

Missouri Task Force on Children's Justice

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**State of Missouri
Task Force on Children's Justice**

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Fiscal Year 2016
Grant Application

Missouri Task Force on Children's Justice Task Force Members

In 2015, the Task Force maintained full membership consisting of 21 members at all times and met membership requirements as specified by CAPTA in Section 107(c)(1). Below are the names, titles, designations of disciplines, and brief descriptions of the relevant experience of each of the Task Force members.

<p>Beth Dessem (Court Appointed Special Advocate Representative)</p>	<p>Beth Dessem's work has always involved children. Ms. Dessem taught 5th grade in the Knoxville, TN public schools for 6 years, and then became the first director of the Missouri CASA program in 2002. She became Executive Director of the Missouri CASA Association in January 2003. Ms. Dessem is a graduate of Macalester College in St. Paul, MN.</p>
<p>Lori Ross (Parent Group Representative)</p>	<p>Lori Ross has a BS in Social Psychology from Park University and has been a foster/adoptive parent since 1985, having cared for more than 300 foster children. Ms. Ross and her husband are the birth parents of five children and the adoptive parents of sixteen children. She has worked with the MO Children's Division as a teaching foster parent since 1991, providing pre-service and in-service training to hundreds of foster/adoptive parents. Ms. Ross is one of the founding members of Foster Adopt Connect, (formerly known as the Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association), a non-profit agency providing support and services to Missouri Foster and Adoptive Parents, and currently serves as the Agency's President and CEO. Ms. Ross volunteers her time with the North American Council on Adoptable Children, and serves as their subsidy representative for the western half of Missouri. Ms. Ross participates in numerous child welfare related boards and task forces, and has received several awards for community service.</p>
<p>Kendra House (Health Professional)</p>	<p>Kendra House received her Associates degree in Nursing from Florissant Valley Community College in 1997. Ms. House's experience includes 9 years as a registered nurse working in the Intensive/Critical Care Unit at St. Joseph's Health Center in St. Charles, Missouri as well as the Emergency Department at the Christian Hospital Northwest, St. Louis, Missouri. Ms. House followed up her nursing education and experience by attending and graduating from the law enforcement academy and gaining employment with the Maryland Heights Police Department where she has served for the past 15 years, 10 of those years serving as a juvenile detective working primarily child sexual and physical abuse cases. Ms. House has also served as a death investigator for the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office. Ms. House's extensive professional background in nursing, juvenile detective work, general law enforcement and death investigation brings a wealth of information to the Task Force.</p>
<p>Danielle Corley (Child Protective Service Agency Representative)</p>	<p>Danielle Corley is currently employed as the Northern Regional Field Support Manager for the Children's Division. Ms. Corley has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central</p>

	<p>Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri and a Masters of Business Administration from Missouri Baptist University, St. Louis Missouri. Ms. Corley was a Circuit Manager in St. Charles County for the Children's Division from 1997 to 2010. Ms. Corley also served as the Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri from 2010 to 2013.</p>
<p>Gaylin Rich Carver (Defense Attorney)</p>	<p>Gaylin Rich Carver is an attorney specializing in family law, juvenile law, probate, estate planning, guardianship and criminal defense. Ms. Rich Carver received her Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 1992, her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Missouri in 1993, and her Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from Saint Louis University in 2001. Ms. Rich Carver was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 2001 and previously served as Assistant Cole County Prosecuting Attorney.</p>
<p>Carolyn Green (Child Advocate)</p>	<p>Carolyn Green is the founding Executive Director of Child Safe of Central Missouri, Inc., a child advocacy center serving 11 Missouri counties. Ms. Green served as Child Safe's Executive Director from 2000 until her recent retirement in December, 2015. Prior to serving the child advocacy center, Ms. Green served 10 years with the Department of Mental Health and 20+ years with the Department of Social Services, more than half of which were county and state level supervisory or administrative positions.</p>
<p>Beverly Newman (Family Court Representative)</p>	<p>Beverly Newman earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Missouri. Ms. Newman is currently employed as the Chief Juvenile Officer for Cass and Johnson Counties in Missouri. Ms. Newman has been employed by the 17th Circuit Juvenile Court in a variety of positions since March 1988. Ms. Newman has extensive specialized training in the areas of supervision and management and has other professional affiliations including but not limited the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association Board of Directors (Current President) and the Citizens Advisory Board for the Missouri Department of Corrections. Ms. Newman holds a certification as a Juvenile Justice Subject Matter Expert with the Missouri Department of Public Safety Peace Officer Standards Training (POST).</p>
<p>Judge Rachel Bringer Shepherd (Criminal Judge)</p>	<p>Judge Rachel Bringer Shepherd is a Circuit Judge in the 10th Judicial Circuit for the State of Missouri. Prior to becoming a judge, she represented parts of Marion and Ralls counties (District 6) in the Missouri House of Representatives. She was first elected to the House in November 2002. Judge Bringer Shepherd also served as the assistant prosecutor in Marion County from 2000-02 and was a law clerk for Judge Reinhard with the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District from 1995-97. A 1989 graduate of Palmyra High School, Judge Bringer Shepherd graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts with</p>

	<p>honors in English from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1992. She received her Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School in 1995, where she served as a member of the Missouri Law Review. Judge Bringer Shepherd has been honored for her work in the legislature by the Missouri Judicial Conference, the NAACP—Hannibal branch, the Missouri Bar, the Missouri Farm Bureau, and the Missouri Association of School Administrators.</p>
<p>Taylor Johnson (Adult Former Victim)</p>	<p>Taylor Johnson is an adult former victim of child abuse and neglect. Taylor’s personal experience with Missouri’s foster care system provides the opportunity for her to provide insight, ideas and guidance from a perspective that can only be provided by a person who has been in the system. Taylor is currently pursuing her college education at Saint Louis Community College in St. Louis, Missouri and has employment experience as an outreach worker for youth.</p>
<p>Marjorie K. Carter (Family Attorney)</p>	<p>Marjorie Carter attended St. Louis University School of Law and received her J.D. in 1991. She focuses her law practice at Carter Family Law Group, LLC in St. Louis in the areas of family law and mediation. Marjorie served for many years as chairperson of the Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board. She also has significant experience in acting as Guardian ad Litem in juvenile court and in dissolution cases. Marjorie is a current board member for M.A.R.C.H. Mediation and the Association of Missouri Mediators (AMM). She has also served on the board of Citizens for Missouri’s Children, and is a past-president of the Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater St. Louis.</p>
<p>Maryann Williamson (Child Advocate)</p>	<p>Maryann William has a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. She is currently in her 25th year of employment with the University of Missouri, serving the last six years as Executive Staff Assistant to the Executive Director and Director of Academic Programs at the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment Disorders in Columbia, Missouri. Ms. Williamson has been raising her two granddaughters for the past 14 years. Her middle granddaughter, Karra, was eleven months old in 1999 when she was shaken and killed by a man who was babysitting her. The man received a seven year sentence and only served four years. Ms. Williamson worked diligently for several years to pass legislation which would increase the penalty when shaking is a cause of injury or death. Representative Jeanie Riddle filed HB1317 in January 2012. The bill was passed in the House and moved to the Senate in May 2012. It was delivered to the Governor on May 30, 2012 and passed into law under SB628 on July 14, 2012.</p>
<p>Rene Howitt (Child Advocate)</p>	<p>Rene Howitt is a former relative foster care provider. Based on her experience with the system, Rene authored a book called “Whose Best Interest” that was released in 2007. Rene</p>

	<p>has been involved in child advocacy since 2007 and in 2009, founded the C.O.P.E. (Changing Our Parenting Experience) organization. The COPE24 organization released the COPE24 Parenting Skill Program in March of 2011. The program is currently being distributed to schools throughout the US. COPE24 has also created a video production focusing on families living with children who have survived severe head trauma or SBS. Rene, through COPE24, continues to work and produces various educational materials designed to educate young persons about the realities of parenting.</p>
<p>Dan Patterson (Prosecuting Attorney)</p>	<p>Dan Patterson is the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney, Springfield, Missouri. Dan received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri Columbia School of Law, May 15, 1993. He has achieved many honors, including, but not limited to graduating Cum Laude from the University of Missouri; Layout & Design Editor for the Missouri Law Review in 1992 and 1993; recipient of the West Publishing Award for Best Work in Legal Research & Writing, 1990; and an extensive honorable military service record including his current position as Lieutenant Colonel, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 35th Infantry Division of the Missouri National Guard. Dan has 17 years of experience prosecuting child abuse neglect cases, is a POST Certified Instructor with the Springfield Police Academy and is the current Chairman of the Stake Holder Committee and Board Member of the Child Advocacy Center.</p>
<p>Kelly Schultz (Child Advocate)</p>	<p>Kelly Schultz received her undergrad degree in Political Science and Masters in Public Administration from the University of Missouri. She was appointed the Director of the Office of Child Advocate by Governor Jay Nixon and the Missouri Supreme Court July of 2011 and was confirmed by the Senate in February of 2012. Prior to being the Child Advocate for the State of Missouri, Kelly spent the last twelve years working in the Capitol. She worked for Minority Secretary Sara Lampe – Springfield, Minority Leader Jeff Harris – Columbia, Senator Sidney Johnson – St. Joseph, and Senator John Schneider – Florissant. In addition to her public policy experience, Kelly has served as the President of the Boone County Foster Parent Support Group; was a house parent at the Rainbow House, an emergency shelter for children; and volunteered at the Women’s Shelter. Kelly and her husband are foster/adoptive parents and have helped to raise 16 children throughout the years.</p>
<p>Chief Bill Carson (Law Enforcement Community)</p>	<p>Chief Bill Carson has thirty-three years of experience as a police officer in the St. Louis metropolitan area, and has served sixteen years in criminal investigation units as a detective, a supervisor and eventually a commander. He is currently a commander with the Maryland Heights (MO) Police Department, serves as a Deputy Commander with the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis, and is a member of the Missouri State Child Fatality Review Panel.</p>

	<p>He holds a Master's Degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. Chief Carson has written several articles and taught police officers, prosecutors and social service workers on topics related to understanding and interviewing sex offenders. In 2011 Chief Carson was appointed by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to serve as a member of the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children.</p>
<p>Donna Cash (Experienced in working with homeless children and youths-as defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a))</p>	<p>Donna Cash is the Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant program at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. In addition, she supervises Title I programs for Missouri's Charter Schools. She has been with the Department for over fifteen years and before beginning her tenure with the Discretionary Grants Section, she worked in both Federal Grants Management Section and the Curriculum and Assessment Section of DESE. Donna received her Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia College majoring in History with minors in Sociology and Psychology. She is an active member of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth as well as the Missouri Association for Social Welfare. She also serves on the Special Education Advisory Panel and the State Interagency Coordinating Council.</p>
<p>Melissa Smyser (Mental Health Professional)</p>	<p>Melissa Smyser has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Central Missouri State University and received her Masters of Social Work from the University of Missouri. Ms. Smyser is a Licensed Master of Social Work. She is currently employed as the Chief of Children's Community Operations for the Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health. Ms. Smyser provides consultation, technical assistance and training to the Community Mental Health Centers in the Central Region.</p>
<p>Dr. Jim Anderst (Health Professional)</p>	<p>Dr. James Anderst is an Associate Professor and Chief of the Section on Child Abuse and Neglect at Children's Mercy Hospital/University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Anderst is a board certified Child Abuse Pediatrician. Dr. Anderst completed medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin, residency at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and fellowship and Master's Degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center. Dr. Anderst has created educational tools for medical providers and legal investigators that are in use nationally and internationally. Dr. Anderst has published numerous peer-reviewed studies and book chapters regarding child maltreatment, and provides educational and research lectures nationally.</p>
<p>Jessi Musick (Parent/Child Attorney)</p>	<p>Jessi Musick is a family law attorney and often serves as guardian ad litem in domestic and juvenile cases in Cole County, Missouri. She graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Social Work in 2007 and</p>

	received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 2010. In 2007, Jessi partnered with Relief International and the U.S. State Department to create an educational program for Iraqi refugee children living in Jordan. She also worked for the Mayors Commission on Human Rights in Springfield, Missouri from 2006 to 2007.
Judge Robert Liston (Civil Judge)	Judge Robert Liston has been the 18 th Judicial Associate Circuit Judge for the past 10 years. He earned his Juris Doctorate from the Missouri School of Law in 1970. He has been a practicing lawyer for 31 years and has experience as the Attorney for the City of Sedalia, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and as a Guardian ad litem. In addition, to hearing criminal cases, Judge Liston has served as the Juvenile Judge for the past 10 years.
Linda Miller (Persons Working with Children With Disabilities)	Linda Miller is currently the Coordinator for the Office of Autism Services with the Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities. Linda has a Bachelor of Science in Education from Ohio University and was employed by the Department of Social Services, in various capacities from 1992 to 2012.

Missouri Task Force on Children's Justice

2016 Program Performance Annual Report

Establishment and Maintenance of Task Force (Sections 107(b)(2) and 107(c)(1) of the Act

The Task Force on Children's Justice was established under the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) in 1991. All states receiving CAPTA funding are required to maintain a state, multi-disciplinary task force on children's justice. Missouri's Task Force is comprised of 21 members representing most urban and metropolitan jurisdictions, as well as rural locations in the State, and includes law enforcement, judges and attorneys involved in both civil and criminal child abuse and neglect proceedings, child advocates, court appointed special advocates (CASA), health and mental health professionals, individuals representing child protective service agencies, individuals experienced in working with children with disabilities, representatives of parents' groups, adult former victims of child abuse and or neglect, and individuals experienced in working with homeless children and youth (as defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a)).

The mission and responsibility of the Task Force is to assist the State in developing, establishing, and operating programs designed to improve child welfare; in particular, the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, the handling of child abuse related fatalities, the prosecution of child abuse cases, particularly sexual abuse, and the handling of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health related problems. The Task Force is also charged with the oversight and distribution of Children's Justice Act federal grant money and reformation of policy and State laws related to the improvement of the investigative response to child abuse and neglect and the reduction of trauma to child victims.

Statement of Needs

The Task Force on Children's Justice requires stable, flexible, and ongoing funding to support efforts to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and reduce trauma to child victims.

This will assist the State in its efforts to expand training, expand services, provide better staff development opportunities and positive work environments, and promote a positive image and gain public support with the end goal being improved ability to recruit, train, and retain staff, and ultimately enhance the State's ability to respond to child abuse and neglect in the most timely and effective manner. The Task Force requires assistance and support from many state and local partners to succeed in these efforts.

Project Impacts and/or Progress

In 2015, the Task Force continued to make significant progress in its efforts. The Task Force examined its work from previous years and began formulating some of its findings into recommendations for improvement of the child welfare system's investigative and prosecutorial response. Members were very active, engaged in the work, and motivated to find ways to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. During the past year, the Task Force met quarterly, reviewed and discussed activities to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation; cases involving suspected child maltreatment-related fatalities; and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, in a manner which reduces additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family and also ensures procedural fairness to the accused.

In addition to meeting quarterly, the Task Force via the use of subcommittees, held in-person meetings and conference calls, conducted case reviews, reviewed policy, tracked and evaluated proposed legislation, reviewed reports, and engaged in dynamic discussions which clearly displayed the value of having a multidisciplinary task force involved in the evaluation of the child welfare system's response to reports of child abuse and neglect.

While the Task Force has been laser focused, as charged, on improving the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and reducing trauma to children, over the past two reporting periods the Task Force has been making efforts to connect its work to other child welfare program areas and objectives. At the December 10, 2015, meeting of the Task Force, in an effort to help the Task Force better understand how the work of CJA and other child welfare program improvement efforts come together and impact each other, Children's Division Director Tim Decker presented the Task Force with an update on the progress of the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) 2015 – 2019 and the Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR). This update also included an overview of the Children's Division's progress on implementation of "Signs of Safety", "Five Domains of Well-Being", and piloting of the Differential Response Model, Trauma and Secondary Trauma Training. Director Decker provided the Task Force a two page handout and a graphic outlining the Five Year Plan and plan for improvement. The Task Force was able to review the plan, ask questions of Director Decker, and provide feedback. The activities and recommendations included in this report provide further evidence of the Task Force's awareness of these plans and programs and efforts to consider these efforts when discussing and brainstorming ideas for potential projects for improvements in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect moving forward.

Task Force Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes

The following are the activities completed by the Task Force and its subcommittees for the 12 month period preceding the date of submission:

Review of the 2014 State Child Fatality Review Panel Annual Report (CFRP)

On January 5, 2016, the 2014 State Child Fatality Review Panel Report was sent to the Task Force for review. This report provides statewide statistical data about how children in Missouri die each year and offers systemic and prevention recommendations from the many child fatality review panels responsible for reviewing those deaths. Task Force members were able to review this report and gain a more comprehensive view of the overall system charged with protecting children and investigating and prosecuting child abuse and neglect cases. The Task Force supported three recommendations made in this report: 1) enact and enforce laws that punish those who harm children; 2) expand training on recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect; and 3) support development and training for multi-disciplinary teams to investigate child abuse. These three recommendations are consistent with CJA's mission and purpose and past and current recommendations made by the Task Force.

Critical Event Review Committee

The critical event review committee began meeting quarterly to review child abuse and neglect cases, including fatalities, near-fatalities, and serious physical injuries in the fall of 2013. This committee continued to meet quarterly in 2014 and 2015 and moving forward intends for this to be an ongoing activity of the Task Force. The committee found consistently reviewing individual cases representative of all regions of the state to be very educational and essential to conducting a comprehensive assessment of the child welfare system's response to child abuse and neglect. These comprehensive reviews afforded committee members the opportunity to review reports and the investigative responses of each of the individual disciplines involved in the investigative process. Each quarter during this reporting period the committee reviewed at least two cases, but often three depending upon the complexity of the cases, and made many case specific recommendations. Because these cases represented only a small sample size of the total number of cases being investigated in Missouri, case specific recommendations were evaluated and prioritized in the context of findings from the combination of Task Force activities including the survey conducted as part of the three year assessment. This approach provided the Task Force the means to make recommendations from a broader systemic perspective. Recommendations gleaned from this process are included in the three year assessment portion of this report.

Finance Committee

In 2015, the finance committee met quarterly via conference call to review grant applications and to actively monitor the expenditure of funds. Meeting quarterly prior to the meeting of the full Task Force to thoroughly review grant applications and discuss all aspects of the applications proved to be very beneficial to the Task Force in its charge of ensuring the appropriate use of CJA funds. The finance committee provided recommendations to the Task Force on grant applications reviewed or other funding requests, with the Task Force having the final vote.

The finance committee recommended and the Task Force voted to fund the following projects which were successfully completed in 2015:

The Child Center Inc. and the St. Charles County Prosecuting Attorney's Office 2015 Crimes Against Children Conference (April 1-3, 2015)

The Crimes Against Children Conference was held April 1-3, 2015. The Task Force approved funding for this conference, including 75 scholarships for multi-disciplinary team members to attend. The primary goal of the conference was to improve the investigative response, expertise, and understanding of child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and domestic violence for multi-disciplinary team members and professionals working with these targeted populations. The conference offered a variety of training sessions all designed to enhance the skills of multi-disciplinary team members involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. Approximately 200 statewide multi-disciplinary professionals attended the conference.

Programs presented will include:

- Sex Offenders 101: Rapists, Child Molesters and Other Sex Offenders
- Child Abuse Investigations – Enhancing our Verbal and Non-Verbal Elicitation Techniques
- The State of Science and Practice in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Professional Ethics
- Differences Between Department of Social Services Investigations and Criminal Prosecution
- What Every Witness Should Know: A Prosecutor’s Perspective
- Courthouse Dogs and Their Benefit to Child Victims of Sexual Abuse
- Real Crimes in Virtual Worlds
- Successful Use of Online Social Networking for Criminal Investigations and Intelligence
- Recognizing and Responding to Child Maltreatment: Screening for Physical Abuse in the Emergency Setting
- Recognizing and Understanding Psychopaths
- Maternal Incest
- Designer Sex Trafficking

Total \$28,610.50

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Spring Educational Conference (May 27-29, 2015)

In 2015, the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association submitted a grant request for CJA funding to support training for multi-disciplinary team members to attend the spring conference. The Task Force voted to approve funding scholarships for 20 individuals from varying professional disciplines involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect and juvenile justice. Scholarship recipients were required to attend workshops related to child abuse and neglect, specifically, “Questions and Answers from a Multi-disciplinary Team” and “Prosecution of Child Abuse and Neglect”. Goals of the conference as it relates to CJA were to provide professionals who work in the field of juvenile justice and child abuse/neglect investigation with increased knowledge to achieve more thorough and successful investigations. The conference was also designed to bring multi-disciplinary team members together to strengthen and foster better multi-disciplinary relations and create the opportunity to improve the coordinated effort to investigate and prosecute child abuse and neglect. The final project report submitted by MJJA indicated that 231 multi-disciplinary team members (including the 20 funded by CJA) from various regions of the state attended the conference.

Sessions offered were:

- *Questions and Answers from a Multi-disciplinary Team*
- *Prosecution of Child Abuse and Neglect*
- *An Introduction to Using the Five Domains of Wellbeing in Assessment*
- *Creating a Trauma Informed Culture*
- *2015 Legislative Review*
- *Viewing Behavior from a Trauma Informed Lense*

Total \$8,700.00

State Technical Assistance Team – 2015 Investigating Child Fatalities Training (August 2015)

In 2015, the Missouri State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) submitted a grant request for CJA funding to support training designed to assist multi-disciplinary teams in the investigation of child abuse and neglect cases, most specifically, child fatalities. Consistent with recommendations of the Task Force

and with the Children's Division's Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) 2015-2019, to improve training for Children's Division staff and multi-disciplinary team members responsible for investigating child abuse and neglect and child fatalities, the Task Force approved funding for this training. A total of five full day trainings were held regionally to provide the best opportunity for statewide participation. STAT was able to accommodate a minimum of 60 multi-disciplinary participants at each location and up to 150 at some locations. The Task Force approved STAT's request for CJA funding in the amount of \$4,220.00 to conduct this training, but STAT was able to conduct the training for far less than anticipated and final invoices only totaled \$2,087.45. The final project report provided by STAT indicated a total of 518 multi-disciplinary professionals attended the training at no cost as a result of CJA funding.

Total \$2,087.45

Missouri KidsFirst –ChildFirst Sexual Abuse Investigative Team Training (January – December 2015)

In 2015, in support of Task Force recommendations identifying the Children's Division's and other multi-disciplinary team members need for training, and consistent with the CFSP 2015-2019, the Task Force approved funding Missouri KidsFirst to cover the cost of multi-disciplinary team members statewide to attend an interactive intensive five-day ChildFirst Forensic Interviewer Training and/or a three-day ChildFirst Observation training. The five-day training was intended for professionals conducting forensic interviews. The three-day training was intended for multi-disciplinary team members to gain an understanding of the interview process when they are part of the investigation and to gain skills in conducting cursory interviews of children. The Task Force approved funding twelve (12) sessions of the three-day training and four (4) sessions of the five-day training. Missouri KidsFirst through a contract with the National Child Protection and Training Center was able to provide the Gunderson National Child Protection and Training Center ChildFirst curriculum training for multi-disciplinary teams in Missouri. The three-day trainings were held monthly and the five-day trainings were held quarterly in various regions of the State of Missouri, to ensure the training provided a statewide impact. Teams included a combination of law enforcement, Children's Division investigators, prosecutors and juvenile court professionals. The trainings were designed to improve the ability of multi-disciplinary team members to investigate all types of child abuse cases, but most specifically sexual abuse cases. CJA funding, in conjunction with other Children's Division funding, provided scholarships for more than 500 participants to attend. The Task Force approved Missouri KidsFirst request for funding in the amount of \$99,700.00 however, Missouri KidsFirst was able to provide this training by only utilizing \$51,115.14 of the CJA funding. The workshops included were as follows:

- *Effective Interviewing*
- *How Children Experience Sexual Abuse*
- *Process of Disclosure*
- *Culture and the Forensic Interview*
- *Suggestibility*
- *Child Development*
- *Questioning Children*
- *CornerHouse Forensic Interview Protocol*
- *Blocks and Block Removal*
- *Hearsay*
- *Medical*
- *Testifying In Court*
- *Working as a Multi-Disciplinary Team to Obtain Corroborating Evidence in Cases of Child Abuse*
- *Anatomical Dolls*
- *Preparing the Child Witness for Court*

Total **\$51,115.14**

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Fall Educational Conference (October 28-30, 2015)

In 2015, the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association submitted a grant request for CJA funding to support training for multi-disciplinary team members to attend the fall conference. The Task Force voted to approve funding for the requested amount of \$8,496.40 for scholarships for 20 individuals from varying professional disciplines involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect and juvenile justice. Scholarship recipients were required to attend workshops related to child abuse and neglect. Goals of the conference as it relates to CJA were to provide professionals who work in the field of juvenile justice and child abuse/neglect investigation with increased knowledge to achieve more thorough and successful investigations. The conference was also designed to bring multi-disciplinary team members together to strengthen and foster better multi-disciplinary relations and create the opportunity to improve the coordinated effort to investigate and prosecute child abuse and neglect. The final project report submitted by MJJA indicated that a total of 235 multi-disciplinary team members (including the 20 funded by CJA) from various regions of the state attended the conference.

Sessions for CJA scholarship recipients to attend were:

- *Case Law Update*
- *Neuropathology of Abusive Head Trauma: Forensic Pathology View Point*
- *Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: What Law Enforcement Professionals Need to Know*
- *Juveniles with Problem Sexual Behavior*
- *A Survivor's Story (Human Trafficking)*

Total **\$8,290.88**

Legislative Committee

In 2015, the legislative committee actively followed the progress of the legislative session. The committee chair person sent weekly legislative updates to the Task Force on the progress of bills pertinent or of interest to the Task Force.

During the 2015 session, there were several bills that pertained to child welfare in general, but only one omnibus child welfare bill, Senate Bill 341, was truly agreed and finally passed. This bill had several provisions related to child welfare, however, the main provision of SB341 that pertained to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse required the Children's Division to complete an assessment approach when a report is received alleging a juvenile under the age of fourteen has committed an act of sexual abuse against another child. These reports were previously taken as non-caretaker referrals and not investigated by the Children's Division, but rather referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency or juvenile office for investigation. Under the new provisions these reports will be assessed by the Children's Division using the family assessment and services approach resulting in a more treatment oriented rather than punitive response to these reports. The bill had a few other provisions which also impacted the Children's Division, but do not pertain to investigation or prosecution. One provision authorized the Office of Child Advocate to conduct an independent review of any entity within a county that experienced three or more review requests in a calendar year including, but not limited to the Children's Division, Juvenile Office, and Guardian ad Litem. Another provision required the Children's Division to create an acronym to help children remember the phone number for the Child Abuse/Neglect hotline. The Children's Division responded to the new requirements by developing an acronym which translated to a phone number that when dialed automatically rolled over to the current number for the

Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline. The number is 1-844-CAN-TELL. This same provision required schools to post signs with this acronym and information on reporting child abuse and/or neglect. The legislature allocated funding to the Children's Division for five full-time employees (FTE) to assist in the implementation of SB341. This bill went into effect as law on August 28, 2015.

Training Committee

In 2015, the training committee had a limited role with the Task Force, but continued to make efforts to stay abreast of training opportunities for professionals and other community partners involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The training committee updated the "Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Educational Opportunities" listing posted on the CJA website. The Missouri organizations listed on the CJA website offer opportunities for training on topics pertinent to child abuse and neglect.

Recruitment Committee

The Recruitment committee is responsible for monitoring CJA's membership, to ensure it consists of a minimum of 21 members and represents the required disciplines as specified in Section 107(c)(1) of the Act. In 2015, the Task Force experienced some vacancies in the membership due to term limits, but once again successfully recruited highly qualified individuals to fill these vacancies and maintained the membership requirements as defined by the Act. The current membership includes at least one member from the following categories: law enforcement community, criminal court judges, civil court judges, prosecuting attorneys, defense attorney, child advocates, attorneys for children, health professionals, mental health professionals, Children's Division staff, parents and representatives of parents' groups, adult former victims of child abuse and or neglect, individuals experienced with working with homeless children and youth, and individuals experienced in working with children with disabilities.

While the Task Force presently enjoys full membership, the recruitment committee will continue to be active in seeking interested and qualified individuals to fill future vacancies. Applications for membership will continue to be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Those interested may attend all open meetings in advance of selection to the Task Force. The membership application is posted on the Task Force's state website.

Three-Year Assessment

Evidence of the Task Force's efforts to thoroughly and comprehensively assess Missouri's response to child abuse and neglect is documented throughout this report. In addition to its ongoing efforts, in January 2015, the Task Force developed and published a survey to assess the effectiveness of the multi-disciplinary approach to child abuse and neglect investigations and to conduct a comprehensive statewide review and evaluation of the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

The Task Force sent the survey to community partners, multi-disciplinary team members, other stakeholders and citizens via email, Survey Monkey, and by posting it on Missouri's CJA website. Task Force members shared the survey with others associated with their respective disciplines. The Children's Division, with the assistance of the Office of State Courts Administrator and the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, ensured Children's Division workers, juvenile officers, other court staff and judges were afforded the opportunity to participate in the survey as well. As a result of these efforts the Task Force was able to ensure the opportunity for a statewide response to the survey which included representation from members of all disciplines involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect as well as other professionals and citizens interested in child abuse and neglect. The response to the survey was much improved from the response to the previous survey and resulted in over 900 responses representative of all regions of the state, all multi-disciplinary members involved in the investigation and

prosecution of child abuse and neglect, and other community partners, stakeholders, and citizens. The survey results assisted the Task Force in evaluating the effectiveness of Missouri's system in the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse, making recommendations for system improvements, and identifying service gaps or specific issues Task Force funding may be helpful in addressing.

The Task Force evaluated and utilized information gained from the survey in conjunction with results from the previous three-year assessment, information gathered through other activities of the Task Force, the work conducted by the critical event review committee and priorities and recommendations from 2014 and 2015 which continue to be priorities and need ongoing efforts from the Task Force and the Children's Division.

Consistent with the requirements of section 107(e)(1)(A),(B), and (C) respectively the 2016 priorities are as follows:

(A) Activities to Improve the Investigative, Administrative, Judicial Handling of Cases

- (1) The Task Force will continue to assist the Children's Division and multi-disciplinary team members involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect by focusing efforts on developing, supporting and funding more comprehensive training, including but not limited to: trauma informed training for investigators, multi-disciplinary team training, forensic interview training, child fatality investigative training, identification of child abuse and neglect, mechanisms of injury, identification of appropriate collateral contacts and witnesses and proper use of safety and risk assessment tools in the investigative process. The Task Force and Children's Division have made great strides to address identified areas of need and begun to implement training (as described throughout this report) to improve the Children's Division and the multi-disciplinary team's ability to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force will need to continue to support the Children's Division in these efforts.
- (2) The Task Force, specifically the Critical Event Review Committee, continued to see in its reviews that investigators seemed to have difficulty determining next steps, how to utilize and determine appropriate collateral contacts, how to identify and gather information from witnesses, how to determine safety, what leads to follow, how to accurately identify medical issues and when to request expert medical reviews, etc. In response to this, in 2016 the Task Force plans to join members of the Critical Event Review Committee with members of the Training Committee and the Children's Division's Training Unit to begin discussions about the development of additional training tools. One of the ideas being discussed is the development of an interactive and instructional training video utilizing mock cases created by the use of scenarios and facts derived from actual cases reviewed by the Critical Event Review Committee. While the development of this training tool will take some time, once developed, its intent would be to allow investigators to pause, think critically, and answer questions about what the next steps would or should be based upon information available or missing at various points during case scenarios being described. The Task Force's long term plans for this video would be for it not only to be included as part of the training curriculum for Children's Division staff, but to share the video with other multidisciplinary partners for their training use as well with the intent of improving the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. This project is in the infancy stage of development as the Task Force anticipates needing significant input from a variety of sources before a final product could be achieved.

(B) Steps to Establish Experimental, Model, or Demonstration Programs

- (1) The Task Force will continue to assist the Children's Division in promoting the use of the Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) certified training developed for law enforcement and first responders, "Child Maltreatment and the First Responder" through networking with other professionals and stakeholders involved in the child protection community, most specifically those involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. During this reporting period, the State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) delivered this training in eight locations throughout the state and was able to reach approximately 150 multi-disciplinary team members involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. STAT plans to continue to offer this training moving forward in an effort to strengthen the multi-disciplinary response to child abuse and neglect statewide and to offer additional trainings related to the investigation of child fatalities.
- (2) The Task Force will support a project to develop a smart phone application for investigators that will provide critical information regarding the specific ways injuries occur in children. This "Child Protector Smart Phone Application" is being developed by the Children's Mercy Hospital Division of Child Abuse and Neglect and will be available for use by all multidisciplinary team members involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect. Missouri CJA's own Dr. James Anderst has utilized his expertise along with several other physicians at Children's Mercy Hospital to provide the most up to date information about mechanisms of injuries to children for the development of this application. Once developed, the application will be available for download to smart phones, iPads, and other electronic devices and be embedded in child protection agency's websites for immediate use by investigators and others working to prosecute child abuse and neglect and will have an immediate statewide impact when most needed at the very beginning of investigations.
- (3) The Task Force will continue to support the Children's Division's efforts to implement the mobility project step by step through phases of testing and refinement of the new applications. The mobility project involves the use of iPads with the capability of interfacing with Family and Children Electronic System (FACES) and allows Children's Division workers to gain access to essential information and have the tools necessary to input additional information into FACES as the work occurs in the field. The project is designed to assist investigators in conducting more timely and accurate child abuse and neglect investigations.

(C) Activities to Reform State Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Procedures or Protocols

The Task Force will continue to review Children's Division policy and law related to the investigation of child abuse and neglect.

- 1) In 2015, the Task Force closely monitored the legislative session as it related to the investigation of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force followed and supported several bills designed to either improve the investigative process or reduce trauma to children experiencing abuse and neglect proceedings, which in the end did not pass. In 2016, the Task Force continues to review Children's Division policy and laws related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and monitor the progress of bills which would likely impact the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. Bills of particular interest to the Task Force introduced or reintroduced in 2016 are as follows:

House Bill 1877 and Senate Bill 963 – Companion bills requiring courts to notify the Children's Division if the court finds preponderance of the evidence of child abuse and

neglect by an individual. The Children's Division would then place the perpetrator on the Child Abuse and Neglect (CA/N) Central Registry.

House Bill 2202 and Senate Bill 971 – Companion bills designed to protect alleged child sexual abuse victims by limiting the disclosure of photographs and visual and aural recordings created by a child advocacy center, health care provider, or a multi-disciplinary team member in the course of investigations of child abuse and neglect. Only designated parties, including the multi-disciplinary team, could obtain copies of such photographs or aural or visual recordings. Further release of such records would require a court order. Certain individuals would be allowed to view the photographs or visual and aural recordings, but would not be allowed to receive copies.

House Bill 1525 - This bill proposes to eliminate the statute of limitations for recovering damages for certain actions regarding child abuse and sexual offenses committed against a child. Current law imposes a 10 year statute of limitation on commencing proceedings to recover of damages. This bill also allows for prosecution of unlawful sexual offenses involving a child to be commenced at any time. Current law requires commencement of prosecution of such offenses to occur within 30 years after the victim reaches the age of 18.

House Bill 1562 – This bill expands the crime of sexual trafficking of a child to include advertising a child to participate in a commercial sexual act.

- 2) In 2016, the Task Force will continue to investigate use of standardized interviewing protocols. In 2015, the Children's Division took a significant step towards a more standardized cursory interviewing model for front line Children's Division workers and multi-disciplinary team members through the Child Abuse Investigations training. While the training has been well received, the Children's Division and the Task Force continue to evaluate whether or not there may be other trainings that better meet the needs of Children's Division investigators. Moving forward the Children's Division will be exploring the possibility of developing training with comparable benefits of some of the components found in the Child Abuse Investigations training, but including other training components, including the use of the Signs of Safety model, more designed to fit the specific needs of the Children's Division investigator. Presently, it is unclear what the training might look like, but several ideas have been presented both by the Task Force and by the Children's Division training unit. Improving staff training for investigations is a priority for Task Force and the Children's Division.
- 3) The Task Force will continue to research statutes related to child abuse and neglect in other States throughout the country to determine consistency of the laws and whether or not current Missouri laws adequately protect children.

In addition to the priorities consistent with the requirements of section 107(e)(1)(A),(B), and (C), the Task Force recommended the Children's Division continue to take steps to address the following barriers identified as impacting the effective handling and prosecution of child abuse and neglect investigations:

1. Insufficient communication between multi-disciplinary team (MDT) members resulting in inadequate investigations and prosecution

Children's Division response: The Children's Division, with the support of the Task Force, will continue to work with members of all disciplines to improve communications in the multi-disciplinary team response to child abuse and neglect allegations. The Children's Division will to work on this not only in

the normal course of business through the investigative process, case reviews, development of multi-disciplinary team protocols, and multi-disciplinary team meetings, but also through multi-disciplinary team trainings funded by the Task Force. One of the objectives in the CFSP 2015-2019 is to strengthen Child Advocacy Centers and multi-disciplinary team partnerships through training. The Task Force will continue to support and consider CJA grant applications submitted for the purposes of addressing training needs of Children's Division staff, Child Advocacy Centers, and multi-disciplinary team members to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and strengthen partnerships amongst team members.

2. Inadequate training, including investigative training and trauma training

Children's Division response: In 2014, the Children's Division secured funding from the state legislature through the budget process for the Children's Division to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through comprehensive investigative training for staff. The funding was designated for training Children's Division front line workers focused on enhancing interviewing skills, collection of evidence, and stronger collaboration with team members such as law enforcement and prosecuting attorneys. The Children's Division has continued its work with the legislature and emphasized the need for ongoing funding for comprehensive training for staff and build upon Task Force recommendations, specifically investigative and trauma training, as identified in this survey as well as the survey conducted as part of the previous three-year assessment. This is also one of the objectives of the CFSP 2015-2019. Improved training is intended to enhance workers skills, increase the likelihood of more thorough investigations, and better ensure safety for children. In 2015, the Children's Division furthered its efforts to respond to this recommendation through a contract with Missouri KidsFirst to provide Gunderson National Child Protection and Training Center ChildFirst curriculum to all investigative and supervisory staff. Children's Division staff received this training in 2015 and the Task Force approved use of CJA funding to support this training for other multi-disciplinary team members responsible for the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect, including law enforcement, prosecutors and forensic interviewers. The Children's Division is currently and will continue to develop plans to include either this training or a comparable training as part of the regular curriculum for all Children's Division workers charged with investigating child abuse and neglect.

In 2015, in addition to investigative training, Children's Service Workers received Secondary Traumatic Stress Training and trauma informed training. This training was specifically designed to help front line workers identify and understand trauma children may be experiencing as the investigative process unfolds as well as trauma staff may experience due to their involvement in the investigative work. The Children's Division intends to continue efforts to secure ongoing funding for staff training with the hope of including trauma training as part of the ongoing curriculum. Becoming a trauma-informed agency is another objective identified in the CFSP 2015-2019. This training is a significant step towards meeting that objective.

In summary, the three-year assessment through the use of the this year's survey results, the previous survey results, information gathered from critical event reviews, and the additional information gathered through the multitude of activities of the Task Force has revealed the most significant barriers to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect as follows: Inadequate investigative training and insufficient communication, coordination, or teamwork between multi-disciplinary team members involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. Some of these issues can be attributed to worker turnover rates, high caseloads, etc. and differences from jurisdiction to jurisdiction as indicated in previous reports. However, these barriers continue to be present at some level statewide. While these are not the only barriers, these appear consistently to be the most predominant.

The Task Force and the Children's Division continue to strive to address these barriers on a statewide level. As indicated throughout this report, the Task Force and the Children's Division have plans in place to continue efforts to improve the work together to make things better for child victims. CJA funding has been and will continue to be essential for the continuation of efforts to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and reduce trauma to the children we serve.

Application for Proposed Activities for FY16

In 2016, to ensure compliance with the CJA program instructions and to further improve the collaboration efforts of the Task Force with other groups and committees developed to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and improve court programs, the Task Force plans to utilize its current Task Force member and Family Court Programs Coordinator, Kim Abbott, to keep the Task Force informed of the progress of efforts, initiatives and programs being developed and implemented by the Court Improvement Program (CIP). Ms. Abbott is Missouri's contact for the CIP and will have the opportunity to provide the Task Force with updates on the progress of the CIP when in attendance at the quarterly Task Force meetings. The Task Force hopes this collaboration will help align some of the work of the Task Force with the CIP. Heightening the awareness of the Task Force to the work of the CIP as well as the plans and objectives outlined in the APSR/CFSP 2015-2019 will further the Task Force's ability to assess Missouri's overall response to allegations of child abuse and neglect and to make more informed recommendations for systems improvement moving forward.

In 2016, the Critical Event Review Committee will continue to meet quarterly to conduct critical event reviews and make recommendations on cases of child abuse and neglect, focusing primarily on child fatalities, near fatalities and serious physical injury cases. Case specific recommendations will be compiled, evaluated and prioritized as it relates to more systemic concerns to address issues and barriers to the effective handling and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.

In 2016, the finance committee will continue meeting quarterly, to review grant applications, monitor expenditures, and evaluate the use of CJA funds. The Finance Committee will continue to support the improvement of the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect by recommending to the Task Force the funding of grants designed to improve the investigative response and the prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force will be focusing on funding projects aligned with the Task Force's recommendations for systemic improvement. The Task Force will be particularly interested in funding projects that will enhance training for multi-disciplinary team members investigating child abuse and neglect and any innovative pilot projects designed to focus on improving that process and/or reducing trauma to child victims during the investigative process.

In 2016, the legislative committee will continue to follow legislation pertinent to the work of the Task Force and through the review of the prioritized recommendations made as a result of the critical event review committee and the three year assessment, determine whether or not pursuit of legislative proposals to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect may be appropriate in the coming year.

In 2016, the Recruitment Committee will continue to ensure the Task Force is at full membership and remains in compliance with Section 107(c)(1) of CAPTA. The Recruitment committee will also continue to work on ways to promote the work of the Task Force in a way that would attract the interests of qualified persons to fill future vacancies.

In 2016, the Training Committee plans to utilize information gained from the recommendations from the critical event review committee and the survey sent to CJA community partners and stakeholders to

identify training CJA may need to support or develop to meet the needs of multi-disciplinary professionals investigating child abuse and neglect statewide. In addition, the training committee, along with other members of the Task Force, has been contemplating producing an interactive and instructional training video designed to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect through the use of information learned from cases reviewed by the Critical Event Review Committee. Development of this training video is in the infancy stage, but the training committee and other interested members of the Task Force are hopeful that progress will be made on the development of the video in the months to come.

The Task Force will monitor the outcomes of the Children’s Division’s Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report and the Missouri State Child Fatality Review Program Annual Report. The Task Force will discuss and make recommendations for improvement based on information gathered in collaboration with these reports and findings.

Proposed activities for the Task Force and projects approved for CJA funding in 2016 include but are not limited to the following projects:

Task Force on Children’s Justice Operating Expenses and Projects

Funding is needed to support and maintain the activities, correspondence, teleconferences, quarterly meetings of the Task Force, meetings of Task Force subcommittees, and attendance for a minimum of two persons to attend a CJA annual conference, in addition to funding grant project requests that may arise as appropriate.

Total \$ 10,000

Child Advocacy Centers

Child Advocacy Centers in Missouri improve the process by which Missouri responds to cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse or exploitation. CJA’s support of Child Advocacy Centers has allowed the centers to continue to offer forensic examinations, victim interviews, referrals to treatment providers, gathering and retention of forensic evidence used for criminal prosecution of the offender.

There are 15 Child Advocacy Centers located across the State, with some locations having satellite offices and serving children and families in the surrounding counties. In total, CAC services are provided in 22 fully accredited locations around the state. The availability of these centers allows for a one-time interview of the victim as well as the opportunity for the physical examination to occur in the same location, preventing unnecessary stress and trauma to the child victim and their family. Child Advocacy Centers often facilitate scheduling the exams and interviews to further assist in the investigation and criminal prosecution process.

In 2016, CJA plans to continue to provide support to Child Advocacy Centers through the use of CJA grant funding.

Total: \$150,000.00

Operation CyberSafe – State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) – Equipment

STAT submitted a grant application for equipment designed to gather evidence from digital devices such as cell phones, smart phones, tablets, and other handheld cellular devices. STAT’s request is to cover the cost of state of the art equipment and training to use the equipment to be able to recover data from the

latest and greatest smart phones. The equipment known as Joint Test Action Group or JTAG allows High Tech Investigators to access digital data stored in a smart phone and by-pass the phone's operating system to do so. This will allow investigators to recover evidence of crimes against children including sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child pornography etc. in the most effective manner currently available to investigators. This technology will allow investigators the best opportunity to detect and apprehend individuals committing crimes against children when these same individuals have taken other measures to prevent investigators from being able to locate the evidence on their devices. STAT's use of this equipment will enhance the agency's ability to investigate and prosecute child abuse and neglect.

Total \$6,009.30

Missouri KidsFirst – Child First Training (May 2-6, 2016)

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for funding of one training session of the ChildFirst Curriculum. This training includes a three-day and a five-day training choice. Field staff and investigators would likely attend the three-day session designed to teach investigators how to conduct initial interviews of children prior to referring them for a forensic interview. Lessons in child development and court preparation are also included. The five-day session, which is the three day session with two additional days added on, is designed for child protection professionals intending to conduct forensic interviews of children and provides the opportunity to conduct mock interviews with actors and receive feedback on actual interview technique. Investigators and workers who attend this training will be better equipped to successfully investigate child abuse and neglect which will result in more successful dispositions and prosecutions of cases.

Total \$29,800.00

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Spring Educational Conference (May 25-27, 2016)

In 2016, the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association submitted a grant request for CJA funding to support training for multi-disciplinary team members to attend the spring educational conference. The Task Force voted to approve funding for the requested amount of \$7,952.80 for scholarships for 20 individuals from varying professional disciplines involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect and juvenile justice. Scholarship recipients were required to attend workshops related to child abuse and neglect. Goals of the conference as it relates to CJA were to provide professionals who work in the field of juvenile justice and child abuse/neglect investigation with increased knowledge to achieve more thorough and successful investigations. The conference was also designed to bring multi-disciplinary team members together to strengthen and foster better multi-disciplinary relations and create the opportunity to improve the coordinated effort to investigate and prosecute child abuse and neglect. Sessions for CJA scholarship recipients to attend:

- *Signs of Safety*
- *Human Trafficking 101*
- *Who is a Trafficker? What Does a Trafficker Look Like?*
- *Accident or Abuse? The Multi-disciplinary Assessment of Trauma Histories*

Total \$7,952.80

The Child Center's 2016 Midwest Justice for Children Conference (September 14 -16, 2016)

The Child Center, Inc. in Wentzville, Missouri submitted a grant request to support the cost of the annual conference. CJA provided funding for this conference last year. The conference is a 2 ½ day conference

offering many seminars related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The request includes \$16,000.00 for 100 scholarships for multi-disciplinary team members to attend.

Courses offered include:

- *Stranger Conspiracies*
- *Winning Your Case with a Recanting Victim*
- *Cutting Edge Technologies and How They Can be used for Good and Bad*
- *Finding Evidence in Drug Related Investigations*
- *Working with Victims and Witnesses with Cognitive Disabilities*
- *Sentinel Injuries or Cutaneous Findings in Physical Abuse Cases*
- *Self-Produced Sexual Images*
- *How to Best Work Together as a Multidisciplinary Team*
- *The Front Line Worker*
- *Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Case Study: What Really Happens Behind the Scenes*
- *First Responder Contact in Child Abuse Investigations*
- *How to be a Good Witness and Survive in the Courtroom*
- *How Not to Help Defense Attorneys in Sexual Abuse Cases*

Total \$37,518.00

Children’s Mercy Hospital - Child Protector Smart Phone Application

The Children’s Mercy Hospital Division of Child Abuse and Neglect submitted a grant request to finance the costs associated with developing a Missouri specific “Child Protector” Smart phone application that could be utilized by all multidisciplinary team members involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect. This smart phone application is a new and improved version of the “Mechanisms of Injury in Childhood” application currently available to Children’s Division staff via the Children’s Division intranet. CJA’s own Dr. James Anderst has utilized his expertise along with several other doctors at Children’s Mercy Hospital to provide the most up to date information about mechanisms of Injuries to children for the development of this application. CJA in Texas is also funding a version of this program for their state. Once developed, the application will be available for download to smart phones and to be embedded in child protection agency’s websites for immediate use by investigators and others working to prosecute child abuse and neglect. The costs associated with this grant request include statewide/regional training on the use of the application and will provide investigators a tool that will literally be at their fingertips when most needed at the very beginning of investigations.

Total \$49,163.00

2016 Projected Grant Expenditures - \$290,443.10 before receiving any additional grant requests