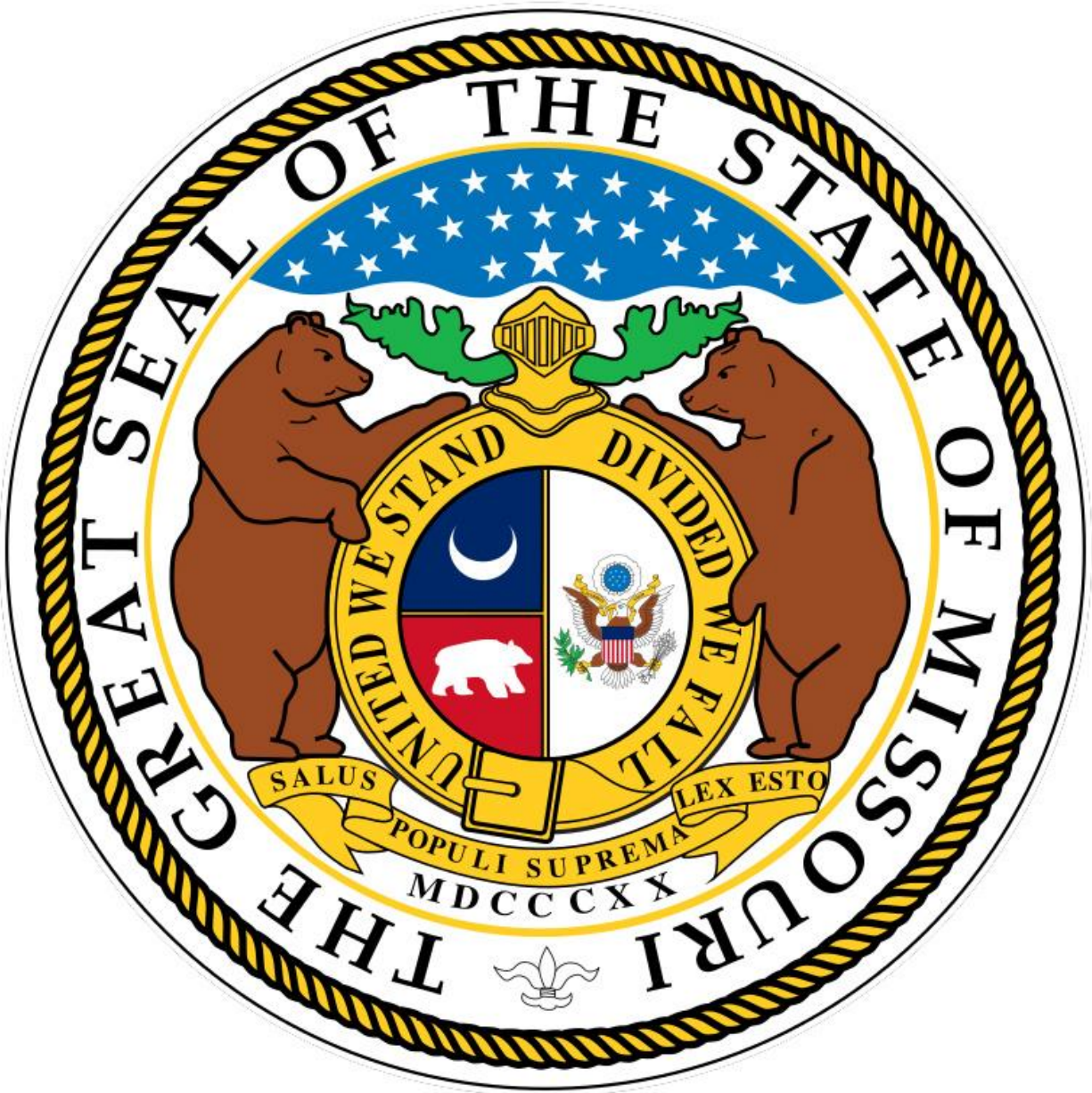


State of Missouri

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. Each state receiving CAPTA funding is 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, parents, 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 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. In order to accomplish its mission, the Task Force reviews child welfare laws, policies and practices, and reports of serious child abuse and child fatalities, for the purposes of recommending improvements and providing funding to support programs that address these recommendations.

The Task Force is charged with the oversight and distribution of Children’s Justice Act (CJA) 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.

The Task Force meets quarterly to review and discuss activities to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, and cases involving suspected child maltreatment-related fatalities. In addition to meeting quarterly, the Task Force, via the use of subcommittees, holds in-person meetings and conference calls, conducts case reviews, reviews policy, and tracks and evaluates proposed legislation.

In 2019, the Task Force maintained at least 21 members throughout the year while actively searching for two new members due to resignations and term limits. Two new members were nominated to the Task Force in January 2020 and are currently in the approval process. Below are the names, titles, designations of disciplines, and brief descriptions of the relevant experience of the Task Force members. Each member serves a term of four years and may serve a consecutive three terms.

Leanne Reese (Court Appointed Special Advocate Representative)	Leanne Reese serves as the Executive Director of the Missouri Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association. She has worked for Missouri CASA for 11 years and previously served as the Deputy Director. Leanne graduated cum laude with her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992. She continued her education by earning her Juris Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1997. After law school Leanne worked as an attorney with Richards, Layton, and Finger, P.A. in Wilmington, Delaware.
---	--

<p>Kelly Schultz (Parent 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 twelve years working in the Missouri State 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 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 17 children throughout the years. Kelly received her undergraduate degree in Political Science and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri.</p>
<p>Kendra House (Health Professional)</p>	<p>Kendra House is a detective with the Maryland Heights Police Department. She received her Associates Degree in Nursing from Florissant Valley Community College in 1997. Kendra’s experience includes nine 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. Kendra graduated from the law enforcement academy. She served with the Maryland Heights Police Department for the past 17 years, with eleven of those years serving as a juvenile detective working primarily on child sexual and physical abuse cases. Kendra has also served as a death investigator for the St. Louis County Medical Examiner’s Office. Her 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 a Field Support Manager for the Northern Region of the Children’s Division with a focus on the investigation of child abuse and neglect. Danielle has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri and a Master’s of Business Administration from Missouri Baptist University, St. Louis, Missouri. Danielle was a Circuit Manager in St. Charles County for the Children’s Division from 1997 to 2010. She also served as the Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Center of East Central Missouri from 2010 to 2013.</p>
<p>Judge Hugh C. Harvey (Circuit Judge)</p>	<p>Hugh C. Harvey is a life-long resident of Saline County, Missouri. In 1981, he graduated from Oral Roberts University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and Business Administration. In 1985, he graduated from Drake University with a Juris Doctorate in law and a Master of</p>

	<p>Business Administration degree. Judge Harvey began a private practice and in 1986 was appointed prosecuting attorney for Saline County. He served as prosecuting attorney until 2000 when he was appointed associate circuit judge for Saline County and continues to serve in that role. He is a member of Missouri Bar Association, the Saline County Bar Association, and The Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges.</p>
<p>Rick Gaines (Family Court Representative)</p>	<p>Rick Gaines graduated from Lincoln University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He began his professional career in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit as a Detention Deputy Juvenile Officer in 1986. Rick served in different positions in the Thirteenth Circuit including Chief Deputy Juvenile Officer, Chief Juvenile Officer, and superintendent of the local juvenile detention center. Rick retired from the Thirteenth Circuit in 2016 after a 30 year career and went to work for the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) as the Disproportionate Minority Coordinator for the State of Missouri. In March of 2017, Rick became the Chief Juvenile Officer for the Twenty-First Judicial Circuit. Rick has served on several statewide committees that have helped shape Missouri's Juvenile Justice work, including the recently enacted Missouri Juvenile Officer Performance Standards. Rick has a passion and commitment to the important work that impacts Missouri's youth and families.</p>
<p>Judge Rachel Bringer Shepherd (Criminal Judge)</p>	<p>Rachel Bringer Shepherd is the presiding Circuit Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in the State of Missouri. Prior to serving as judge, she was a State Representative for eight years and practiced law in Palmyra. Judge Shepherd also served as the assistant prosecutor in Marion County from 2000-2002, and was a law clerk for Judge Reinhard with the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District from 1995-1997. Judge Shepherd currently serves as co-chairperson of the Missouri Children's Justice Task Force, and she and her husband have served as licensed foster parents for four years. For the past eight years, Judge Shepherd has sponsored and organized free continuing legal education training for attorneys serving as Guardians Ad Litem for the Tenth Judicial Circuit as well as neighboring counties. Judge 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 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 is the Access and Abilities Coordinator at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from</p>

	<p>Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri and his Master of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of St. Mary's, Leavenworth, Kansas. Greg was the victim of physical and sexual child abuse at a very young age. Greg has responded to his victimization by speaking about the impact and trauma openly, and providing professional presentations to organizations serving children and families all over the United States.</p>
<p>Christopher Jensen (Family Attorney)</p>	<p>Christopher Jensen is a partner at Baylard, Billington, Dempsey & Jensen, P.C. located in Union, Missouri, where he has practiced law since 1995. He graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia receiving his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with an emphasis in marketing in 1992 and his Juris Doctorate in 1995. Chris has been particularly involved in the juvenile court system in Franklin County over the past 16 years. In addition to his representation of hundreds of parents, he has been a court approved Guardian ad Litem since 2010. Chris also serves as Chairman of the Franklin County Children and Families Community Resource Board, which administers over \$3 million in annual tax revenue for non-profit services within the county. He is a member of the Fostering Court Improvement team of the 20th Judicial Circuit and the Franklin County Cares Trauma Informed Community Initiative.</p>
<p>Judge Leslie Schneider (Circuit Judge)</p>	<p>Leslie Schneider is the Administrative Family Court Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Missouri, comprised of Boone and Callaway counties. Judge Schneider received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1976. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1979. Judge Schneider was employed as a Missouri Assistant Attorney General before opening her law office in 1983, focusing primarily on family law. Judge Schneider continued in private practice until being elected as an Associate Circuit Judge in 2006. Judge Schneider has served on numerous boards and commissions during her legal career. Most recently she chaired the Child Support Review committee, is a member of Access to Family Courts and the Family Court Committees of the Missouri Supreme Court. She was an adjunct professor teaching Family Law at the University of Missouri – Columbia for approximately five years.</p>

<p>Rene Howitt (Child Advocate)</p>	<p>Rene Howitt is the founder of a non-profit child advocacy organization “COPE24...Changing Our Parenting Experience.” COPE24 promotes the need to make parenting and child development education priorities in all high schools, reaching all students, secondary to only the core subjects. She has authored two books: <i>Whose Best Interest and Fosterhood</i> and co-authored a bible study, <i>Family: It’s Complicated</i>. She is the creator of several programs, curricula, and reality-based documentary videos. A combination of these products are used in over 500 school districts nationwide. All materials are designed to educate youth on the tremendous responsibility that comes with parenting. Rene is a former foster care provider.</p>
<p>Dan Patterson (Prosecuting Attorney)</p>	<p>Dan Patterson is the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney in Springfield, Missouri. Dan received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law. Dan currently holds the 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, is the current Chairman of the Stake Holder Committee, and a Board Member of the Child Advocacy Center. Dan also serves as co-chairperson on the Task Force.</p>
<p>Sheriff Clay Chism (Law Enforcement Community)</p>	<p>Clay Chism is the Callaway County Sheriff. Clay is in his 19th year of service at the Callaway County Sheriff’s Office and was elected Sheriff in November 2016. During a past assignment as the Investigations Division supervisor, Clay oversaw numerous child abuse and neglect investigations. Clay received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Missouri-Warrensburg, and his Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration degree from Columbia College, in Columbia, Missouri. Clay is an active member of the Callaway County Child Fatality Review Panel and also serves on various state committees involving child abuse, neglect, and fatalities.</p>
<p>Chief Bill Carson (Law Enforcement Community)</p>	<p>Bill Carson is the Chief of Police for the Maryland Heights Police Department. He has thirty-nine 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 a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy and holds a Master’s Degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. 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. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Major Case</p>

	<p>Squad of Greater St. Louis, and is a member of the Missouri State Child Fatality Review Panel. Chief Carson has written several articles and taught police officers, prosecutors and social service workers on topics related to the investigation of child sexual abuse.</p>
<p>Donna Cash (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))</p>	<p>Donna Cash is the Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant program at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). In addition, she supervises Title I programs for Missouri’s Charter Schools. She has been with DESE for 25 years and before beginning her tenure with the Federal Programs Section, she worked in the Discretionary Grants 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 Empower Missouri. 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. Melissa provides consultation, technical assistance and training to the Community Mental Health Centers in the Central Region. She coordinates state-wide policy, planning and administration for community behavioral health services under the Director of Children’s Services for the Division of Behavioral Health. Melissa 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. Melissa is a Licensed Master Social Worker.</p>
<p>Dr. James Anderst (Health Professional)</p>	<p>Dr. James Anderst is a board certified Child Abuse Pediatrician and Director of the Division of Child Adversity and Resilience at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. He is also a Professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Anderst completed medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin, a 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>Stacey Goodwin (Persons Working with Children With</p>	<p>Stacey Goodwin has been with the Department of Mental Health (DMH)/Division of Developmental Disabilities for 24</p>

Disabilities)	years. She supervises a team of 14 service coordinators for St. Charles County. She was recently nominated and attended the DMH Leadership Academy. Stacey has been the System of Care lead for many years and strives to work together with many agencies to build great wrap-around services for families in need. She volunteers to be a 3 rd party reviewer for Children Division's Permanency Planning Review Team Meetings. Stacey is a member of the Fostering Court Improvement Board to bring information about Developmental Disabilities to that team.
Lisa Mizell (Child Advocate)	Lisa Mizell has worked in the field of social services most of her professional career spanning over 25 years. She worked directly with child abuse and neglect cases while at the CASA of Lake County, Indiana and the Fredericksburg, Virginia Department of Social Services. Lisa is currently the CEO of the Child Protection Center (CPC), the child advocacy center serving Jackson and Cass Counties. The CPC serves over 800 children a year, all of whom have allegedly been victims of child abuse or witnessed violent crime. In addition, while serving as the Executive Director of Amethyst Place, Lisa worked with women who were in recovery and their children. All residents were homeless prior to admission. She started her career at LifeSkills in St. Louis, Missouri, and later worked as a case manager for the Department of Mental Health--St. Louis Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities.
Jill Groff-Rosloniec (Parent/Child Attorney)	Jill Groff-Rosloniec is currently in her eighth year working with the juvenile courts as a guardian ad litem (GAL). For the past seven years, she has worked exclusively as a GAL in abuse and neglect cases for three counties in Missouri. Recently, she has moved to practicing family law as well as maintaining her GAL caseload.
Russell (Russ) Dempsey (Defense Attorney) Pending Approval	Russ Dempsey is employed as a partner at the law firm of MRD Lawyers. Russ graduated from Central Missouri State University with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He then received his Juris Doctorate from Washburn Law School. Russ began his legal career with the Greene County Prosecutor's office in May of 2002. Russ left the prosecutor's office to form MRD Lawyers in 2014. Currently, Russ is a criminal defense attorney who handles cases in and around Springfield, Missouri.
Rachel Jones (Mental Health Professional) Pending Approval	Rachel Jones is the Manager of Trauma Informed Treatment with the Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with a Minor in Black Studies and a Master's Degree in Educational, School and Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She provides state-wide training, consultation, and technical

	<p>assistance on implementation of clinical best practices and organizational change through trauma informed policies, procedures, practices and partnerships. She is a POST Certified instructor and provides trauma informed law enforcement and juvenile justice training. She has 15 years of experience working with child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, substance use and mental health disorders with children, youth, and adults. She is a member of Missouri Alliance for Dual Diagnosis and co-authored an article in the professional journal, <i>Current Psychiatry Reports</i>. Rachel is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Leader Fellow and an Adjunct Instructor for Columbia College.</p>
--	--

**Missouri Task Force on Children’s Justice
2020 Program Performance Annual Report**

Statement of Needs

The Task Force on Children’s Justice is responsible for providing stable, flexible, and ongoing funding to support efforts to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect, and create changes that prevent additional trauma to child victims and further protect their rights. Funding granted by the Task Force will assist the State in its efforts to expand training; expand services; provide better staff development opportunities and positive work environments; promote a positive image; and gain public support. The end goal is an improved ability to recruit, train, and retain staff; ultimately, it will enhance the State’s ability to respond to child abuse and neglect in the most timely and effective manner.

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

Critical Event Review Committee

The Critical Event Review Committee meets quarterly to review child abuse and neglect cases, including fatalities, near-fatalities, and serious physical injuries. The committee has met quarterly throughout this reporting period and reviewed a variety of cases from various regions of the state. 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.

Recruitment Committee

The recruitment committee is responsible for monitoring the 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 March 2020, three new members were approved by the Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice and are now full voting members. Two other new members were approved by the Task Force and Children's Division in January 2020 and are currently awaiting approval from the Department of Social Services and the Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice. Once the two proposed appointees are approved, the Task Force will be at 22 voting members.

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.

Goal Committee

Upon the Task Force's completion of the Three Year Assessment for this Annual Report in 2019, three primary areas of focus were identified and will further be described in the "Project Impacts and/or Progress" section below in this report. The three goals that the Task Force identified were:

- Improve Mandated Reporting
- Create High Functioning Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- Support and Collaborate with Multi-Disciplinary Teams in Response to the Substance Abuse Epidemic

In response to the establishment of these new goals, a new sub-committee, called the "Goal Committee" was formed. The committee meets quarterly via WebEx technology. The committee was formed to assist the Task Force in maintaining focus on the three goals identified as well as reviewing the annual report to ensure that the Task Force is aligning grant funding and efforts with statutory requirements.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee voted unanimously to amend the Finance Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines document. These changes are intended to supplement the general Task Force Conflict of Interest Statement, which was last amended at the August 24, 2017 meeting. The amendment to the Guidelines is to read as follows:

2. Conflict of Interest:

- A) Members of the CJATF, or any committee, subcommittee, or workgroup thereof, shall reveal their interest in any proposal or project involving grant funds where, to their knowledge, they or a related person directly or indirectly may derive a monetary benefit from such proposal or project. Such member shall not be present for or participate in the general discussion thereon and shall not be present for the vote on the motion to approve or disapprove any such proposal.

- B) Where a proposal is on the agenda that would grant money or confer benefits upon an organization or department, public or voluntary, that employs a member or is a member of the CJATF, that member may participate fully in the general discussion thereon, but shall abstain from the vote on the motion to approve or disapprove any such proposal.
- C) Where a proposal is on the agenda that would grant money or confer benefits upon an organization or department, public or voluntary, that has as a member, an officer, or a director of its governing board, or as one of its advisory committee members, a member of the CJATF, that member may participate fully in the general discussion thereon, but shall abstain from the vote on the motion to approve or disapprove any such proposal.
- D) No CJATF Member may submit an application for grant funding for the organization they are employed by or represent. Another representative of such organization may submit an application for grant funding, unless the Finance Committee determines there to be an impermissible conflict of interest.

The Finance Committee also recommended additions to the Application for Funding to address what potential grantees should provide with submitted requests.

Under Section 2.3 of the Grant Application Proposal, it was suggested the following language be added: "Please provide a draft agenda for the conference/event."

Under Section 2.4 of the Grant Application Proposal, it was suggested the following language be added: "Please provide measurable outcomes for your evaluations, as well as the specific methods of evaluation, where appropriate."

Under Section 3.1 on the Grant Application Proposal, it was suggested the following language be added: "Please be advised that scholarships will not be funded without an explanation of the actual costs of the event. Please provide the entire event budget (with line items for categories of expenses) and identify other existing or expected funding sources for any portion of the event."

The Finance Committee further suggested that the Task Force, as a whole, review the final reports of grant seekers and copies of the evaluations for such events in order to more accurately judge the effectiveness, quality and impact of the funded events.

These proposed changes were presented at the March 2020 Task Force quarterly meeting and were passed and the by-laws and grant application were updated.

Project Impacts and/or Progress

In 2019, the Task Force examined its work from previous years and re-evaluated its recommendations, including those identified in the three year assessment submitted in 2018, for improvement of the child welfare system's investigative and prosecutorial response, multi-disciplinary team collaboration, and improved mandated reporting.

The Task Force identified the following goals for 2019 and beyond. They are as follows:

1. Improve Mandated Reporting

Through the Task Force’s review of cases and personal experiences in their own disciplines, there appear to be gaps in the reach of mandated reporter training and opportunities to increase the quality of reports being made to the hotline. The Task Force would like to evaluate the current training requirements across multi-disciplinary teams to see if the training is consistent across the state to identify gaps with regard to who is receiving the training. The issue of staff turnover is recognized as a possible barrier in mandated reporters getting adequately trained on a consistent basis. The Task Force will seek to collaborate with Missouri KidsFirst to see how mandated reporter training can be enhanced within the State of Missouri. The Task Force will also use this goal as a factor when reviewing grant requests for trainings across the state.

2. Create High-functioning Multi-Disciplinary Teams

The Task Force recognizes that successful investigation and prosecution of child abuse is a multi-pronged process. Many disciplines must work together to assure that reports of child abuse are adequately investigated, prosecuted and services are provided to families. The Task Force will seek to collaborate with partners such as the Missouri Office of Prosecuting Attorneys (MOPS) to expand and improve multi-disciplinary team training across the state. It is again recognized that turnover in service fields is high and that in rural areas it is more difficult to coordinate such trainings. The Task Force will also be factoring in the need for training in this area when reviewing grant requests.

3. Support and Collaborate with Multi-Disciplinary Teams in Response to the Substance Abuse Epidemic

Substance Use Disorder is recognized as a prevalent factor in the area of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force will seek to support activities that would promote collaboration between the various agencies and service providers that respond, investigate, and provide services to families affected by substance use and abuse. The Task Force will use this as a factor when reviewing and funding grant requests.

Task Force progress on goals two (2) and three (3) regarding support and collaboration with multi-disciplinary teams and combating the substance abuse epidemic:

At the November 2019 Quarterly Task Force meeting, special guest Erin Lueker from the Missouri Office of Prosecuting Attorneys (MOPS) presented on Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Training in the State of Missouri.

Erin presented the Task Force with an overview of the MDT training that she has provided to several areas of the State. This training was developed due to a survey that was sent by The Task Force on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in 2016 to statewide MDTs to assess their level of functioning. Several of Missouri’s MDTs described themselves as “dysfunctional”. Based on this self-assessment, an eight (8) hour training was developed called, “The Basics of MDTs”. It is a certified eight (8) hour training that also offers CEUs, POST credit, 210 credit, and other free credit hours for professionals.

As of November 2019, Erin has completed 10 (ten) trainings across the State. Erin is the only certified trainer in the state at this time. She is hoping to get more certified trainers across the state so this training can reach more MDTs and jurisdictions. Each site can be comprised of more than one jurisdiction, so more than just ten (10) jurisdictions have received this training thus far. The purpose is to bring everyone that would be involved in the local MDT together to address strengths and challenges within their group. The training focuses on the “big picture”. The training is set up for group work and to enhance communication within the group. Different topics include:

- Completion of the MDT Assessment Tool
- The Child Advocacy Center Model
- Statutory Compliance
- Case Processing (This is a popular group activity that highlights strengths and weaknesses and how to supplement weaknesses.)
- Identification of Abuse and Neglect (It was found that some LE agencies had very little experience with investigating abuse and neglect. They look at all the separate definitions of each agency’s burden of proof and what each agency’s goals and objectives are.)
- Cursory Statements and Referrals to CACs
- Dynamics of Coercive Control
- MDT Protocol and Functioning as a Team (Group work. Uses case scenarios to create ideas for functioning as a MDT. They discuss pros and cons of removing children from their home.)
- How to Conduct Case Reviews and ways to improve

The training includes a module on Mandated Reporting and also a section that introduces the Missouri CJA Task Force grant funded Child Protector App. The Child Protector App is introduced to trainees when educating team members on determining what happened to a child regarding abuse and neglect and how the app can be of assistance to them.

Given the far reaching efforts this training could provide for MDTs across the state and the alignment with the Task Force’s goals, the Task Force wanted to further collaborate with the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and MOPS to expand this training. MOPS submitted a grant request for scholarships for individuals who would like to obtain MDT Train the Trainer education at the MOPS conference in the spring of 2020. This would allow participants to additional trainers to be educated in the curriculum, who could then assist in the provision of the training to reach more audiences throughout the state. Scholarship recipients would be required to use the training to do at least one training in their area.

The Missouri CJA Task Force is also supporting the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (NCADA) in St. Louis by providing grant funding for substance abuse awareness and trauma education for law enforcement officers, attorneys, and guardians ad litem in order to aid in improving the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect in a manner with reduces additional trauma to the child victim and victim’s family. The trainings consist of six live trainings and four webinars that began in July 2019 and is expected to run through June 2020. Their goal is to provide attendees education and tools to understand and successfully communicate with children while minimizing trauma. NCADA will also provide education in the

areas of addiction in families, substance abuse disorders, continuum of care spectrums, and developmental risk factors. NCADA's objective in performing the trainings is for participants to leave the training with a functional, effective, and immediately applicable framework of the understanding how to navigate trauma surrounding victims and their families.

Linkage to CFSR/CFSP:

Missouri had a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) in the summer of 2017. The Children's Division has for many years collaborated with stakeholders in the development of policy and practice. There were 65 cases reviewed in three sites. The reviews were structured to help states identify strengths and areas needing improvement within their agencies and programs.

At the November 2019 quarterly Task Force meeting, Children's Division's JoDene Bogart and Julie Starr gave an overview of different categories and how Missouri rated in terms of compliance. From the 2017 review, there were five themes that were identified and are being addressed through the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) strategies. These themes included:

- Promoting Timely Permanency
- Parent Engagement
- Quality Worker with Child Visitation
- Quality Safety and Needs Assessment
- Strengthen Workforce

Based on these findings, a PIP was developed and negotiated with the Federal Partners. This was implemented in November 2018 and the Children's Division just finished the first year of the PIP. The Children's Division has eight quarters to implement their strategies to make improvements. There are quarterly case reviews for monitoring and reporting out.

During the second round of the Child and Family Service Reviews, Missouri developed the CFSR Advisory Committee. The CFSR Advisory Committee's centralized focus is to build an advisory resource infrastructure to result in positive outcomes for children, youth and families. A broader collaboration of this kind will benefit families in improved access and service availability, and a reduction of services and funding fragmentation.

A member of the CJA Task Force, Leanne Reese, sits on the CFSR Advisory Committee and attends multi-disciplinary meetings to discuss areas of improvement needed on the CFSR. Leanne is able to share information from the CFSR Advisory Committee to the rest of the Task Force. The Task Force discusses any needs identified and makes recommendations as necessary. Those recommendations are then taken back to the CFSR Advisory Committee.

It was discussed how the Task Force and the CFSR/PIP could work together. Quality Safety and Needs Assessment fit best in the Task Force's objectives and the Task Force will consider safety and assessment when reviewing potential grant requests for funding.

Linkage to the Court Improvement Program:

In order 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, as well as improving court programs, the Task Force utilized Kim Abbott of the Office of State Court Administrator (OSCA), to keep the Task Force informed about the progress of efforts, initiatives and programs being developed and implemented by the Court Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP partners with the Children's Division on projects and Missouri's partnership effort has been created to assist local courts in challenging work related to child abuse and neglect.

In November 2019, the CIP coordinated a statewide event for chief juvenile officers and circuit managers from each circuit of Missouri. This event marked the first time team members heard the same message from a statewide perspective. Featured topics included the purpose and responsibilities of the courts, the role of the judge, the role of the Children's Division, and statewide data. Teams also spent time discussing challenges, solutions, and best practices that affect child welfare professionals. This event is to be followed up by a leadership facilitation event, a judicial education forum for all juvenile court judges, and regional workshops for teams of ten from each circuit to broaden the statewide partnership. These events have been put on hold at this time, but collaboration on future events continue to occur.

In addition, the CIP is working with the Children's Division to develop a joint safety assessment tool to be utilized in the early stages of an investigation and in the event of a removal of a child. This effort is currently in its infancy and the team has met to discuss the needs of both agencies that the tool should encompass. The Children's Division and members of the CIP will continue to advance this effort throughout 2020.

Linkage to Anti-Trafficking Efforts:

Children's Division's, Kara Wilcox is an appointed member of the Missouri Supreme Court's Combatting Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Commission. The Commission is currently working on finalizing recommendations to the Supreme Court to improve the judicial response to these issues. To comply with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, the Children's Division has contracted with Cornerstones of Care to provide Introduction to Human Trafficking Training to all Children's Division and contracted 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. Cornerstones of Care continues to provide this training on an as needed basis for new staff and any employee that has not yet received training on human trafficking.

To expand on the Introduction to Human Trafficking training, the Children's Division has entered into a partnership with Greater Kansas City LINC, Inc., who has contracted with a group of human trafficking experts to develop the Advanced Human Trafficking Training curriculum for all Children's Division staff, proposed to be completed by May 2020. This advanced training will further strengthen skills in the areas of identifying, assessing, and engaging child trafficking victims. To directly align with the implementation of the Advanced Human Trafficking Training, the Children's

Division has also begun updating policy and developing human trafficking screening tools to provide guidance to Children's Division staff, as well as contracted staff, as to how to identify and respond to potential victims of child trafficking victims.

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 Children's Division is also partnering with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Texas Department of Public Safety to provide Interdiction for the Protection of Children Training statewide.

At the 2020 Show Me a Helping Hand Conference, sponsored by the CJA Task Force, two speakers were brought in to present on human trafficking. Kris Wade, the executive director of "The Justice Project of Kansas City" spoke on her own experience as a human trafficking victim when she was a young adult. The Justice Project of Kansas City is a nonprofit advocacy and support group for women who have experienced human trafficking and other forms of sexual abuse. Ms. Wade not only brought a personal side of human trafficking to her presentation, but also provided attendees with ways they could identify and assist with victims of human trafficking that they might encounter in their professions.

Emily Russell, formerly of the Missouri Attorney General's office, presented at the conference on efforts to combat human trafficking in the State of Missouri. Ms. Russell's presentation included truths and myths about human trafficking in general and in the State of Missouri. She provided information and resources that professionals and the general public could use to inform, recognize, and report on human trafficking. Ms. Russell encouraged attendees to learn more about Missouri's efforts regarding human trafficking by visiting the Attorney General's website, www.MakeMoFree.com.

The Task Force will continue to consider these efforts when discussing and brainstorming ideas for potential projects for improvements in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and human trafficking moving forward.

Linkage to Court and Legal Representation Improvement Work

Juvenile Courts and Child Welfare Meetings (Supreme Court)

The Children's Division recognizes that child welfare is a multi-disciplinary practice through which the best outcomes are achieved when we effectively collaborate with court partners. To that end, the Children's Division continues to collaborate with the Office of the State Courts Administrator (OSCA) through the Partnership for Child Safety and Wellbeing (PCSW).

Over the last year, the statewide PCSW has continued to convene on a monthly basis. The group has focused efforts on a multi-phase collaboration and training schedule. The group's priorities for the past year have included: 1) planning and executing a leadership conference between all 46 juvenile officers and circuit managers; 2) planning and executing an educational conference for juvenile

court judges and commissioners; 3) identification of and training for facilitators within each circuit to assist the circuit in effective collaboration; 4) planning and executing another round of regional convenings, to include a greater number of participants (up to ten) from each site; and 5) ongoing support for court technical assistance (TA) teams. In addition, the group established a sub-group to plan and implement a strategy to address legal representation for parents and children through Title IV-E funding.

Leadership Conference

On November 7-8, 2019, the PCSW hosted a leadership conference for all juvenile officers and circuit managers from each of the 46 circuits. The conference, titled "Leading Together", provided an opportunity for the juvenile officer and circuit manager from each circuit to come together in order to collaborate around child welfare concerns. Juvenile Officers and Circuit Managers participated in leadership training, best practice discussions and identification of goals moving forward. Each team was given data for its circuit, and was asked to discuss the trends and possible strategies for improvement. The circuits were also encouraged to meet regularly to continue to discuss implementation of those strategies.

Juvenile Court Judges/Commissioners Educational Conference

A conference was scheduled for April 17, 2020, to host juvenile court judges and commissioners to provide training specific to several areas of concern. However, due to COVID-19, the conference has been postponed. Once the stay at home orders have been lifted, the PCSW will continue to work to reschedule the conference. Training will include education with regard to the American Bar Association's Judge's Guide to Safety and Framework for Safety, crossover youth initiatives, family first initiatives and legislative updates.

Facilitator Training

As part of prior discussions surrounding the regional convenings, the leadership conference and the technical assistance teams, the need for experienced facilitators has been identified as a need within each of the circuits, in order to assist teams in identification of areas of concern. Collaboration at the local level is key to successful problem solving and an experienced facilitator is essential in moving teams forward. In Spring 2020, the PCSW will work to identify individuals within each circuit to act as facilitators and to support the local team. Once individuals are identified and concerns for COVID-19 are lifted, the PCSW will plan and host a training to assist the identified individuals in facilitation and best practice.

Regional Court Convenings

A series of regional convenings was held in the fall of 2018. The teams consisted of the judge, juvenile officer, Guardian Ad-Litem (GAL), Children's Division staff and contracted foster care case managers. At each court convening, participants were provided a binder/ toolkit which included information about roles and responsibilities, and information about the Family First Act. The convenings introduced the expectation that each circuit would begin or renew multidisciplinary court partnership efforts. In order to further support collaboration at the local level, the PCSW will host a second series of regional convenings in the summer of 2020. The convenings will include additional participation from local stakeholders, to include up to ten (10) members of the multi-disciplinary team.

Court Technical Assistance (TA) Teams

Staff from the Children's Division and OSCA continue to provide support and regular data dissemination as a basis for each monthly discussion held between the juvenile officer and circuit manager. The Children's Division's data team continues producing quarterly reports for all 46 circuits, to be used as conversation starters, at court partnership meetings. Multiple trainings have been held within the circuits as requested. Several circuits have partnered to obtain training specific to legally sufficient referrals to the juvenile officer by the Children's Division when a request is made to remove a child from the home. Technical assistance has also been provided to assist circuits in electronic filing of documents by the Children's Division. The Children's Division has hired a Court Engagement Coordinator to manage the technical requests from the circuits and to assist in data distribution, as well as provision of information as to best practices in child welfare.

Jurist-in-Residence (JIR) Work

In addition to the regional convenings, Children's Division has also worked closely with OSCA and Casey Family Programs to assist with the Jurist-in-Residence program. The Jurist-in-Residence program pairs a retired judge (Judge James Welsh) with current members of the juvenile bench for mentoring and problem-solving support. Just as a youth in foster care often takes advice most readily from their peers, and parents involved in the court system will readily turn to other system-involved parents for support, judges too will frequently contact other judges for guidance about best practices and decision-making. The Jurist-in Residence is contracted with OSCA to begin work in at least three counties. Although Children's Division is not a party to the contract, staff will provide ongoing consultation and collaboration to ensure its efficacy. Currently, the JIR program exists in the 7th, 9th, 19th and 34th judicial circuits.

- The 7th judicial circuit has collaborated with Synergy to hire navigators to provide daily contact with parents and children, specific to drug exposed infants in order to keep the child within the home.
- The 9th judicial circuit has collaborated to engage in multi-disciplinary trainings and parent cafes. Parent Cafes have been extremely successful within the circuit. The circuit has further collaborated with the Missouri Extension Office to provide support to parents, children and child welfare workers.
- The 19th judicial circuit has focused on support for drug exposed infants and in-home supports in order for infants to remain within the home. The circuit is working to obtain data as to the success of the interventions provided.
- The 34th judicial circuit has been successful in collaborating with area faith-based communities to provide supports to parents and children. Because of the success in collaboration with the faith-based community, the multi-disciplinary team will begin efforts to meet regularly with the area school partners. In addition, the circuit has begun to recruit for CASA and mentors to support children within the circuit.

Judicial Engagement Team (JET)

Collaboration between courts and child welfare agencies, along with other community stakeholders, has long been recognized as a requirement for the protection and well-being of children. The Children's Division has worked closely with Casey Family Programs Judicial Engagement Teams in Kansas City and Springfield, Missouri. JET is a tenured and highly experienced team that assists

courts in using data to inform what needs to be done to achieve the best outcomes for children. These groups have addressed concerns such as Termination of Parental Rights, case backlogs, and reducing the number of youth placed in congregate care settings. JET launched in the St. Louis area and continues to meet to assist in the resolution of concerns.

Staff Competency in Court

The Children's Division recognized the need for an additional Legal Aspect Trainer, and one was added in February 2020. The Children's Division, along with other partners, have identified the need for training of courtroom skills for all circuits in the state. The first round of trainings was scheduled in April 2020 with more continuing until completion in the fall of 2020. These in-person trainings have been postponed due to statewide social distancing requirements due to COVID-19 and will be rescheduled once distancing restrictions and been lifted. At that time, the Legal Aspects trainers will collaborate with the local jurisdiction's attorneys, court personnel and Children's Division staff to schedule and provide the intended trainings.

CJA Funds Allocated/Finance Committee:

In 2019, the finance committee met quarterly via conference call to review grant applications and to actively monitor the expenditure of funds. The committee was able to thoroughly review grant applications, and discuss all aspects of the applications prior to the quarterly meeting of the entire Task Force.

The finance committee recommended and the Task Force voted to fund the following projects which were successfully completed in 2019 or early 2020:

Missouri KidsFirst: ChildFirst Training St. Louis

Missouri KidsFirst requested grant funding for ChildFirst training. Missouri KidsFirst delivered Child Abuse Investigations Training on November 4-6, 2019, in Chesterfield, Missouri to 52 attendees. Attendees included juvenile court officers, child/family victim advocates, assistant prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement officers, Children's Division investigators, and forensic interviewers. 100% of attendees received education on the benefits of using a multidisciplinary team approach to investigating child abuse/neglect allegations; age appropriate, non-leading child interviewing techniques; and the research supporting the interviewing/investigative methods that were taught.

In addition to the official ChildFirst Missouri materials, Missouri KidsFirst provided a flyer about the Child Protector app, which is grant supported by the Task Force, to all participants. Dr. Tim Kutz discussed the app during his medical presentation portion of the training.

Total: \$24,945

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse-St. Louis (NCADA). Trauma and Substance Abuse Training for Justice Professionals On-going through June 2020

The purpose of this training is that NCADA will provide substance use awareness and trauma education for law enforcement officers, attorneys, and guardians ad litem in order to aid in improving the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect

in a manner which reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family. Service will be performed through six live trainings and four webinars beginning in July 2019 and ended in early 2020, so as to coordinate with the State of Missouri's fiscal year.

NCADA will educate professionals in the following areas:

- 1) Family dynamics: How addiction affects the family, including family roles and family secrets;
- 2) Communication without Trauma: How to have a conversation without re-traumatizing the child;
- 3) Substance Use Disorders as a brain disease: explaining use, misuse, and addiction, and understanding the differences between substance use and substance use disorders;
- 4) Continuum of care spectrum: types of prevention, treatment, and recovery;
- 5) Developmental assets, risk factors, and protective factors;
- 6) Trauma and its effects on the child and their families.

Total: \$27,435

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Spring Educational Conference

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association held their spring conference in Branson, Missouri on May 22-24, 2019. There were 225 attendees and 25 of those attendees were grant scholarship recipients. Scholarship recipients attended several plenary and break-out sessions that related specifically to investigating and prosecuting abuse and neglect. Some of the workshops provided were: "Lock Her Up or Love Her Up: Understanding Through a Girls Lens"; "Child Identity Theft and Risk in the Digital Age"; "Criminal Minds: Inside the Mind of a Pedophile"; "Gentle Child Homicides-Suffocation/Strangulation/Drowning"; "Failure to Thrive"; "Corroborating Evidence: Reducing the Child's Stress and Strengthening your Case"; "Religious Medical Neglect and the Law"; and "Drug Exposed Children: Intervention, Arrest and Prosecution". Overall, the evaluations showed that the workshops were well received and provided information that was useful and relevant to their jobs.

Total: \$10,565

State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) – Operation Cyber Safe

The purpose of the grant was to secure funds to purchase advanced forensic software to recover evidence of technology facilitated crimes against children. STAT investigators use various types of software to recover evidence of all types of crimes against children. The evidence is recovered from computers, cell phones, tablets, and other digital devices. These software licenses will be used by STAT to further STAT's mission to protect children and support the agencies that protect the children of Missouri.

Total: \$4,000

Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) – Improving the Investigation and Response to Youth with Problem Sexual Behaviors

Seven regional trainings were provided across the state, educating law enforcement, clinicians, social workers, and other professionals in providing a multidisciplinary response to problematic sexual behaviors in their communities. Attendees were given POST credit to encourage attendance by law enforcement.

Each of the trainings was well attended and well received. Two hundred seventy-four professionals from diverse backgrounds were trained. Pre and post evaluations were administered and determined the goals of the trainings were met. The team included three trainers with vast experience working with this population: Rene McCreary, Director of Counseling at MOCSA; Kate Drewry, a nationally-recognized trainer in the Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) treatment modality; and Matt Moncado, the Director of the Sexually Abusive Youth program at Good Samaritans Boys Ranch. Two of the trainers are “in-house trainers” at their agencies, who can provide individuals education in the use of the University of Oklahoma Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Youth with Sexual Behavior Problems (OU-PSB-CBT). This is one of only two evidence-based treatment programs for this population. Additionally, the trainers have experience working in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Both the quantitative and qualitative analysis of evaluation data from these trainings showed evidence of a successful project.

Total: \$21,568

Missouri KidsFirst ChildFirst-Springfield

Missouri KidsFirst delivered ChildFirst Forensic Interviewing Training on April 29 - May 1, 2019, in Springfield, Missouri to 62 attendees. Attendees included juvenile court officers, child/family victim advocates, assistant prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement officers, Children's Division investigators, and forensic interviewers. 100% of attendees received education on the benefits of using a multidisciplinary team approach to investigating child abuse/neglect allegations; age-appropriate, non-leading child interviewing techniques; and the research supporting the interviewing/investigative methods that were taught. Approximately 61% of total attendees practiced applying the ChildFirst interviewing protocol and methods through mock forensic interviews of specially-trained actors. Missouri KidsFirst had participants evaluate the effectiveness of each lecture and presenter. A majority of respondents found every section of the training “very effective.”

Total: \$43,150

The Task Force on Children’s Justice sponsored “Show Me a Helping Hand”

The CJA Task Force sponsored and hosted a comprehensive workshop for multi-disciplinary team members to focus on male sexual abuse and trauma. The target audiences included counselors, therapists, law enforcement, Children’s Division, schools, and other related professions. The conference was held at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri on June 27 and 28, 2019. The conference was free to all attendees. CJA sponsored the cost of two speakers and lodging for 20 attendees that registered before April 15, 2019, and 25 attendees from the Children’s Division. The conference featured the Task Force’s own Greg Holtmeyer, speaker, trainer, educator, advocate and survivor of child sexual abuse. Also speaking was Task Force member Chief William Carson, who spoke to the attendees about “Groomers and Grabbers” and “Women Offenders”. Other speakers presented topics on survival, post-traumatic stress, and healing in male sexual assault victims. The conference received immense positive feedback from attendees and the Task Force decided to sponsor their third conference on March 5 & 6, 2020.

Total: \$21,000

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Fall Educational Conference

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) hosted their fall educational conference on October 23-25, 2019, in Osage Beach, Missouri. There were 260 attendees and 25 of those attendees were grant scholarship recipients, who attended several plenary and break-out session related specifically to investigating and prosecuting abuse and neglect. Topics included human trafficking, the opioid crisis in the United States, immigration law and policy, and challenges facing male sexual abuse. MJJA collected evaluations from the attendees and it was noted that 75% of attendees rated their experience at the conference as “excellent” and 24% rated it as “good”. They noted that the information provided was relevant and useful to their positions.

Total: \$11,128

Missouri KidsFirst First Witness Victim Training

Missouri KidsFirst contracted with First Witness Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Duluth, Minnesota to conduct three days of basic victim advocacy training for child advocates at CACs. The training was held on October 15-17, 2019. Twenty individuals participated in the training including 18 advocates from CACs and two advocates from the offices of prosecuting attorneys. 100% of attendees received education on the twelve core victim advocacy services offered by CACs. Topics included the dynamics of abuse, trauma-informed services, crisis assessment and intervention, risk assessment and safety planning, and professional ethics and boundaries. Other topics such as understanding the coordinated multidisciplinary team response to child abuse, assistance in accessing/obtaining victims’ rights as outlined by law, court education, and assistance with access to treatment and other services were also included. Missouri KidsFirst conducted a satisfaction survey of training at the end of each day. The overall response to the training was very positive. On a scale of 1 (low) - 5 (high), day one of the training rated at 4.8 and day two rated at 4.89.

Total: \$15,448

Consistent with the requirements of section 107(e)(1)(A),(B), and (C) respectively the 2020 priorities are as follows:

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

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

- (1) The Task Force has and 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 and funding more comprehensive training, by supporting a state-wide effort to train professionals in an eight (8) hour training called, “The Basics of MDTs”. It is a certified eight (8) hour training that also offers CEUs, POST credit, 210 credit, and other free credit hours for professionals. The hope of expanding the training state-wide is that it would foster cooperation among state agencies, state and local governments to assist in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.

- (2) The Children’s Division, with the support of the Task Force, continues to work with members of all disciplines to improve communications in the multi-disciplinary team response to child abuse and neglect allegations. 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 among team members.

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

- (1) The Task Force supported a Children’s Justice Act sponsored conference in June 2019. CJA Task Force Member, Greg Holtmeyer, proposed that the Task Force sponsor a comprehensive workshop for multi-disciplinary team members to focus on male sexual and trauma. The target audience included counselors, therapists, law enforcement, Children’s Division, schools, and other related professions. The conference was called “Show Me a Helping Hand” and was held at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, on June 27 and 28, 2019. The conference was free to all attendees. The Task Force also awarded 47 scholarships of a hotel stay to attendees. The conference presentations included CJA Task Force members Greg Holtmeyer and Chief William Carson speaking on male sexual abuse and women offenders. Other speakers included topics in their presentations such as post-traumatic stress reactions, helping male survivors heal, and domestic violence against males. The conference drew approximately 250 attendees from the State of Missouri as well as other states.
- (2) The Task Force sponsored the third Show Me a Helping Hand conference March 5 and 6, 2020. The event was again held at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. The event targeted professionals in law enforcement, prosecution, the Children’s Division, counselors, therapists, and schools. Since the event was held while college courses were in session, many students interested in human services attended. The event was free to all attendees and 36 scholarships were given to those attendees for a hotel stay. Fifteen free hours of continuing education credit was also given to professionals seeking them. Topics of this conference included male sexual abuse and treating survivors, human trafficking, and sexual abuse in schools. Approximately 150 individuals attended the conference and evaluations were given to all attendees. A majority of the attendees felt that the topic of male sexual abuse was especially relevant as this is an area that there is not a lot of training or information on.
- (3) The Task Force supported Missouri KidsFirst by approving a grant to assist in funding ChildFirst programs, offering a three-day training course and a five- day child abuse investigation training. Priority was given to prosecutors, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, Children’s Division staff and child advocacy center staff in allocating scholarships. The training was to assist in the improvement of the investigative response to child sexual abuse by increasing the expertise of professionals addressing the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of cases of child sexual abuse.

(4) In 2016, 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. CJA Task Force member Dr. James Anderst 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. Dr. Anderst updated the Task Force at the August 2019 quarterly meeting relating to the updates and improvements to the Child Protector application. Dr. Anderst reported that data that had been compiled by their team showed that the application is being used not only in the United States, but also countries around the world. The Task Force now asks that each of the grant recipients share the Child Protector Application fliers at their conferences and events.

(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 2019, the Task Force closely monitored the legislative session as it related to the investigation of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force also reviews Children’s Division policy related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. A bill of particular interest to the Task Force is as follows:

Senate Bill 514 went into effect August 28, 2019

To gain compliance for CAPTA and assure that practitioners specifically shall report infants that are affected by substance abuse, withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or “a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder”, in 2019, Senate Bill 514 added the following to Section 191.737 RSMo.:

Notwithstanding the physician-patient privilege, any physician or health care provider shall refer to the children's division families in which infants are born and identified as affected by substance abuse, withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or “a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder” as evidenced by:

- (1) Medical documentation of signs and symptoms consistent with controlled substances or alcohol exposure in the child at birth; or
- (2) Results of a confirmed toxicology test for controlled substances performed at birth on the mother or the child.

2) Strengthening the overall investigation and assessment of families is ongoing. At the February 2019 meeting of the Task Force, Children’s Division Legal Aspects Trainer, Albert Grieve, gave an overview of Legal Aspects training that all Children’s Division staff receive. This two and one-half day training provides participants with the basics on federal constitutional law involving the rights of parents, children, perpetrators and the state, and how these rights impact (1) the Child Abuse and Neglect (CA/N) hotline investigative process, (2) placing a person's name on the Central Registry and (3) in making recommendations for the removal of children from the home.

This training also includes the statutory definitions of abuse and neglect and the preponderance of evidence (POE) standard necessary to substantiate a hotline investigation. The legal training portion concludes with a section on evidence and making presentations to the Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board from a legal perspective. The Critical Thinking portion of the training is specifically tailored to help investigators and supervisors at key decision-making points in the investigative process: gathering information, evaluating evidence and deciding whether to substantiate by the preponderance of the evidence standard. All levels of staff take this training and some repeat it every few years.

- 3) The Children's Division convened an internal workgroup in September 2019 to revise screening protocols at the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Unit (CANHU) to improve the Children's Division's response to allegations of child abuse and neglect and ensure the agency is intervening with families when it is appropriate and necessary to do so. This workgroup was comprised of Department of Social Services staff, Children's Division Central Office staff, and CANHU staff. The group revised the definitions of the conditions needed to take a report of abuse/neglect, along with the criteria for assigning response priorities to abuse/neglect reports. Recommendations on improving the educational neglect CAN condition was approved and implemented at the hotline. This will give more specific guidance to staff about whether a report meets criteria when there are reports of educational neglect to the hotline. CANHU developed an Enhanced Intake Team, comprised of seasoned staff members, who review low risk neglect reports to determine if they meet criteria of a report or a referral. This team will evaluate any relevant prior history and make collateral contacts with multi-disciplinary team members that might deter the call from being alerted to field staff as a report, if it should be alerted as a referral, or not taken at all. The team can refer the reporter to the community for resources or to the local Children's Division in the area as appropriate. Implementation of this workgroup's recommendations continues to occur. This group still meets regularly and will continue to meet throughout 2020 as needed. CJA Task Force Coordinator Cari Pointer sits on this group and updates the Task Force regularly of changes and updates.
- 4) CJA Task Force member Kelly Schultz took part in a Task Force on Child Safety developed by the Missouri Department of Social Services. This group met throughout the spring and summer of 2019. This Task Force was comprised of stakeholders representing law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys, juvenile officers, Office of State Court Administrator (OSCA), State Technical Assistance Team (STAT), Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) and the Children's Division. The primary charge of the group was to address concerns and recommendations related to the Children's Division's practice. At the August 2019 CJA Task Force quarterly meeting, Kelly reported the recommendations that came from the workgroup. The Task Force identified three significant areas for improvement that included training, investigations/multi-disciplinary teams, and safety plans. Specific to the CJA goals, there were identified areas of concern regarding how the health of a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) directly impacts the success of an investigation and ultimately the safety of a child. The CJA Task Force will continue to monitor implementation of these recommendations and support efforts as appropriate.

- 5) The Task Force will continue to research statutes and policies related to child abuse and neglect in other States throughout the country to determine the consistency of the laws and suggesting amendments or laws that would further improve protection of children. The Task Force has sought out information from other states regarding not only law and policy on child abuse investigation and prosecution, but also process and procedure of their state's Task Force. Recently, the Task Force made a motion to update their conflict of interest policy regarding grant monies. Task Force Chair Dan Patterson sought out other states' policies and assisted in the revision of the conflict of interest policy that the finance committee proposed and was then adopted by the Task Force at the March 18, 2020 meeting.

Application for Proposed Activities in FY20

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

In 2020, 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 2020, 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 the funding of grants from programs designed to improve the investigative response and the prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force will focus 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 as stated above in our goals.

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

In order to remain in compliance with the reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to protect children from abuse, the Legislative Committee will continue to follow legislation pertinent to the work of the Task Force. The Task Force will review prioritized recommendations made as a result of the critical event review committee and the three-year assessment. They will determine whether the pursuit of legislative proposals to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect may be appropriate in the coming year.

In 2020, 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 that would attract the interests of qualified persons to fill future vacancies.

Proposed activities for the Task Force and projects approved for 2019 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 at a CJA annual conference, in addition to funding grant project requests that may arise as appropriate.

Total: \$10,000

Missouri KidsFirst ChildFirst Missouri Training-Springfield

The purpose of this proposal is to improve the investigation of child sexual abuse by providing training to multidisciplinary team members on the dynamics at play in child sexual abuse cases, considerations for interviewing children about an alleged incident, and the ChildFirst Forensic Interviewing Protocol. This offering of ChildFirst Missouri was to take place in Springfield, Missouri on March 30 - April 3, 2020, but was cancelled due to the concerns surrounding COVID-19. The grant money is now being used to present this training in Kansas City tentatively for the week of October 26, 2020. MDT members from around the state are invited to apply to attend the training. The goal of this grant is to improve the investigative response to child sexual abuse by increasing the expertise of professionals addressing the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of cases of child sexual abuse. The grant funding will be used for 30 scholarships and 20 travel stipends of attendees.

Total: \$40,000

The Child Center Inc. Hiding in Plain Sight: Improving the Response to Child Sexual Abuse

The safety and well-being of children continues to be a top priority for all those in the field, and effectively protecting children from abuse requires a coordinated, collaborative, and multidisciplinary approach throughout every community. “Hiding in Plain Sight: Improving the Response to Child Sexual Abuse” is a one-day training is intended to teach, empower, and inspire each person to continue in the fight to end child abuse and exploitation, and be better equipped to make a positive difference for every child served. The target audience for the training includes a variety of multidisciplinary (MDT) members as well as school counselors, social workers, clergy, mental health professionals, educators, advocates, CASA, health care providers, foster parents, and case managers. .

Total: 1,811.50

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association 2020 Spring Educational Conference

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association will provide three plenary sessions as well as twenty-five break-out workshops for professionals during the 2020 Spring Educational Conference. Several plenary and workshop sessions are applicable to the federal requirements of the Missouri Task Force on Children Justice. These seminars will educate professionals who work in the child welfare system on how to improve the “handling of child abuse and neglect cases in a manner that reduces additional trauma”. It will also ensure multi-disciplinary team members receive ongoing training and education in order to improve the investigation and prosecution of abuse and neglect cases.

The conference was set for May 27-29, 2020, but due to social distancing requirements related to COVID-19, the conference has been rescheduled for tentatively Fall 2020. The targeted attendees include professionals who investigate and prosecute child abuse and neglect cases. The grant will assist in funding twenty-five scholarships for attendees.

Total: \$12,371.50

Missouri Office of Prosecutor (MOPS) MDT Train the Trainer

The purpose of this program is to improve the investigation and handling of child abuse and neglect cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner that reduces additional trauma to the child. Specifically, this program will seek to improve the work of multidisciplinary teams in the state by developing a group of individuals who can provide local training and assistance to these teams. The curriculum is based on the MDT Module developed by members of the Missouri Task Force on the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. The Train the Trainer curriculum will focus on ensuring those teaching the course understand the content of the MDT Module and assisting with facilitation skills for the group work component of the MDT Curriculum. The grant will assist with scholarships for attendees. The date of the trainings is tentatively set for early summer and the Task Force will continue to work closely with MOPS to secure a date, time and location.

Total: \$15,850

Missouri State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) Investigation of Child Fatalities Training

The Children's Justice Act specifically identifies sexual abuse and child fatality investigations as program priorities. As a part of its mission delineated under Sections 210.195 and 660.520, RSMo., the State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) is required to provide training and assistance to Missouri's multidisciplinary child protection community on child physical abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, child exploitation, and child fatalities. To maintain the expertise necessary for Missouri's child protection communities to continue to provide thorough investigations and prosecution, STAT is requesting funding to provide regional training programs across the state. STAT plans to conduct training in five locations within the state, during May and/or June 2020. The target locations include Springfield, Poplar Bluff, Cape Girardeau, Jefferson City and St. Joseph.

Total \$5,300