

**Missouri Task Force on Children’s Justice**

**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.

In 2016, 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. Each member serves a term of four years and may serve a consecutive three terms.

<p>Leanne Reese (Court Appointed Special Advocate Representative)</p>	<p>Leanne Reese serves as the Deputy Director of Missouri’s Court Appointed Special Advocate Association. Leanne graduated cum laude with her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992. She continued her education by earning her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1997. Since graduating from law school Leanne has served as an attorney in the business department, transaction section, and litigation section for Richards, Layton, and Finger, P.A. in Wilmington, Delaware.</p>
<p>Kelly Schultz (Parent Group Representative)</p>	<p>Kelly Schultz is the Director of the Office of Child Advocate. 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. Kelly Schultz received her undergrad degree in</p>

	Political Science and Masters in Public Administration from the University of Missouri.
Kendra House (Health Professional)	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.
Danielle Corley (Child Protective Service Agency Representative)	Danielle Corley is employed as the Northern Regional Field Support Manager for the Children's Division with a focus on the investigation of child abuse and neglect. Ms. Corley has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central 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.
Gaylin Rich Carver (Defense Attorney)	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.
Carolyn Green (Child Advocate)	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.
Beverly Newman (Family Court Representative)	Beverly Newman is the Chief Juvenile Officer for Cass and Johnson Counties in Missouri. Ms. Newman has been employed by the 17 <sup>th</sup> Circuit Juvenile Court in a variety of

	<p>positions since March 1988. Beverly earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Missouri. 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 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.</p>
<p>Greg Holtmeyer (Adult Former Victim)</p>	<p>Greg Holtmeyer received his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri and his Master of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of St. Mary's, Leavenworth, Kansas. Greg is currently a third grade teacher at St. Peter Interparish School, Jefferson City, Missouri. Greg was the victim of child physical and sexual abuse at a very young age. Greg has responded to his victimization by speaking about it openly and providing professional presentations to organizations servicing children and families regarding the impact and trauma associated with child sexual abuse from a very personal perspective. Greg has shared his story through the Phoenix Project, presenting "Arise from the Ashes, Dealing with Sexual Abuse from a Different Perspective". Greg has presented to professional groups at numerous conferences and trainings throughout the state.</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.</p>

	<p>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 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 &amp; Design Editor for the Missouri Law Review in 1992 and 1993; recipient of the West Publishing Award for Best Work in Legal Research &amp; Writing, 1990; and an extensive honorable military service record including his current position as Lieutenant Colonel, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 35<sup>th</sup> 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>Sheriff Clay Chism (Law Enforcement Community)</p>	<p>Clay Chism is the Callaway County Sheriff. Clay has more than 16 years of experience in investigations and has been directly involved and supervised the investigation of numerous child abuse and neglect cases. Clay Chism received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, Missouri and his Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri. Clay is an active member of the Callaway County Child Fatality Review Panel.</p>
<p>Chief Bill Carson (Law Enforcement Community)</p>	<p>Chief Bill Carson is 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. 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 holds a Master's Degree in Criminology &amp; 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 is 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. 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.</p>
<p>Dr. Jim Anderst</p>	<p>Dr. James Anderst is an Associate Professor and Chief of the</p>

(Health Professional)	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.
Jessi Musick (Parent/Child Attorney)	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 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 <sup>th</sup> 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.

## **2017 Program Performance Annual Report**

### **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.

The term investigator will be used several times throughout this report. In Missouri, this term refers to the Children's Division workers who are conducting child abuse and neglect investigations and assessments.

### **Task Force Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes**

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

#### **(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 Children's Division 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 Children's Division 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 2017, 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 Children's Division 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.
- (3) Review of the 2015 State Child Fatality Review Panel Annual Report (CFRP)-On March 10, 2017, the 2015 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.

In October of 2016, the Child Fatality Review Panel had a lengthy discussion about the recommendations from the Commission's Report to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities. There was considerable interest in the State Panel forming a sub-committee to follow up on some of the recommendations and to conduct a comprehensive review of Missouri's child fatalities over the past 5 years. Realizing this might be a large undertaking and not knowing exactly what might be the best way to accomplish this, the group decided it might be best to start with one year of fatalities due to the volume of cases and amount of time that would be needed to review cases. The sub-committee has met once to begin developing a process for how they want to review cases. They also reviewed one fatality. A subsequent meeting has been scheduled. Information from the panel will be brought to the CJA Task Force to ensure collaboration between the two groups. The Task Force is very interested in recommendations the panel may have to improve the investigation and prosecution of these cases.

(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 has supported a project to develop a smart phone application for Children's Division (CD) investigators that will provide critical information regarding the specific ways injuries occur in children. This "Child Protector Smart Phone Application" was developed by Children's Mercy Hospital and is 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. The application has been placed on all Children's Division iPads used by investigators. We believe this tool will have an immediate statewide impact when most needed at the very beginning of 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 2016 and 2017, 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 improve the investigative process. The Task Force also reviews Children's Division policy and related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. Bills of particular interest to the Task Force introduced or reintroduced in 2016 and 2017 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. In addition, this bill requires all investigations involving children *under* the age of four (4) to include either an examination of the child or a review of the child's case file and photographs by a SAFE-CARE provider as part of the investigation. If upon evaluation of a child or review of the child's case file and photographs, the SAFE-CARE provider makes a diagnosis of physical abuse and reports such to the Children's Division, the investigator must immediately make a referral to the Juvenile Officer. HB1877 also adds a provision that four (4) of the twenty (20) training hours currently required annually under [Section 210.180, RSMo.](#), include training on medical forensics relating to child abuse and neglect. This law went into effect August 28, 2016.

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. This included language protecting the child assessment center records and medical records - specifically the visual and aural recordings and photographs, forensic child interviews, SAFE exams, etc. conducted as the result of child abuse investigations. This bill passed and went into effect August 28, 2016.

House Bill 252 - Provides that a person commits the offense of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree if she knowingly uses a narcotic drug without a prescription while pregnant. The definition of a child is being examined. The Children's Division has looked at the potential fiscal impact this would have on the agency in regard to investigating abuse and neglect of the parent prior to the children being born.

House Bill 1112 – Modifies provisions related to child abuse and neglect by adding victims of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as a definition of abuse and expands the

definition of care, custody and control to include a person who takes control of a child by deception, force, or coercion.

- 2) In 2016, the Task Force continued 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. 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.

#### Online System for CA/N Reporting (OSCR)

Mandated reporters are now able to make reports of non-emergency suspected child abuse and neglect online using the online system for child abuse and neglect reporting (OSCR). OSCR is only available for non-emergency situations. Once the mandated reporter signs up for an account, the interactive reporting system prompts them for information. Once the report is made on-line, it is immediately uploaded to a secure server. The reporter gets an e-mail with the assigned call number indicating whether or not the report meets the definition of abuse or neglect. This option gives greater convenience and flexibility to report non-emergency issues, allows the reporter to report no matter where they are, and also helps the reporter avoid wait time on the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline.

#### Critical Event Review Committee

The critical event review committee began meeting quarterly in the fall of 2013 to review child abuse and neglect cases, including fatalities, near-fatalities, and serious physical injuries. The committee has continued to meet quarterly throughout this reporting period and has found reviewing a variety of cases from various regions of the state essential to comprehensively assessing the child welfare system's response to reports of child abuse and neglect. Reviews afforded committee members the opportunity to review reports and the investigative responses of each of the individual disciplines involved in the investigative process. The committee continues to make case specific recommendations with the intent of evaluating them individually and collectively from a more systemic perspective along with other evaluative activities of the Task Force. Some of the recommendations gleaned from this process were included in the three year assessment portion of the 2016 report and will likely be included in the next three year assessment due in 2019.

Some of the recommendations from the critical event reviews included that CJA should support any training specific to gathering information and investigation by the first responders that specifically targeting police and EMS. Investigation and prosecution would be improved if responders could interview the adults involved at the earliest possible time after the incident occurred or was reported. They also stressed the importance of getting collateral contact information during an investigation and how it can be critical to seeing the whole picture of a family and or situation.

Finance Committee

In 2016, 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 2016 or early 2017:

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 STAT Investigators to access digital data stored in a smart phone and by-pass the phone’s operating system to do so. This will allow the STAT 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 the STAT 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 16-20, 2016)

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for funding of one training session of the ChildFirst Curriculum. This training included a three-day and a five-day training choice. Children’s Division (CD) field staff and investigators attended the three-day session designed to teach CD investigators how to conduct initial interviews of children prior to referring them for a forensic interview. Lessons in child development and court preparation were also included. The five-day session, which was the three day session with two additional days added on, was designed for child protection professionals intending to conduct forensic interviews of children. This course offered the opportunity to conduct mock interviews with actors and receive feedback on actual interview technique. Investigators in various disciplines and workers who attended and completed this training left better equipped to successfully investigate child abuse and neglect, with expectations for more successful dispositions and prosecutions of cases. A total of 53 individuals attended and completed these trainings. Fifteen (15) attended the three-day and thirty-eight (38) attended the five-day. Disciplines represented included child advocacy center staff, law enforcement officials, Children’s Division staff, juvenile court employees, and prosecutors.

**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. The conference was a great success with a total of 240 multi-disciplinary professionals attending. The 20 CJA scholarship recipients attended the following sessions:

- *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. The conference was a 2 ½ day conference held at the St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, Missouri offering many seminars related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. CJA funding provided scholarships which allowed 100 multi-disciplinary professionals to attend and participate in the conference. A total of 285 multi-disciplinary professionals attended.

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                    \$35,345.87**

Missouri KidsFirst – Statewide Victim Advocacy Training (October 18-20, 2016)

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for funding to support training provided to victim advocates serving children and their families with the goal of improving advocates abilities in reducing trauma for the children and their families and improving investigative outcomes. The target audience for this training was for multi-disciplinary child welfare professionals charged with advocating for children and their families throughout the investigative, civil, and judicial process. The Task Force voted to approve funding in the amount of \$19,091.00 for scholarships for 30 multi-disciplinary professionals to attend the training. The training hosted 29 professionals and a total of \$21, 076.00 was granted.

**Total                    \$21,076.00**

Missouri KidsFirst – Child First Training (October 24-28, 2016)

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for funding of one training session of the ChildFirst Curriculum. This training included a three-day and a five-day training choice. Children’s Division (CD) field staff and investigators attended 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 were also included. The five-day session, which was the three day session with two additional days added on, was designed for child protection professionals intending to conduct forensic interviews of children. This course offered the opportunity to conduct mock interviews with actors and receive feedback on actual interview technique. Investigators in various disciplines and workers who attended and completed this training left better equipped to successfully investigate child abuse and neglect, with expectations for more successful dispositions and prosecutions of cases. A total of 60 individuals attended and completed these trainings. A total of 30 individuals attended the three-day training and 30 individuals attended the five-day. Disciplines represented included child advocacy center staff, law enforcement officials, Children’s Division staff, juvenile court employees, and prosecutors. 50% of the individuals trained during the week applied the information and techniques by participating in role-play interviews during the five day training.

**Total                    \$29,800.00**

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Fall Educational Conference October 26-28, 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 \$10,620.50 for scholarships for 25 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 conference was a great success with a total of 246 multi-disciplinary professionals attending. The 25 CJA scholarship recipients attended the following sessions:

- *Expanded Interviews: When More Than One Session May Be Beneficial*
- *Initial Response and Investigation of an Unexplained Child Death*
- *Interviewing Children With Disabilities*
- *The Faces of Child Sex Trafficking in the Modern Age*

**Total                    \$10,620.50**

Missouri KidsFirst – ChildFirst Expanded Forensic Interview Protocol Training (November 8-10, 2016)

Missouri Kids First submitted a grant request for funding to support three-day training for multi-disciplinary professionals responsible for conducting forensic interviews of children involved as victims and/or witnesses in child abuse and neglect investigations. This training was specifically focused on helping participants improve techniques and practices utilized for interviewing children with disabilities and/or conducting extended forensic interviews when needed. The request was for funding to support

scholarships for 20 multi-disciplinary professionals to attend the training. The Task Force voted to approve funding in the amount of \$20,141.00 to support this training. The training hosted 18 multi-disciplinary professionals over a three day training period.

**Total                    \$16,898.70**

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. The application is available for download to smart phones and to be embedded in child protection agency’s websites for immediate use by Children’s Division 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 Children’s Division investigators a tool that will literally be at their fingertips when most needed at the very beginning of investigations. The Child Protector app has over 5400 users of the app worldwide. The top countries for use are United States, Vietnam, Canada, UK, and Russia. The top cities are Chicago, Kansas City, Dallas, Houston, and Austin. Missouri can now report that they have a state-specific version of this application. See attached screen shots to view the application. .

**Total                    \$49,163.00**

Missouri Office of Prosecution Services - Child Abuse Prosecutor Fellowship

The Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) submitted a grant request for funding to support the piloting of a child abuse prosecutor fellowship program. The fellow selected for this position would be responsible for assisting prosecutors with improving the functioning of multi-disciplinary teams by attending and coordinating multi-disciplinary team meetings and child fatality review panels across the state, acting as a liaison with the State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) to provide training and technical assistance relating to child abuse investigations, and to provide teaching-based trial assistance to Missouri prosecutors in child abuse cases. The fellow would not provide or participate in any direct service with children or families. The Task Force considered this request at the September 8, 2016 meeting and voted to approve one-time funding in the amount of \$28,000.00 to support this pilot program.

**Total                    \$28,000.00**

Training Committee

In 2016, the training committee continued to have a limited role with the Task Force, but began to focus its efforts on evaluating training programs funded by CJA to determine whether or not those programs were effectively addressing training needs identified by the Task Force with the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The committee reviewed the final project reports submitted by the grantee at the conclusion of each training program. The training committee continues to update 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 2016, 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.

Consistent with the requirements of section 107(e)(1)(A),(B), and (C) respectively the 2017 priorities are as follows:

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

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.

### **Project Impacts and/or Progress**

In 2016, the Task Force continued to make significant progress in its efforts. The Task Force examined its work from previous years and re-evaluated its recommendations, including those identified in the three year assessment submitted in 2016, for improvement of the child welfare system's investigative and prosecutorial response to determine whether or not those recommendations continued to be priorities. Members maintained a high level of commitment to the work and were very active, engaged, and motivated to find ways to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force increased its efforts to link the work of the Task Force to the Child and Family Services Five Year Plan (CFSP), Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), and the Court Improvement Program (CIP). 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.

The Task Force continued to keep the improvement of the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and reducing trauma to children as its primary target for its work moving forward while continuing to make efforts to connect its work to other child welfare program areas and objectives.

During the June 2016 meeting of the Task Force, Kim Abbott from the Office of State Court Administrators (OSCA) provided information about the Court Improvement Project grantee meeting. Missouri is in their last year of authorization for this 5 year period. Kim said OSCA will be working on the next strategic plan in coordination with Children's Division. She hopes the reauthorization gets passed this year so the work may continue. Kim reported to that the the Missouri Juvenile Officer Performance Standards will go into effect on July 1, 2017.

Kim continues to update the Task Force on Missouri's Fostering Court Improvement (FCI) program which is a court-agency model that promotes a working partnership between the courts, child welfare agencies, the legal community and other key stakeholders designed to improve the safety and permanency

outcomes for children in foster care. Missouri has 16 trained FCI Circuit sites and 8 more Circuits interested in becoming FCI sites.

At the February 2017 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, piloting of the Differential Response Model, and Trauma and Secondary Trauma Training. The Task Force was able to ask questions of Director Decker and provide feedback. In the future, the Task Force intends to consider these efforts, plans, and programs when discussing and planning activities and making recommendations for potential projects for improvements in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.

Missouri will have a Child and Family Services Review in the summer. In preparation for this the Child and Family Services Review Committee chaired by the Children's Division has been meeting regularly. Two of the members of the CJA Task Force also sit on the CFSR Committee. They are able to share information from the CFSR Committee. Should Missouri be placed on a program improvement plan surrounding the CFSR, the CJA Task Force will be utilized for brainstorming and strategic development.

In 2015 the general assembly created a task force on human trafficking. The purpose of the task force was to raise awareness of the human trafficking problem in Missouri and provide organizations and agencies that enforce human trafficking laws and assist victims with a central place to share information. The task force held eight public hearings across Missouri to assess the state of Missouri's resources and access for human trafficking victims. Recommendations for the 2017 legislative session were proposed. To comply with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, the Children's Division has contracted with Cornerstones of Care to provide introductory training on Human Trafficking to staff. The objectives of this training include being able to define and recognize the scope of human trafficking, being able to identify indicators and people at high risk, identifying resources for potential victims, and learning preventative strategies. The majority of frontline staff and Older Youth Chafee providers received this training in CY2015 and CY2016. Cornerstones of Care will continue to provide this training on an as needed basis for new staff and any employee that has not yet received training on human trafficking. While this training is not paid for utilizing CJA funds, the Task Force supports the work being done around human trafficking. Children's Division staff continue to expand their awareness of and response to concerns of human trafficking by developing local protocols within multi-disciplinary teams, collaborating with federal law enforcement agencies for assistance in investigating cases of suspected trafficking, participating in various local human trafficking task forces, and developing local procedures to address youth who run away from foster care.

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.

## Application for Proposed Activities for FY17

### **Compliance with 107 (e) (1) (A) and (B):**

To ensure compliance with the CJA program instructions 107 (e) (1) (A) and (B) 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 utilized 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 provided the Task Force with updates on the progress of the CIP at the quarterly Task Force meetings. The Task Force utilized this collaboration to help align the work of the Task Force with the CIP when applicable. 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 enhanced 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 2017, the Task Force intends to continue to stay connected to the CIP and its efforts and continue to take advantage of opportunities to align the work of the programs.

In 2017, 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 continue to 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 2017, 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.

### **Compliance with 107 (e) (1) (C):**

To remain in compliance with the reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide protection for children from abuse (107 (e) (1) (C)), in 2017 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 2017, 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 2017, 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, will continue discussing developing an interactive training program for investigators based upon information learned from case reviews conducted by the Critical Event Review Committee. In 2016, the Children's Division's training unit had many new initiatives and plans to work with the training committee to determine how this interactive program might best fit into the overall training program being developed for Children's Division investigators.

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 2017 CJA funding 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**

Missouri KidsFirst – Child First Training (April 24-28, 2017)

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for funding of one training session of the ChildFirst Curriculum. This training included a three-day and a five-day training choice. Children's Division (CD) field staff and investigators attended the three-day session designed to teach CD investigators how to conduct initial interviews of children prior to referring them for a forensic interview. Lessons in child development and court preparation were also included. The five-day session, which was the three day session with two additional days added on, was designed for child protection professionals intending to conduct forensic interviews of children. This course offered the opportunity to conduct mock interviews with actors and receive feedback on actual interview technique. Investigators from various disciplines and workers who attended and completed this training left better equipped to successfully investigate child abuse and neglect, with expectations for more successful dispositions and prosecutions of cases. Disciplines represented included child advocacy center staff, law enforcement officials, Children's Division staff, juvenile court employees, and prosecutors. At the end of the training a course evaluation is distributed. Results are given to the Children's Division. Results have shown great satisfaction with the training.

**Total                    \$32,300.00**

MO KidsFirst – MDT Facilitator Training (April 18-20, 2017)

Missouri KidsFirst submitted a grant request for funding to provide three-day training to individuals participating as members of multidisciplinary teams investigating child abuse and neglect. The specific target audience for the project was individuals involved in investigations responsible for leading, facilitating and coordinating multidisciplinary team meetings and case reviews. The training was held in Jefferson City, Missouri April 18-20, 2017 CJA funding supported the conference and specifically funded 20 full scholarships for individuals from various disciplines to attend the training.

**Total                    \$18,287.44**

Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) – Improving the Investigation and Response to Youth With Sexually Abusive Behaviors – (4 Trainings between January and December 2017)

MOCSA submitted a grant request for funding to support four (4) six-hour training sessions designed to improve the investigation response and promote best practice when handling reports of youth with sexually abusive behaviors. The training will be held regionally to maximize efforts to reach multidisciplinary professionals statewide. MOCSA expects to train a minimum of 200 multidisciplinary professionals charged with investigating, responding, and providing services to youth with sexually abusive behaviors. A course evaluation will be given to determine the efficacy of the training.

**Total                    \$17,128.00**

Department of Mental Health—The Department of Mental Health submitted a grant request for a project that would train 40 first responders from two regions across the state to become trainers of the curriculum Surviving Secondary Trauma for First Responders. The purpose of this project, Train the Trainer: Surviving Secondary Trauma for First Responders, is to expand availability of training for first responders on how to manage and address the impact of secondary trauma they may experience from their professional responsibilities. This grant was approved and training will be forthcoming in the future. The Task Force chose to fund a partial amount to begin the project. After the first two sessions, the Task Force will review the results and determine whether the project should be expanded further.

**Total                    \$35,160**

Child Care Incorporated (CCI) Grant—CCI submitted a grant request for funding to support a two day Midwest Justice Conference to be held September 13-15, 2017, in St. Charles, Missouri. The conference goals include improving the investigative response, expertise, and understanding of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, and child sexual exploitation for multidisciplinary team members and various professionals working with these targeted victim populations. The grant was approved. This conference occurs each year and participants always report satisfaction with the sessions and topics offered.

**Total                    \$16,000**