Partner surveys and initial caregiver surveys have been engaged. The follow up survey from families has been more difficult to get participation.</p> <p>Windam Team – NRCAC sponsors a team development week and this team will participate.</p>	
HART Coordinator	<p>Several Training.</p> <p>Data- from independent evaluator (ICF) Trained 1,100 people in the first 4 months of the year. There have been a number of train the trainers to increase capacity.</p> <p>Referrals - 133 referrals for 2015. For the first 4 months of 2016 there were 98 referrals. These are unique referrals. The boys’ referral has increased. The data system will now be able to track referrals and who then has become confirmed.</p> <p>Engaged at risk youth with survivors. This has been a positive experience.</p> <p>Train the Trainer for Law Enforcement is being developed.</p> <p>Discussed the new legislation: PUBLIC ACT 16-71, AN ACT CONCERNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING - This act makes a number of changes to combat human trafficking in Connecticut. Its most important provisions include the following issues: (1) Requiring hotel, motel, inn, and similar lodging operators to maintain a database of all guest transactions and receipts for at least six months and ensure that their employees receive the appropriate training on human trafficking; (2) requiring each state’s attorney and municipal police chief to annually report information on trafficking cases and their anti-trafficking efforts to the Children’s and Judiciary committees of the CGA; (3) expanding the crime of enticing a minor to include age 16</p>	

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	or 17 or someone reasonably believed to be under age 18; and (4) Enhancing penalties for various trafficking-related crimes, including prostitution; patronizing a prostitute; and trafficking in persons.	
Committee Reports:		
Executive Committee:	<p>GHCAC Update- In April 2016 there was a special meeting with GTFJAC Executive Committee and partners of the GHCAC(St. Francis, MDT coordinators, Prosecution, DCF). There was discussion regarding wants and needs for the community and it was decided that the partners want the program moved into the community that is able to be NCA accredited. The timeline since the initial meeting in April 2016 regarding the transition process was detailed for the larger task force. The medicals have been moved to CCMC. All six of the teams have transition plans that include concurrent planning if St. Francis is no longer an option. There was discussion regarding the accreditation process, the amount of time that GHCAC had lost their accreditation status and the GHCAC's inability to regain accreditation. Services will continue until they are transitioned to a new CAC..</p>	
Finding Words Committee:	<p>When Words Matter occurred in Atlantic City, New Jersey in June 2016. Kristen, Steve and Krystal Rich attended. The next WWM will occur in June 2017 and Connecticut will look to have a presentation at the national conference.</p> <p>CAST update – Child Advocacy Studies Program- Integrating child maltreatment, MDTs, Advocacy. Teach our workforce the signs and symptoms, dynamics, prevention prior to them leaving school will equip them as they enter into the workforce(SW, Law, Medical, education but also journalism). The CAST program can be tailored to the department of school NCPTC- NCPTC and the ChildFirst States have written a white paper regarding use of anatomical dolls. This will be finalized this week and published. Copies will be forwarded to GTFJAC and Connecticut's Teams. Kristen Clark and Theresa Montelli will participate in the ChildFirst Curriculum Update committee. The Connecticut's Behind the Mirror may be incorporated into the National Curriculum.</p> <p>October 2016 Course – This course has been canceled. In the initial stages of the course the faculty has been there the entire week. This year, faculty who facilitate the groups were unable to attend the October 2016 course. And there was a concern that we would not have a full cast of actors.</p> <p>The Connecticut Finding Words coordinator is working with NCPTC to ensure that the CT Faculty are provided Train the Trainer in the new ChildFirst Extended Interviewing Model. – The next course is in November 2016 in Arkansas.</p> <p>Statewide Peer Review - This statewide peer review will be facilitated by four of the Finding Words Faculty Members. The schedule is October 18, 2016 and dates in December, March and June to be determined by the faculty.</p> <p>Mentoring Program – Booklet has been sent to faculty and HART for comment.</p>	
MDT Evaluation Committee:	<p>New Member Orientation – This was conducted by the chairs of the committee with the new members on the committee.</p> <p>Evaluations – The committee is on track with the current evaluation schedule.</p> <p>Workshop Development regarding Evaluation Multi-Disciplinary Teams – This is pending for presentation at National Conferences.</p> <p>Connecticut Standards – The standards were sent to GTFJAC Executive Committee in June of 2016 or review in the Summer Executive Meeting. Once the EC reviewed and provided edits, the document was sent to GTFJAC for review and comments. Several GTFJAC members provided edits in advance of this meeting. The 2008 State Standards had some conflicting language than the National Standards. These revised Connecticut Standards were aligned with the 2017 NCA Standards. Steve raised concern regarding the 2nd paragraph of the introduction paragraph as well as some edits throughout the document. His edits were forwarded to the entire GTFJAC per his request. Discussion occurred around the State Standards and the revision process for the document. The revisions for the State Standards and the Best Practices began in 2014 by the</p>	<p>The State Standards will continue to be reviewed. Written edits can be sent to the chairs of the committee for consideration.</p>

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	MDT Evaluation committee. Discussion continued regarding ensuring these state standards should be aligned with national best practice standards.	
Training Committee:	<p>The training updates were listed in the meeting packet.</p> <p><u>Minimal Facts</u>- There will be a training of trainers for First Responders and Discoverers on October 19 and 20th at the Connecticut Police Academy. Details will be sent to the teams once the chairs have finalized.</p> <p>NCATrak- The PIE system is on hold due to state budget restraints. The teams will need to continue to use NCATrak until the PIE system is built. Some of the coordinators are looking at the variables in NCATrak to use it more effectively.</p>	
Membership Committee:	<p><u>Vacancies</u> There are currently no vacancies on the task force.</p> <p><u>GTF Retreat Work Groups</u></p> <p>Victim Services and Advocacy Group –</p> <p>Forensic Medical and Interview Group – The group has not met since the last GTFJAC meeting. The main issue is around Forensic Medical Exams is that there are gaps in the state. Reference was made to a previous recommendation that has been submitted and look at alternative options. This group will reconvene.</p> <p>MDT/CAC Group – CAC/MDT Work Group</p> <p>MDT/CAC Workgroup: This group was initially created to address to recommendations from the 2009 statewide assessment. Several recommendations were addressed in 2010 and the group has now reconvened to continue addressing the recommendations as well as assessing the new needs of teams and centers</p> <p>Standardized Protocol: Expanding on the work done by several coordinators, the group is working to create a standardized protocol template for all MDTs. The workgroup is in the final stages of the editing the standardized protocol that will be used by all MDTs. The protocol will be sent to the whole committee prior to the next meeting. Once finalized the workgroup will create a brief presentation outlining the changes.</p> <p>Survey/Assessment: A survey was sent out to all coordinators to gather information on strengthens and areas where additional support is needed. In person interviews with each coordinator have been conducted and focus groups will be put together in the coming months to gather discipline specific input. This information will be pulled together in a report to inform next steps for GTF workgroups.</p>	
Child Fatalities-	Not covered due to time.	
Other Business:	Once the new state standards are completed, we will do a training on both state and National standards for teams across the state.	
New Business:	<p>OMS – Survey has a question regarding what the staff could do to make the family’s experience better. There is a suggestion at looking at how the physical set up of a CAC can effect a family. And collecting information regarding this can be added to the OMS.</p> <p>The retreat will be looked at for Fall 2016. Dates will be sent to GTFJAC once the facilitator has developed a proposal.</p>	

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Announcements:		There was a motion to adjourn which was moved and properly seconded. The motion passed. Mancin/Bulter-Kurth M/S/P

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen M. Clark,
GTFJAC Coordinator