

Joint Task Force on Children's Justice/Child Sexual Abuse

VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2021 – 10:00 AM

Attendees

Adams, Megan	Keoph, Marie	Taylor-Kelly, Patty
Allen, Sandra	Knowles, Catherine	Wade, Pat
Alexander, Denise	Koslick, Amy	Wilkerson, Jason
Beckham, Pierce	Legendre, Charlsi	Woerner, Stephen
Beneke, Bonnie	Lowen, Deborah	Worsham, Billy
Bevans, Rebecca	Maifair, Sammi	Wright, Drew
Boshears, Marlene	Mason, Carrie	Wyatt, Verna
Bottoms, Delaine	McGee, Melissa	Young, Jocelyn
Boyd, Ellen	Meadows, Dentaisha	UT Staff
Cobb, Dana	Miller, Stacy	Frierson, Stephanie
Cooper, Tim	Miner, Thomas	Hadjiharalambous, Sissie
Davis, Kristen	Moore, Jerri	Lawal, Toni
Ebert, Jon	Murphy, William	Regrets
Espey, Christy	Page, Jacque	Carter, Bobby
Farrar, Lynne	Paisley, Lori	Etheridge, Stephanie
Gentry, Annette	Palmer, Mary	Meise, Michael
Hargrow, Craig	Perales, Marymer	Knowles, Catherine
Harper, Dawn	Seeman, Larry	Muenzen, Matthew
Hart-Curry, Marjahna	Sinback, Kathryn	Smith, Rae Anne
Johnson, Anthony	Smith, Kimberley	Talley, Jackie
Karnes, Lanis	Snodgrass, Carla	
	Stallworth, Virginia	

Welcome

President Lynne Farrar welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

DCS Updates

Amy Koslick, DCS Office of Child Safety (OCS) Senior State Director of Investigations, provided the following updates:

- **CPS Redesign:** The redesign has been rolled out in all DCS regions – full redesign statewide completion date is scheduled for July 1.

- **Drug Teams:** The Department has been able to successfully implement drug teams in 49 out of 95 counties as a result of the new CPS redesign.

Rebecca Bevans, DCS OCS Director of Training, provided the following updates:

- **“What if I told You Something Happened to me” Public Service Announcement (PSA).** The OCS has rolled out a call to action PSA for preventing child sexual abuse. The PSA is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urxjQjqWAuA>
- **Child Abuse Training for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Firefighters.** The OCS completed focus groups with EMS and firefighters to understand their full training needs. Bevans noted they expressed the need to hear the training more than once. Bevans reported a 15-minute video will be shared with all EMS and firefighters across the state – also, in-person training will be offered. In addition, DCS is requesting Stewards books to train EMS and firefighters on child sexual abuse prevention.
- **Child Advocacy Studies (CAST).** A CAST workgroup, formed in March, for implementation of CAST in Tennessee is meeting monthly. The workgroup is targeting DCS university stipend partners to pilot the program. The workgroup, along with Zero Abuse Project senior leadership staff, engaged two universities during an information session held on June 9. Another information session is scheduled for June 15.
- **Families First Prevention Service Act (FFPSA).** The five-year prevention plan is complete and has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children’s Bureau. DCS has received feedback from the Children’s Bureau and is responding to the feedback. In addition, DCS staff completed training on FFPSA as well as on Motivational Interviewing and Assessment Integration.
- **Child Sexual Abuse Training.** *“When Faith Hurts: Addressing the Spiritual Needs of Child Sexual Abuse Victims”* will be offered to DCS staff, CPIT members, and other community partners on July 21 and August 2. For more information, please contact Rebecca Bevans at Rebecca.Bevans@tn.gov.
- **Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC).** Following the TBI presentation to the JTF last March, the OCS reached out to TBI Special Agent Nicholas Christian about conducting ICAC training to DCS staff. The training dates are scheduled for June 16 at 9 am and June 22 at 12 pm Central Time.

Committees’ Progress for Work Focus/Action Steps

The Committee chairs report out were as followed:

- **CPIT:** Chair Tom Miner reported that the Committee is near completion of updating the CPIT Best Practice Manual. Miner also reported that Committee member, Denise Alexander, is leading the work involving the consolidation of language used in forensic protocols. In addition, Miner reported the Committee will be focusing on the Three Year Assessment CSEM survey findings.
- **Court Improvement:** Chair Kathy Sinback reported that the Committee booklet has been formatted and the final review will occur today during the Committees' breakout session. Following the Committee review, Sinback reported the document will be submitted to Metro Nashville Arts Commission to complete the artwork.
- **Outreach and Awareness:** Chair Sandra Allen reported that April was Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month and that Nurture the Next developed a digital campaign to encourage communities and parents to observe a series of parenting videos. The Committee also promoted the national event to faith communities and encouraged them to take an active role in child abuse prevention. The Committee also is working with DCS OCS on promoting the Child Abuse Studies training (CAST) program to higher education institutions. Allen also mentioned that committee member Lori Paisley was a presenter at the annual School Health Institute on "Keeping Kids Safe during COVID." At the event, Paisley shared information that DCS and the JTF have produced related to the prevention and intervention of child abuse and neglect.
- **Treatment:** Chair Jon Ebert reported the Committee focus is on building off existing work – for example, the CSEM: A Review of the Literature document and discussing ways in which they can disseminate the document.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2021

Vice President Pat Wade asked if any members had corrections or comments for the JTF March 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes. None voiced; minutes approved in the present form.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) and Nongovernment Organization (NGO) Sex Trafficking Partnership Presentation

Pierce Beckham, DCS OCS Deputy Senior Director of Investigations, began his presentation by talking about the legislation being proposed by the Tennessee General Assembly requiring DCS, the Human Trafficking Advisory Council, JTF, and Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to work together to develop a mechanism to identify and provide services to children involved with the juvenile justice system who have been

sexually abused or trafficked for commercial sex acts. Beckham went onto talk about the state advisory group working to address human trafficking. Beckham stated the Human Trafficking Advisory Council consist of representatives from DCS, TBI, Tennessee Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs Association as well as the Anti-Slavery Coalition. Beckham also stated the advisory council is in the stage of formulating a MOU and working with DCS legal staff to develop the document.

Beckham also talked about a 120 page report that was put out by the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the U.S. The report includes best practices and recommendations for states to improve their efforts to combat the sex trafficking of children and youth. The report contains twelve sections with recommendations to address the sex trafficking of children and youth in the U.S. Each section includes best practices for states to follow. For example, one section focus on training CPIT members on the goals, principles, and protocols of MDT collaboration and how to connect victims with resources with minimal technical barriers or miscommunications. The section related to housing require training for all staff of publicly funded housing programs on recognizing signs, risk factors, and dynamics of sex trafficking. Another example is related to judiciary, which requires all judicial personnel and courthouse employees to receive foundational training so that they are better able to identify and respond to cases involving children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking, as well as include information on the connection between sex trafficking and domestic violence.

Following Beckham's report, Dana Cobb shared with the group that she attended a human trafficking training earlier today offered by Natalie Ivey, Executive Director of Grow Tennessee, and Jamesena Walker of TBI. Cobb stated that approximately 500 people attended the virtual training. Cobb also suggested that DCS reached out to them for addressing some of the National Advisory Committee recommendations. Carla Snodgrass chimed in and told Beckham that the Department of Health CHANT program might be a good for addressing some of the National Advisory Committee recommendations.

Legislative Updates

DCS legislative liaison Drew Wright and his assistant, Jocelyn Young provided the following legislative updates:

- **SB205/HB200:** This bill expands the factors a court may consider in determining whether termination of parental rights is in the best interest of the child; clarifies

that the court is not required to consider all factors and may consider relevant factors other than those listed.

- **SB270/HB389:** This bill requires the DCS to require a person receiving financial assistance for adoption from the department to provide verification from the adopted child's current medical or mental health professional provider or verification of full-time school enrollment from the school the child attends.
- **SB327/HB384:** This bill enacts "Evelyn Boswell's Law," regarding the reporting of missing and endangered children.
- **SB644/HB1166:** This bill requires a foster care agency to provide a child in foster care with contact information for each sibling who is also in foster care and who is not placed in the same home as the child if maintaining contact with the sibling is in the best interests of each sibling.
- **SB722/HB139:** This DCS/Admin bill requires a foster care agency to provide a child in foster care with contact information for each sibling who is also in foster care and who is not placed in the same home as the child if maintaining contact with the sibling is in the best interests of each sibling.
- **SB723/HB62:** Also, a DCS Admin bill removes the adoption contact veto registry and revises other provisions governing adoption.
- **SB867/HB1377:** This bill enacts "Eli's Law," which creates a presumption that any child born to a parent, from whose custody a child has previously been removed for being dependent or neglected and the child who was previously removed is in the custody of the department of children's services, may be dependent or neglected and that it is in the best interest of both children that the child's birth be brought to the court's attention; enacts other related provisions.
- **SB1255/HB874:** This bill requires the caseworker for a child who has been placed in foster care to document any objection to the child's placement with a relative that is made by another relative or other interested party; requires the department of children's services to include the number of such objections in its annual report on foster care.
- **SB1337/HB1547:** This bill prohibits the department from requiring an individual or members of the individual's household to undergo an immunization as a condition of adopting or fostering unless the child is under 18 months of age or has significant documented medical needs that would necessitate the caregiver or members of the caregiver's household being immunized.
- **SB1530/HB417:** This bill adds to the definition of "severe child abuse" the act of knowingly allowing a child to be within a structure where a Schedule I controlled substance, cocaine, methamphetamine, or fentanyl is present and accessible to the child.

Breakout Meetings

Before the Committees' breakout meeting sessions, President Farrar gave instructions for the virtual breakout meetings. Farrar also asked the Chairs to submit their minutes to Toni Lawal, JTF coordinator by June 25.

The Committees' meeting discussions were as follows:

- **CPIT.** Chair Tom Miner reported the primary focus of the meeting was a discussion of the most recent draft of the CPIT Best Practice Manual, to include a discussion of changes that had been proposed and additional changes that were needed. Miner reported that Amy Koslick agreed to provide the members of the Committee with a copy of the most recent draft of the manual – also, it was agreed that the members would review the draft and submit proposed recommendations for changes and the reasons for said proposed changes to Koslick no later than the close of business on July 6th. Miner reported it was further agreed that Koslick would set up a Zoom Meeting so that members could discuss the proposed changes for July 20th at 2 PM CT.

Chair Miner reported there was also discussion regarding the development of guidelines for conducting pediatric forensic medical exams in an effort to promote a uniform and appropriate procedure for conducting these exams. Miner reported that Denise Alexander has developed some information on the topic which could be appropriate for inclusion in the best practice manual. Miner reported the information could be used as a checklist for medical providers in the appendix section of the best practice manual. Miner also reported that the Committee agreed that consideration should be given to circulating these guidelines to medical providers by other means as well.

Additionally, in furtherance of one of the Committee's state plan action steps, Chair Miner reported that Dr. Mary Palmer and Delaine Bottoms have been investigating vicarious trauma counselling resources that might be available to assist CPIT team members, if needed. Miner also reported it has come to the Committee attention that other JTF Committees or DCS may be working on similar projects and that an effort will be made to determine if this is the case and, if so, whether the CPIT Committee should seek to lend its support to other ongoing projects or end its efforts and rely on the work being performed by the other entity.

Court Improvement. Chair Kathy Sinback reported the meeting began with discussion of the Action Item #2 of Objective #4 in the state plan: “Research and establish training on the use of Immediate Protection Agreements (IPAs) in noncustodial cases, so DCS and juvenile courts are on the same page about how IPAs are supposed to work pursuant to applicable laws and policies; and make statutory and policy recommendations if needed.”

Chair Sinback also reported the Committee discussed the laws and policies relevant to IPAs in noncustodial cases. Sinback also reported the Committee reviewed a list of concerns about IPAs provided by judicial officers and CASA staff in Davidson County. Dr. Carrie Mason from the AOC was in attendance and will be providing technical assistance to the Committee on the IPA project. Dr. Mason reported she will have an intern assist the Committee by creating a survey to determine how IPAs are being handled in juvenile courts throughout the state. In addition, Sinback reported the Committee discussed the need for procedures that would allow judicial officers to grant temporary custody orders to third parties after the issuance of an IPA and prior to adjudication of the Dependency/Neglect case.

Chair Sinback reported the Committee then discussed the next steps in completing the children’s booklet on Dependency/Neglect proceedings. The Committee reviewed a formatted copy of the booklet that was produced by the AOC. Sinback reported Nichole Robinson of the Arts Commission is going to help develop youth art for the booklet. Sinback also reported the Committee felt it would be good if the art project could involve young people who have been through the foster care system. Nichole Robinson is going to reach out to Courtney Matthews with DCS to identify youth to work on the project.

In addition, Chair Sinback reported Dr. Carrie Mason stated the AOC is currently reviewing the Committee’s Pro Se Petition for Dependency/Neglect.

- **Outreach and Awareness.** Chair Sandra Allen reported the meeting began with introductions followed by discussion about TCCY campaign to reduce child abuse and neglect through community support. Dana Cobb agreed to forward the announcement regarding this initiative with the Committee.

Chair Allen also reported Rebecca Bevens gave an update on the survey sent to school child abuse coordinators in March regarding training interests and Erin’s law. Bevens began by sharing some of the concerns that led to the survey – for example, to determine whether schools were in compliance with the law Erin’s law. Bevens

reported 619 people responded to the survey. Also Allen reported the Committee agreed to hold a special meeting in July to discuss the survey findings.

Following the discussion about the survey, Chair Allen asked Bevans to give an update on FFPSA. Bevans reported that there are a few concerns related to FFPSA – for example, there is no financial support, limited resources and staff to provide high quality prevention work. Bevans also reported the Department would like to build more evidence-based programs in the FFPSA work. Carla Snodgrass chimed in and offered the assistance of the DOH to help with collecting information from DCS providers, sending the information to the clearinghouse, and helping guide next steps -<https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/program>. Bevans thanked Snodgrass and then stated a more coordinated system for families and learning more about CHANT would be helpful for DCS staff. Snodgrass noted that the programs used by DOH have already been approved by the clearinghouse.

Chair Allen also reported that the Committee discussed the delivery of child abuse and neglect trainings, particularly concerns related to the experiences of persons delivering the trainings. Billy Worsham, a former foster youth, offered his assistance for delivering trainings, especially where there is an opportunity for him to share his story as a former foster youth.

Chair Allen also reported the Committee discussed the following:

- supporting public schools with training;
 - following up with Lori Paisley of DOE about the number of required and recommended trainings for school staff.; and
 - updating DHS Keeping Kids curriculum for child care providers or considering an alternative curriculum, which would require approval by DHS.
- **Treatment Committee.** Chair Jon Ebert reported the meeting began with discussion about expanding work already done related to therapeutic practices and needed services for youth who have experienced CSE.
 - Obtain final copy from JTF coordinator Toni Lawal with graphic design cover.
 - Does the document need to go through a DCS approval process prior to dissemination?

- Timothy Cooper, DCS psychologist will meet with DCS OCS staff about disseminating the document to Centers of Excellence (COE) and to other best practices network.
- Consult with Lawal about avenues for dissemination.

Chair Ebert reported the Committee next step is to take “bite size” or “topic briefs” from the CSEM document to go into topics related to males, sub-populations, special sections, etc.

Chair Ebert also reported the Committee discussed developing a DCS document regarding Children with Sexual Behavior Problems that outlines appropriate language, types of assessment and interventions. Jacque Page suggested start with language. William Murphy agreed to review ATSA paper and Meta-Analysis Treatment Effectiveness.

- Language – terminology [non-technical]
- Assessment – specialized evaluation for children [vs Forensic/Psychosexual]
- Healthy Sexual Development
- Treatment
- Future Risk

Next steps: Committee members Page and Murphy will look into infographics or illustrations already established. Assess if information needs to be tailored to specific groups – for example, judges.