

**OHIO
2015 – 2017
CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT GRANT
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Eligibility Requirements

The following documents are attached:

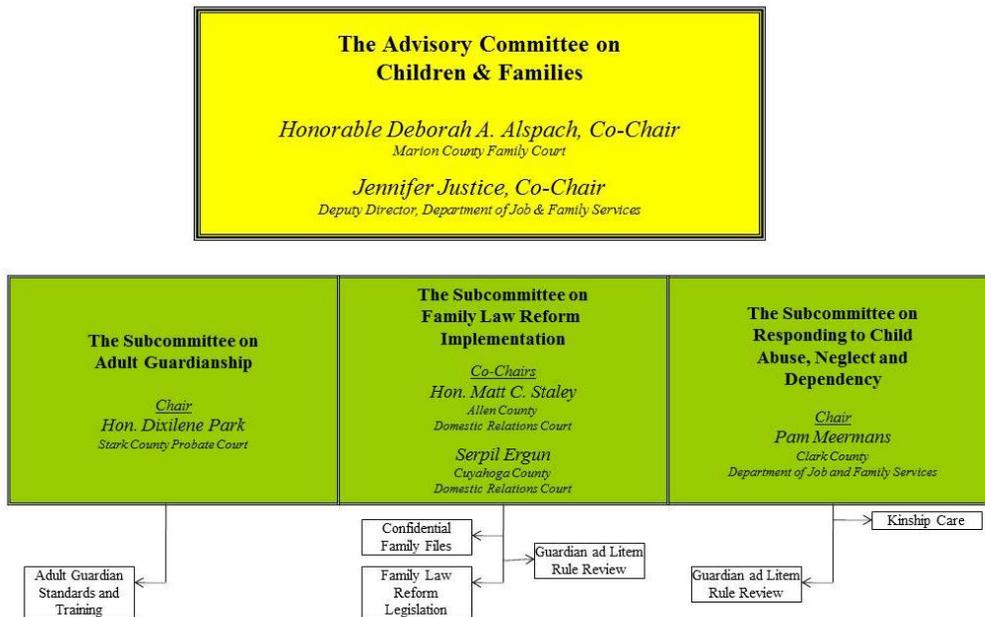
1. Letter of Assurance
2. Certification Regarding Lobbying
3. Task Force Roster Listing Membership and Designation

Information Related to How the Task Force Works Together

1. Structure

Ohio’s multidisciplinary task force that complies with the Children’s Justice Act (CJA) requirements set forth in Section 107 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) is established as a subcommittee under the Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO). This subcommittee, the Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency (CAND), functions under a standing Advisory Committee on Children and Families appointed by Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor.

2015 Table of Organization



The purpose of the advisory committee is to provide ongoing advice to the Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning the establishment and operation of programs for children and families in Ohio courts; the development and delivery of services to Ohio courts on matters involving children and families, including training programs for judges and court personnel; and, the consideration of any other issues the advisory committee deems necessary to assist the Court and its staff

regarding children and families in Ohio courts.

Work groups may be formed by CAND as deemed appropriate and necessary. The groups must be chaired by, and include a specified representation of, members of the subcommittee, but are encouraged to expand membership beyond CAND to secure diverse perspectives and experiences. Work groups may also independently appoint task teams to complete specified assignments. Three work groups and one task team specific to activities outlined in the subcommittee charge were functional over this past year:

1. Workgroup on Kinship Care
2. Workgroup on Guardians ad litem
3. Workgroup on Differential Response (Task Team on Differential Response Implementation)

Additionally, a CAND member served as liaison with the Ohio Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers specific to the human trafficking of minors.

CAND is jointly staffed by the CJA coordinator (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services) and SCO’s Court Improvement Program Coordinator. Research and support services are provided to CAND and workgroups through the Family and Youth Law Center (FYLAW), Capital University Law School (Columbus).



CAND Chair Pam Meermans



CAND members meet February 11th at SCO

2. Work Plan

CAND’s work is guided by the charge developed through vote of the subcommittee and approved by the advisory committee. Additional items that are consistent with the subcommittee’s charge may be referred for subcommittee consideration at any time. CAND has elected to complete work on existing tasks prior to initiating new projects; however, it will be using its Summer 2015 meeting to assess the findings of various documents, requests and assessments, including the CJA Three-Year Assessment to identify the areas on which it next wishes to focus. The revised charge will be presented to the Advisory Committee for approval summer 2015.

The 2014-2015 Charge to the Subcommittee that will be examined throughout this report:

1. Investigative, administrative and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect

- a. Provide advice and guidance for the establishment of a service provider network for child victims of human trafficking (Recommendation 9, Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force), which shall include a training component for first responders.
- b. Promote expanded and more effective youth engagement in court proceedings.
- c. Recommend procedures and possible rules to ensure that courts comply with statutory requirements for notice to foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers for court hearings.

2. Support of experimental, model and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques.

- a. Complete state-wide implementation of a Differential Response System in a manner that promotes fidelity to the tested model while allowing individual adaptation by counties of varied socioeconomic characteristics.
- b. Complete transition to Ohio-based training to full capacity, and fully implement the “Safe and Together” model for any county that wishes to implement this programming as an intimate partner violence intervention within a differential response framework.
- c. Support the state-wide development of Youth Advisory Boards as a means of promoting active youth voice as a component of state program development.

3. Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children

- a. Make statutory recommendations with regard to Kinship Care.
- b. Review and recommend revisions to Rule 48 of the Rules of Superintendence as related to juvenile application.

3. Meeting Frequency

CAND’s meetings are scheduled on the basis of need and intensity of the activities that are undertaken. Over the past year, CAND has moved from a monthly to quarterly schedule as the work load has been re-distributed from full membership to work groups.

The focus of full membership meetings has transitioned primarily to review and approval functions, with work increasingly parceled to time-limited and activity-specific work groups and task teams. In addition to offering enhanced opportunity for leadership and engagement by subcommittee members, this configuration establishes a pipeline for new membership. Workgroups and task teams specifically seek to expand participation to subject matter experts outside of Subcommittee membership. Workgroups and task teams are activity-specific and meet more frequently on an “as scheduled” basis.

4. Communication of Activities: Ohio Child Protection Law Reform Website

To effectively manage and communicate its work and to make resources that could benefit child welfare professionals and stakeholders publically available, the Subcommittee developed a project website, <http://www.ohiochildlaw.org>.

The website has been an effective tool for the Subcommittee this year, providing both public sub-sites for updating and highlighting new developments in the Subcommittee’s key initiative areas, as well as password-protected project management sections where the Subcommittee, its task groups, and key partners post drafts of working documents, meeting agendas, communications, and other project-related materials.

Each project’s private site contains a compendium of research and resources to guide the Subcommittee and task groups in the development of recommendations for enhancement to law, policy and practice. New this year (see below), are sections on the Guardian ad Litem Practice and Rule Review, Youth Engagement in Court Proceedings, Minor Victims of Human Trafficking, and Caregiver Notice and Right to be Heard project sub-sites.

In addition, the site also contains links to other websites of interest to child welfare stakeholders, including the Ohio Adoption Photo-listing, the Foster Youth Advocacy Center, and the Ohio’s Families and Children Rule Review Website.



The rule review website, <http://www.ohiorulereview.org/>, is a mechanism that the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) established to solicit ongoing stakeholder input on the administrative rules that govern Ohio’s child welfare programming. In the next state fiscal year (July 1st through June 30th), a function will be added for individuals to comment on rules not under active review. This can be used to inform and support Subcommittee work.

Investigative, Administrative and Judicial Handling of Child Abuse and Neglect

Minor Victims of Human Trafficking

CAND has assumed an oversight capacity in the development of a first responder network for minor victims of human trafficking. The Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers (ONCAC) was selected to initiate this task for a variety of reasons:

1. The effective functioning of a state-level membership office (Ohio Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers) that could:
 - a. Provide state-level representation.
 - b. Coordinate the work of Ohio’s children’s advocacy centers (CAC).
 - c. Oversee the implementation of established deliverables.
 - d. Develop appropriate financial distribution.
 - e. Establish an ongoing communication channel with each children’s advocacy center.
 - f. Respond to specific requests for information, expert identification, and other items.
2. Established relationships with essential community partners, such as medical, law enforcement, children service, prosecutorial and mental health entities.
3. Willingness to work in a team capacity.
4. Expertise in child and adolescent sexual abuse.
5. Affiliation with Ohio’s children’s medical centers.
6. Geographical disbursement.

A CAND member sits on the ONCAC Board of Directors and has been designated as the “Human Trafficking Liaison.”

As described in last year’s CJA report, the focus of the initial year was on the establishment of an infrastructure and ensuring that team members have essential skills and competencies. It was anticipated that this past year would transition to an enhanced focus on the systemic delivery of services to minor victims of human trafficking. It was planned that training topics would shift from issues of identification and intervention to issues of well-being. It became clear, however, that the initiative was better served by continuing to focus on establishing connections within the law enforcement and human trafficking communities, as well as offering ongoing educational opportunities that established a common definitional and philosophical framework.

The chart below indicates the CAC training provided to 5,746 people (community, partner staff and multidisciplinary team members) during each quarter of 2013-2014:

Training					
# of CAC Staff Trained	57	42	44	26	169
# of Community Trainings Provided	7	25	27	33	92
# of Community Members Trained	200	1072	1056	2890	5218
# of Partner Staff/MDT Members Trained	89	68	74	128	359

In response to CAC requests, this year’s CJA-sponsored training was offered as multiple, regional events, rather than as a single state-wide event. A sample of the training announcement is shown below:

Free Regional Training on Human Trafficking

The Ohio Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers is hosting a free training called “Human Trafficking: A Multidisciplinary Approach” in five regional locations. Presenter information is attached. Follow the links below to register for your region’s session.

March 24 Northwest Ohio (Findlay) | [Register Now!](#)
 March 25 Southeast Ohio (Cambridge) | [Register Now!](#)
 March 27 Northeast Ohio (Akron) | [Register Now!](#)
 May 20 Southwest Ohio (Cincinnati) | [Register Now!](#)
 May 22 Central Ohio (Columbus) | [Register Now!](#)





A composite evaluation is not available since two of the five sessions are to be held after the compilation of this report’s information; however, evaluations from March sessions are excellent and include excellent suggestions for future activities (available upon request).

Presenters at each session include:

1. Dr. Jeffrey Barrows (Director of Training, Hope for Justice).
2. Officer Ken Lawson (Law Enforcement Consultant).
3. Emily Dunlap (Greif Fellow in Human Trafficking at Ohio State University College of Law).

4. China Krys Darrington (Survivor).

It is the Subcommittee's intent to continue support of community collaboration through ongoing data collection, training and funding. As can be seen in the challenges and barriers listed below, the issues cited in last year's CJA report continue, although incremental progress is being cited on attitudinally-based barriers:

2014-2016 CJA Report Barriers

1. Reluctance of law enforcement –especially federal law enforcement-- to refer cases to CAC and public children services agencies (PCSA) for service provision out of fear that cases for prosecution will be compromised by service providers not trained in criminal complexities.
2. Conflict regarding CAPTA's requirements to notify alleged perpetrators and the extended time frames that may be involved in a broad-based investigation of a suspected human trafficking operation. Although this barrier remains, it has been alleviated through amendment to Ohio Administrative Rule that allows an extension for this population (still in CAPTA compliance).
3. A lack of understanding regarding the need to ensure that victims receive intervention services post criminal case closure.
4. A lack of appropriate placement options for minor victims of human trafficking.

2015-2017 CJA Report Barriers

This Information was gained through a focus group comprised of Ohio's CAC directors, and from calls with a representative collection of directors of agencies that have served victims over the past quarter:

1. Challenges in providing services for human trafficking victims as a result of HIPAA regulations (hospital-based CAC). This included a prohibition from being able to report to national hotline. Ohio is researching how other states have handled this issue.
2. Training. Specifically cited:
 - a. As much education as possible for multidisciplinary team members, especially law enforcement and courts.
 - b. Advanced and expanded forensic interviewing and technical assistance specific to minor victims of human trafficking.
 - c. Additional information on labor trafficking.
 - d. Rural versus urban case scenarios.
 - e. Move events from state- to regionally-offered.
 - f. Offer a broadened spectrum of topics, such as neurobiology of sexual assault and interviewing.
3. Challenge of shifting partners' view of minors from offender to victim, especially when prostitution charges are pending.
4. Reframing scenarios typically categorized as "abuse" or "neglect" to "trafficking," e.g., mom allowing sexual abuse of child for drugs/rent is human trafficking (higher criminal penalty).

5. Developing a relationship with the Ohio Peace Officers' Training Academy to better educate and collaborate with law enforcement. The existing training format --online-- is not the best way to educate or establish working relationships.
6. Lack of resources, especially housing and drug/alcohol counseling. Only available housing is secure detention. Detention policies may inhibit services for victims.
7. Need to establish local coalitions and task forces since they are not formed in all counties. Barrier is the scarcity of personnel, resources and services in smaller communities.
8. Need for collaboration among state-level partners to establish state-level policies that set expectation for practice of local law enforcement, children services, judiciary, and prosecutors.
9. Consider SACWIS enhancements to better capture data regarding cases, including ongoing services as well as intake.

ODJFS currently is working with representatives of ONCAC and the office of Governor John R. Kasich to develop a data collection application that more easily and accurately allows CACs to capture information regarding cases that come to their attention.

Youth Engagement in Court Proceedings

To conclude this charge (1.b), the Subcommittee compiled the work reported in earlier CJA reports into an online toolkit. It was presented to the Advisory Committee on Children and Families (Advisory Committee) for approval of content, as well as the plan to post the materials on the SCO website. The advisory committee conducted an independent review of the toolkit components and offered suggestions to enhance effectiveness. These suggestions were accepted by the Subcommittee. It is anticipated that the toolkit will be finalized by the end of June, 2015, and submitted to the SCO for adoption and posting. Also in development are training components on youth inclusion to be added to the Ohio Judicial College's training for judicial officers and Rule of Superintendence 48 guardian *ad litem* training.

Notice of Court Hearing to Foster Parents, Pre-Adoptive Parents, and Relative Caregivers

As discussed in previous CJA reports, the Subcommittee was charged (1.c) with ensuring that information --valuable to the judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect-- held by foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers be made accessible to courts. The work group examined statutory language granting the right to "present evidence," implying a formal, adversarial proceeding. A follow-up survey identified that a number of Ohio courts interpreted this to require that foster caregivers be subpoenaed. The work group concluded that the language and process could have a chilling effect on participation by caregivers and that, in many proceedings, a less formal means of providing relevant information to the court would be preferable. In addition, because Ohio law does not provide a process for how such notice is to be given, resulting in spotty compliance with the law, the workgroup established development of recommendations for statutory and/or administrative rule revisions as a priority.

In addition to looking at the function of the statute and how courts may more effectively and consistently ensure that notice is provided, the work group also considered strategies to support caregivers in providing meaningful and useful information to courts. Ohio caregivers were surveyed in relation to how they are notified on hearings, as well as the extent and substance of their participation in court proceedings. The review of this information was informed by research on notice and hearing process in other jurisdictions. It was determined that one of the most effective supports for caregivers would be the development of an information form that caregivers may complete and submit to the court either electronically or by mail. Such a form was developed and offered for comment to various stakeholder groups and caregivers. The form was revised pursuant to valuable suggestions offered in the review process.

In October 2014, the work group offered its final recommendations for changes to Ohio law and practice in this area. Recommendations included amendments to ORC 2151.424 aimed at making the law consistent with federal guidelines requiring that caregivers be given notice and the right to “be heard,” and at clarifying the caregivers to whom such notice should be given. The workgroup also recommended that an online toolkit be developed to include its draft model local rule and model notice to assist courts in providing notice to caregivers; a child placement form to track children’s placements; and, a “Caregiver Information Form” and associated information and directions to assist caregivers in providing information to the court about the children in their care.

The Advisory Committee reviewed the materials over a two month period and offered suggestions for additional materials and some modifications to proposed forms. Suggestions were incorporated and toolkit components were accepted by the Subcommittee early in 2015. The toolkit will be finalized and submitted to the SCO by the end of June 2015. Plans for implementing statutory change have been transitioned to SCO and ODJFS. The Subcommittee’s charge will be considered completed with the posting of the toolkit.

Experimental, Model and Demonstration Programs for Testing Innovative Approaches and Techniques

State-Wide Implementation of a Differential Response System

State-wide implementation of a Differential Response System was achieved July 1, 2014. A limited period of transition was provided to allow adequate planning for transfer of oversight. In January 2015, the Workgroup on Differential Response (Leadership Council) and Task Team on Differential Response Implementation transitioned to ODJFS for ongoing support and administration. The Subcommittee has completed this charge (2.a).

Intimate Partner Violence within a Differential Response Framework

Previous CJA reports have described the Ohio Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative (Collaborative), a partnership among CAND, ODJFS, Casey Family Programs, Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), Ohio Children’s Trust Fund, HealthPath Foundation of Ohio, and FYLaw. By forging community

partnerships that support a holistic response to intimate partner violence (IPV) within a differential response framework, the Collaborative aims to reduce trauma to, and removal of, children who are exposed to this form of violence.

2014-2015 Milestones

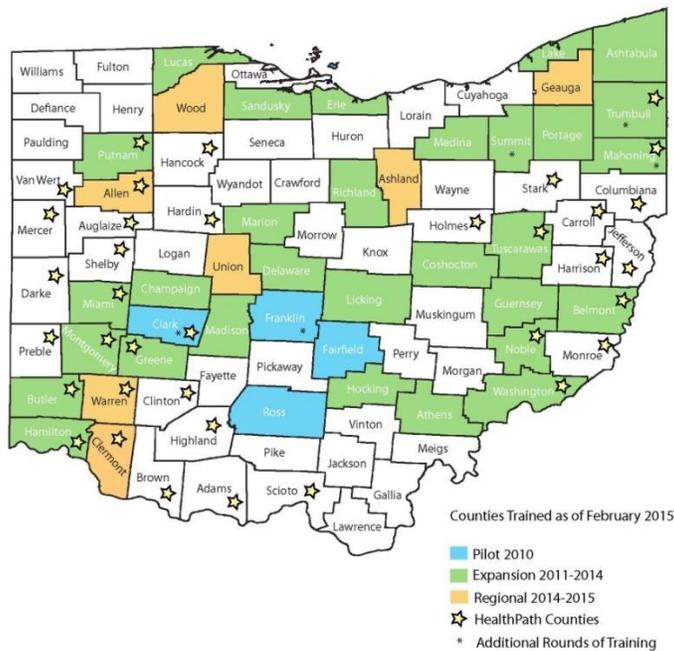
Training Expansion: Ohio continues the process of establishing an Ohio-based training process. Dave Mandel and Associates has maintained its support of 11 Ohio-based trainers through regular telephone conferences with project facilitators, conference calls to discuss training and practice issues, quarterly trainer meetings, and pre- and post-training discussions and documentation. All trainers complete a recertification process at the end of this fiscal year that will allow them to maintain certification through fiscal year 2016-2017. The process includes online testing, video observations, consultations, and performance reviews.

A total of 41 counties have completed the Safe and Together™ model training, seven of which completed the series this past fiscal year, and four of which repeated the foundational training days for new and untrained staff.

To be selected, counties must:

1. Have experience in differential response implementation.
2. Express interest in, and full commitment to, the entire training.
3. Meet logistical criteria that allow for greater efficiency in training smaller counties.
4. Commit to providing feedback on the trainers and training experience through post-training evaluations.

Ohio Counties Trained in *Safe and Together*™



Current efforts focus on building supervisory capacity, reviewing implementation strategies, and planning additional training support opportunities.

Work Plan: Ohio's post-training support includes conference calls, webinars, and regional advanced practice trainings. Additionally, four regional judicial meetings were held for juvenile court judges and their assembled teams to learn about the model and its implementation.

Planning Group Activities: The Statewide IPV Planning Group completed the Model Community Response Protocol on Children Exposed to Domestic Violence, encouraging its use in daily practice. Planning Group members reconvened in April to make revisions based upon training participant and partner feedback.

Additional Project Support: Specialized technical assistance (TA) and readiness assessment through ODVN is funded by the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio and ODJFS. County children services agencies and their community partners have taken advantage of a menu of TA activities aimed at increasing model fidelity and strengthening partnerships across systems.

Justice System Partners: On Jan. 16, 2015, Supreme Court of Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor invited each Ohio juvenile court judge to attend one of four regional trainings on Ohio's Safe and Together™ model taking place in April and May. Judges also were asked to identify and lead a county team of three additional justice system partners with the vision and ability to effect change in the lives of children exposed to domestic violence. Justice system partners could be guardians *ad litem*, custody evaluators, court-appointed special advocates, prosecutors, defense attorneys, family law practitioners, child protective services staff, child advocacy center representatives or supervised visitation center staff. During these events, participating teams hear from Safe and Together™ model creator David Mandel on how courts can promote positive outcomes for children exposed to domestic violence. Attendees also hear from a panel of practitioners and experts who share their experiences implementing Safe and Together™ in their communities. Teams conclude the training by designing their own practical, community-specific strategies.

To read more about Ohio's work to address IPV within a differential response framework, see <http://jfs.ohio.gov/PFOF/PDF/FF-20150206.stm> (*First Friday*, February 6, 2015). The Subcommittee will continue to support rollout of Safe and Together™ through June 30, 2017; all counties that voluntarily select to implement the model will have been fully trained and supported through initial implementation. In 2016, the first year of this two-year commitment, five cohorts will be trained.

Promoting Active Youth Voice

CAND actively promotes integrating the voices of youth who have experienced foster care into local and state-level decision-making. Believing that traditional methods of professional outreach are not sufficiently effective alone, CAND supports state-level (OYAB) and local Youth Advisory Boards (YAB). These boards provide youth the opportunity to develop as leaders, acquire professional skills,

including organizational and public speaking, and to recognize that, as individuals, they have both the capacity to affect their own future and the responsibility to do so for those who follow behind them. These boards provide a venue for youth to formulate their ideas and thoughts and to present them to decision-makers in appropriate venues. Correspondingly, child welfare professionals, policy makers, and other stakeholders benefit from the thoughtful insight that youth contribute, and from the accessibility of the boards as a resource. This activity will transition to full state funding at the conclusion of this fiscal year, June 30, 2015. The Subcommittee will have completed this charge (2.c).

OYAB has established six areas of focus within its 2014 Strategic Plan:

1. Outreach and Policy.
2. Transitional Housing.
3. Education.
4. Youth Voice in Court.
5. Independent Living.
6. Workforce Development.

It is important to note: the Subcommittee's charge regarding this initiative is *not* linked to the specific products or recommendations generated through OYAB's strategic plan. CAND's charge was to support the development of a leadership pipeline which prepared youth for effective participation, and encouraged the integration of youth voice, in the development of state laws, regulations, protocols and procedures that are developed to provide comprehensive protection on their behalf.

Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children

Addiction: Families that Appear Before Ohio's Juvenile Courts

Like many other states, Ohio has struggled with an increasing frequency of children coming to the attention of the child welfare and judicial systems because of the opiate use of parents and caretakers. To encourage the development of local protocols and plans for addressing this issue, the Judicial Symposium on Addiction and Child Welfare will be held June 23, 2015 in Columbus. This free, day-long event will build on the success of last year's Ohio Judicial Symposium on Opiate Addiction, when almost 900 local officials and stakeholders representing 83 counties convened. Many who attended last year's event continue to implement the plans they developed to address opiate and heroin addiction. Rather than the legal symposium originally set aside in CJA, it was determined that this time would be better dedicated to an event that focused on the intersection of addiction and child welfare, and the effective collaboration among child welfare and treatment agencies and the judiciary.

This symposium will examine issues surrounding addiction as they relate to parents and caretakers involved in child welfare cases. In advance of the event, juvenile judges have been asked to convene county teams of up to four child welfare, behavioral health and judicial professionals whose work directly impacts families who come to the attention of courts because of substance abuse. Teams will

hear from state and national experts and discuss how to apply what they learn at the local level. Participants will be asked to identify core local needs and limitations, steps they can take to support their community partners' work, and resolve conflicting demands.

The symposium will be hosted by the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, SCO, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, ODJFS and Public Children Services Association of Ohio. Although not yet adopted as a Subcommittee charge, CJA dollars are being used to support speaker costs. The day is intended to help each player better understand the others' role, as well as the actions each could take to make the others more effective in their support of families:

June 23rd Draft Agenda

Welcome and Introductions
Cheri L. Walter, OACBHA

Remarks from OhioMHAS
Tracy Plouck, Director

Lived Experience in the Child Welfare System
China Krys Darrington

Child Welfare Specialist Keynote
Sylvia Deporto, Family and Children's Services (San Francisco)

Team Planning and Case Study Video

Addiction Specialist Keynote
Carol Ackley, River Ridge Treatment Center

Remarks from ODJFS
Cynthia Dungey, Director

Team Planning and Case Study Video

Judicial Specialist Keynote
The Honorable Patricia Clark, Retired Judge

Team Planning and Case Study Video

What's Working Around Ohio
Doreen Britt, Helping Ohio Parent Effectively
Dr. Nancy Young, Children Family Futures
The Honorable Connie Zimmelman, Lucas County Juvenile Court
Dustin Mets, CompDrug

Team Planning

Remarks from the Supreme Court of Ohio
Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

CAND is examining specific activities to support the development and implementation of local action plans that address this issue in a multidisciplinary model.



JUDICIAL SYMPOSIUM
on Addiction & Child Welfare

Guardian Ad Litem Rule and Practice Review Initiative

Prompted in part by recommendations for improvement to guardian *ad litem* practice put forth in a 2013 report published by Ohio's Attorney General, the Subcommittee elected to review Ohio's laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols that relate to guardians *ad litem* (GALs). It was decided to focus on Ohio Rule of Superintendence 48 which establishes the requirements for the appointment and oversight of Ohio's GALs. This rule, and the ongoing training offered through the Ohio Judicial College, were the products of (prior) Task Force recommendations and CJA-supported work.

In May 2014, the Subcommittee assembled a task group to carry out this critical work. Between May and September 2014, the task group conducted comprehensive national research on laws and rules governing GAL practice, including such things as mandatory requirements for investigation and reporting, systems of governance, accountability, performance evaluation processes, complaint and grievance procedures, management of conflicts of interest, immunity issues, compensation, and appointment practices. Research also focused on Ohio-specific practice, including state law and SCO rules, case law, and ethics opinions. Finally, promising strategies and resources from state and national partner organizations such as the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, states' GAL programs, and state and national CASA associations were identified and reviewed.

Informed by the preliminary research, the task group began an intensive review of Rule of Superintendence 48. Between September 2014 and April 2015, the task group formulated recommendations for amendments to the rule to provide for practice enhancements such as additional preliminary and ongoing training hours, mandatory investigation and reporting requirements, clarification of courts' responsibilities in relation to GAL appointment, evaluation, and complaint processes, elimination of dual appointment of GALs to represent children's best interests and children's wishes, and standardized reporting requirements.

The task group began stakeholder research and information gathering concurrently with its review of Rule 48. Research activities included development and dissemination of stakeholder surveys for practicing GALs, court personnel, and attorneys who interact with GALs. Surveys were distributed to organizations, including Ohio CASA, Ohio GAL associations, Ohio juvenile judges, for distribution to their memberships, and to individual GALs and attorneys. To date, over 700 responses have been registered. The task group plans to conduct focus groups and interviews with representatives of the above groups, as appropriate, and to seek additional input from youth advisory groups and parents.

The task group plans to submit draft recommendations to the Advisory Committee by June 2015 for review, comment, and revision. Upon acceptance by that group, the recommended Rule 48 amendments will be submitted for approval through SCO's review and comment process. Work will be initiated on an online toolkit for courts, GALs and other stakeholders to assist practice on local and individual levels. The toolkit will contain such items as a model GAL local rule template, report forms, sample grievance procedures, suggestions for recruitment of pro bono GAL representation, model appointment orders for various types of GAL appointments, and sample evaluation forms and processes.

Prior Year Budget Expenditure Line Item

Over this past year, Children's Justice Act dollars supported the following activities:

1. Statewide multidisciplinary team training to improve case investigation and prosecution of human trafficking of minor victims.
2. Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative county expansion and sustainability.
3. ODJFS and SCO collaborations:
 - a. Research and staffing for CAND and various workgroups.
 - b. Judicial College course development.
 - c. Revision to the Dependency Docket Bench Cards for Judges and Magistrates (also provision to all children services agency attorneys).
4. 2015 Judicial Symposium on Addiction and Child Welfare.
5. Ohio Youth Advisory Boards (state and local).
6. Attendance at federally initiated Children's Justice Act meeting.

Proposed Activities/Applications

Description of proposed activities for the upcoming year: Ohio will use Federal Fiscal Year 2015 - 2017 Children Justice Act monies to focus on the Task Force's recommendations to:

1. Fully implement a system for responding to intimate partner violence within a differential response framework.
2. Provide continued research, communication and support services to the Task Force and its workgroups. This includes continued review of CAND's three-year assessment to identify new areas on CAND interest.
3. Support implementation of new county-based services, processes and protocols that are designed to coordinate interventions on behalf of families who come to the attention of the child welfare and judicial systems and who experience addiction.
4. Provide enhanced multidisciplinary training regarding the well-being of minor victims of human trafficking.
5. Maintain compliance with eligibility criteria and ensure adequate administration of Children's Justice Act programming.

Intimate Partner Violence

1. Proposed activities:

It is projected that approximately five additional regional cohorts will complete the Safe and Together™ training by June 30, 2016. Ohio will continue to coordinate:

- a. County training activities.
- b. Work of the Statewide Planning Group.
- c. Oversight of trainer activities.
- d. Collaboration with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.

- e. Distribution and application of the Statewide Planning Group’s model community response protocol.
- f. Communication activities.

DMA will continue to work closely with the certified Safe and Together™ Ohio trainers and members of the Collaborative to ensure that the delivery of Safe and Together™ training to county child welfare agencies and their community partners maintains model fidelity. DMA also will provide sustainability support to Ohio trainers that includes:

- a. Recertification opportunities.
- b. Webinars, conference calls, and advanced in-person trainings.
- c. Technical assistance.
- d. Periodic telephone conferences.
- e. In-person meetings.

These funds support activities to:

- a. Administer and oversee the Ohio Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative.
- b. Ensure that county child welfare staff and local partners have the necessary skills and competencies to effectively implement the Safe and Together™ model while maintaining child safety.
- c. Defray associated county costs through the allocation of program stipends to cover reproduction of instructional materials, county site logistics, or stakeholder participation.
- d. Support participation of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network in counties not associated with, or included in, the catchment area of the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio.

2. How these activities reform State systems:

Ohio’s Intimate Partner Collaborative is implementing a significant shift in how communities address child maltreatment when intimate partner violence is a factor within the home. This approach moves from a short-term, segmented, and crisis-based reaction to a holistic, community partnership approach which focuses on the long-term safety of the child while holding caregivers accountable.

The Collaborative is coordinating a sustainability plan over the next two years, which aims to promote internal capacity for model implementation and increased use of in-state expertise in model practices.

Task Force Research, Communication and Support

1. Proposed activities:

Funds will be used to finalize and close out the work of CAND as described throughout this application. The activities of CAND historically are long-term, systemic reform initiatives which extend over multiple years. Since the majority of currently active activities are set for a June 2015 completion, CAND has elected to focus on completion of the activities of its existing

charge (pages 4-5) in order to provide a final report to the Advisory Committee at its summer 2015 meeting. At that time it will identify its new recommendations and areas of focus. Two areas have been targeted for carryover (recommendations) that will be presented to the Advisory Committee in CAND's proposed new charge: human trafficking education and development of county-based approaches to IPV within a differential response framework. Throughout summer 2015, CAND will continue its review of the three-year assessment and other reports and recommendations assembled by aligned work groups to identify activities for future focus. It is expected that the replacement of any expiring membership terms or unaddressed needs will be affected by the nature of the newly designated charge, so this administrative function also will be informed by CAND's summer work.

2. How these activities reform State systems:

The research and support activities of CAND document and provide the foundational basis for CAND's work to implement CAND's systemic change recommendations.

Child Welfare, Courts and Addiction

1. Proposed activities

CAND will support local efforts to coordinate services and protocols on behalf of families where there is substance abuse or addiction, and who come to the attention of the judicial and child welfare systems. CJA funds will build upon the Ohio Judicial Symposium on Addiction described on pages 14 and 15 in three ways:

- a. Discretionary and time-limited support of the community action plans developed at the symposium.
- b. Competitively awarded support of model programs that evolve from action plans.
- c. Competitively awarded support of programs that enhance services and reach of family drug courts.

2. How these activities reform State systems:

Like Ohio's earlier collaborative events, the Ohio Summits on Children (<http://www.summitonchildren.ohio.gov/>), this symposium has been designed to combine educational sessions on topics that impact outcomes for families and children with community-planning opportunities that apply the presented knowledge. These funding opportunities are intended to promote sustainability of planning, and transition from an event-based educational opportunity to a long-range action initiative. County teams will be monitored on progress of implementation of the steps that are developed on-site. This activity encourages the development of multi-system, county-based solutions that are supported by state-level policy and collaboration.

Well-Being of Minor Victims of Human Trafficking

1. Proposed activities:

An additional two years of state funding is being allocated to continue the development of a multi-system, first responder system for minor victims of human trafficking. State funding has

been allocated for services to victims and the establishment of infrastructure. CJA funds are being allocated to continue an educational focus on the establishment of relationships and connections, and the development of recognition, reporting and investigation skills. Focus will be on regionally-offered activities.

2. How these activities reform State systems:

This educational opportunity will help community teams better understand the unique intervention and treatment needs of minor victims of human trafficking, post-investigation and conviction. This training will improve communities' readiness and assessment activities, and help identify the gaps in service –including appropriate placements—and needs for resource development.

Children's Justice Act Administration

1. Activities:

Funds will be used to suppose the expenses associated with participation in at least one federally-initiated Children's Justice Act meeting.

2. How these activities reform State systems:

This activity is a required eligibility criterion for states' receipt of Children's Justice Act funding.