



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Governor's Crime Commission

Roy Cooper, Governor
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman
Diane Barber-Whitaker, Interim Executive Director

**CJA Task Force Subcommittee Meeting
Virtual Meeting via WebEx
1201 Front Street
Raleigh, NC 27609
Thursday, July 8, 2021**

Attendees: Whitney Belich, Molly Berkoff, Cindy Bizzell, Jennifer Evans, Kella Hatcher, Victor Maynard, Matt McKay, Rhonda Morris, Susan Robinson, Wendy Sotolongo, Kathy Stone, Kristine Sullivan

Non-Attendees: Keisha Crawford, Judge Donald Cureton Jr., Deborah Flowers, Vicki Foster, Deana Joy, Christy Malott, Kelsey Mosley

GCC Staff: Diane Barber-Whitaker, Natalia Beckers, Nicki Livingston, Toni Lockley, Adonica McAllister

Call to Order: Chair Sotolongo called meeting to order at 1:06 P.M.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Chair Sotolongo called attention to the meeting minutes for April 29, 2021. The minutes were approved by the CJA Task Force.

Reminders:

Ethics: The General Statute, Chapter 138A-35, and other provisions of the State Government Ethics Act/Recusal

GCC Staff Updates:

Toni Lockley presented the GCC Staff Updates, which included an update on the 2021 CJA Solicitation Submission and the June CJA Quarterly Call.

DSS Updates:

Kathy Stone, Section Chief, Safety & Prevention for NC DHHS provided an update for DSS, which included an update on the development of the Child Welfare Transformation Intake Tool Assessment structure, the next steps for the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and update on the American Rescue Plan Act funds (ARPA).

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Project Update:

Whitney Belich, Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor (CARP) for the NC Conference District Attorneys (NCCDA) presented 2020-2021 updates on the CARP project responsibilities, recently addressed issues, publications, trainings, and upcoming projects.

CJA Membership:

Adonicca McAllister provided updates regarding CJA Task Force membership renewal and vacancies.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Chair Sotolongo adjourned meeting at 2:35 P.M.

Meeting minutes taken by Natalia Beckers

Attachments:

1. CJA Task Force Meeting Agenda
2. CJA Task Force Roll Call for Attendance
3. CJA Task Force Meeting Minutes Roll Call for Thursday, April 29, 2021
4. CJA Staff Updates PowerPoint Presentation
5. DSS Updates PowerPoint Presentation
6. Child Abuse Resources Prosecutor Updates PowerPoint Presentation

CJA Subcommittee Roll Call for Attendance

Thursday, July 8, 2021

If your name is not checked during the roll call, we may not be able to hear you. Please comment in the chat box or send an email to GCC_Admin@ncdps.gov to confirm your attendance.

Title	First Name	Last Name	
Ms.	Whitney	Belich	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Molly	Berkoff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Cindy	Bizzell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Keisha	Crawford	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judge	Donald	Cureton Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Jennifer	Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Deborah	Flowers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Vicki	Foster	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Kella	Hatcher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Deana	Joy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Christy	Malott	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr.	Victor	Maynard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr.	Matt	McKay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Rhonda	Morris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Kelsey	Mosley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Susan	Robinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Wendy	Sotlongo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Kathy	Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Kristine	Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CJA Subcommittee Roll call for minutes

Thursday, July 8, 2021

If your name is not checked during the roll call, we may not be able to hear you. Please comment in the chat box or send an email to GCC_Admin@ncdps.gov to confirm your attendance.

Title	First Name	Last Name	Yes	No	Recuse	Abstain
Ms.	Whitney	Belich	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Molly	Berkoff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Cindy	Bizzell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Keisha	Crawford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judge	Donald	Cureton Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Jennifer	Evans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Deborah	Flowers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Vicki	Foster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Kella	Hatcher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Deana	Joy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Christy	Malott	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr.	Victor	Maynard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr.	Matt	McKay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Rhonda	Morris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Kelsey	Mosley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Susan	Robinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Wendy	Sotolongo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Kathy	Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms.	Kristine	Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



GCC Staff Updates

Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force Meeting

Toni E. Lockley

CJA Coordinator

July 8, 2021

Staff Updates

- ▶ CJA Solicitation Submission Update
- ▶ June CJA Quarterly Call

CJA Solicitation Submission Update

2021 CJA Solicitation Submission Update

- ▶ Children's Justice Act application and 3-year assessment were submitted on Friday, May 28, 2021.
- ▶ Received notification from Lauren Fischman acknowledging receipt of the submission and that she would be in contact once the review of the submission was complete.

CJA Annual Submission Review Process

- ▶ Children's Bureau staff currently reviewing submissions
- ▶ States will receive an email by in July stating either:
 - The application has been reviewed and will be forwarded for approval by leadership or;
 - The application has been reviewed, but additional information is required before it can move forward for approval.
- ▶ Award letters will be sent out by September 30, 2021

CJA Quarterly Call

June 29th, 2021



CJA Quarterly Call

- ▶ CJA Leadership Team facilitated small group discussions focused on CJA-funded programs and activities
- ▶ Peer-to-peer discussions built on conversations that took place during the Annual Grantees Meeting in May
- ▶ Staff from the Capacity Building Center for States reviewed the CJA 2020 Report and State Examples, which identified and described specific programs

CJA 2020 Report

- ▶ A review was conducted of all 2020 Children's Justice Act (CJA) applications or 3-year plans submitted to describe and document how CJA funds were used by states between May 2019 to May 2020
- ▶ Included the CJA applications submitted in May 2020 by each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.
- ▶ Examined the 11 categories of possible activities and programs that could be funded through CJA and an additional section for examples that did not fit a specific category.

Children's Justice Act (CJA) Activities by Category - State Examples

- Experimental, Model, or Demonstration Programs
- Linkages to Human Trafficking
- Evaluations That Measure Outcomes
- Strategic Alignment With CJA Task Force Goals and Activities With CFSR, PIP, and APSR Goals
- Activities to Enhance and Improve Access to High-Quality Legal Representation for Children and Families
- Work to Enhance State and Local Agencies' Policies or Protocols Around Intake, Investigation, or Assessment

Children's Justice Act (CJA) Activities by Category Cont.

- Development, Expansion, or Enhancements to CACs That Improve Access to Comprehensive Services for Children and Families
- Activities to Improve Front-End System Practices (Hotline/Intake/Screening)
- Strategies to Improve Trauma-Informed Handling of Cases by Professionals (Including Investigators, Assessors, Lawyers, and Judges)
- Impact of the Pandemic on Grant Activities
- Use of Virtual Technologies for Training and Other Grant Activities
- Additional Examples and Comments

- ▶ The aim of the review was to describe the CJA-funded programs and activities states and territories engaged in and to identify all-encompassing themes and trends.
- ▶ During the discussions, participants had the opportunity to share concrete examples and practical ideas from their respective states and ask questions of their peers.

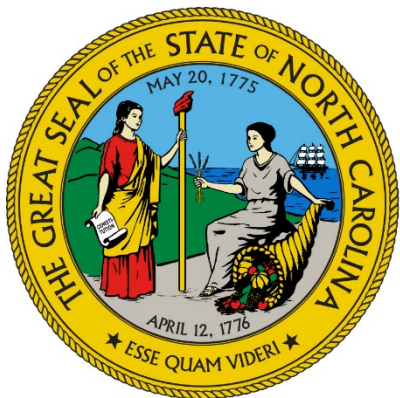
Children's Bureau 22nd National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

Thriving Children and Families: Prevention with Purpose

- ▶ Registration will open in early July and remain open through the end of the conference (no registration fees)
- ▶ July 27-29, 2021 (virtual)
- ▶ <https://nccan.acf.hhs.gov/>

Questions?





NC Department of Health and Human Services

Kathy Stone
Section Chief-Safety and Prevention

July 8, 2021

Agenda

- **Child Welfare Transformation**
 - Intake Tool Assessment and Development Update
- **FFPSA**
- **ARPA Funding**



Structured Intake

- **Policy and Statutory review complete**
- **Listening Sessions**
 - **Conducted with CWFAC, EBCI, and Safety Design Team**
 - **Pending with Primary Reporters**
 - **LEO**
 - **Educational Personnel**
 - **Medical Providers**
- **Work Group Tool Development**
 - **Work Sessions July-September**
- **Next Steps**
 - **Intake tool approved**
 - **Manual Developed**
 - **Inter-Rater Reliability Testing**
 - **Modifications if needed**
 - **Policy Changes if required**
 - **Integration into future-state CWIS system**



FFPSA Next Steps

Plan Submission anticipated July 2021



ACF Review and probable revisions or edits



October 1, 2021 beginning of congregate care funding changes



Plan Approval



Implementation of Approved Candidacy Definitions and Evidence-Based Practices

FFPSA: Child-Specific Prevention Plan

- **Prevention candidates:** candidacy determination, prevention services that will benefit each candidate, and other key information are recorded in the Family Services Agreement, NCDHHS's formal service planning tool.
- **Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care** receiving IV-E prevention services: prevention services and related information and foster care prevention strategy for child(ren) are recorded in the Foster Youth Services Plan

The name of each candidate child and identified imminent risk criteria met

Identified need(s) of each candidate child and each caregiver

Provided to prevent foster care, which candidate child will benefit, and specified service

Start and end dates for each prevention service provided

Service completion status or reasons for discontinuation

Case goals for the caregivers to address imminent risk (reasons for agency's involvement and prevention services)

*A Shared
Recovery for
a Stronger
NC:
Governor
Cooper's
American
Rescue Plan
Budget*

- Proposed CBCAP Activities
 - Enhance Community-Based Agencies ability to support families, especially those with high ACE scores.
 - Promote Primary Prevention
 - Provide Concrete Supports to Families

*A Shared
Recovery for
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NC:
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- Proposed CAPTA Activities:
 - Feasibility Study and Fiscal Analysis of a Statewide CPS Hotline
 - Substance Use Disorder Specialists at NCDSS
 - Community Outreach and Systems Engagement for Infants Affected by Substances
 - Child Welfare Workforce Development Roadmap

Questions?



Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor

2020-2021 Updates

Overview

- The CARP is a part of the Conference of District Attorneys
- Responsibilities include:
 - Developing and delivering training for prosecutors, law enforcement, and other allied professionals on various topics related to child abuse
 - Providing technical assistance to prosecutors and other allied professionals across the state
 - Serving as contributor to statewide committees and task forces on legal issues and the challenges facing child abuse investigators and prosecutors
 - Manages and regularly contributes to the North Carolina Child Abuse listserv
 - Handling conflict child abuse prosecutions as requested

Purpose

- Provide technical support and training for prosecutors and others on the topic of child abuse investigation and prosecution
- Identify emerging issues in child abuse law and provide materials to assist prosecutors and others in handling them
- Serve as a resource for those wanting more information on issues in child abuse prosecution
- Serve as a liaison between various professions and agencies who work with abused children to ensure all parties are supported, understood, and communicating

Recent Issues Addressed

- Changes to child abuse reporting laws
- Admitting the forensic interview into evidence without the child's testimony
- Handling a noncooperative non-offending parent
- Procedures to address out of state sex offenders and their inclusion on the sex offender registry
- Determining the correct abuse charge based on a child's injury

Current Publications

- The Child Physical Abuse Manual, distributed to every DAs office in the state, has been reviewed and updated and will be published this year
- A one-page primer on Child Physical Abuse has been distributed to every DAs Office in the state
- Quarterly article on child abuse in The State, the CODA newsletter
 - Past articles included COVID-related CA issues and dealing with non-cooperative parents

Trainings

- Over the course of 2020, the CARP delivered multiple trainings and webinars to groups including therapists, DSS, and medical professionals in addition to prosecutors and law enforcement
- In April of 2021, CODA hosted a two-day training by two national experts on working with child victims with disabilities
- In May, the CARP delivered a webinar to over 40 prosecutors on recent legal updates in child abuse law
- In June, the CARP delivered a webinar to over 40 prosecutors covering trial preparation challenges in child abuse cases

Upcoming Projects

- Working to compile a list of possible experts for prosecutors to contact with certain issues
 - Trauma's impact on the brain
 - Child psychology
 - Medical issues with abuse victims
- Planning one day “practical skills” course for prosecutors to train on child abuse specific trial skills
- Working to draft a template of common questions for witnesses in CA cases
- Planning various webinars for nurses, law enforcement, CAC staff, and prosecutors

Questions?

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NC Conference of District Attorneys
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