

State of Missouri

Task Force on Children's Justice

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Establishment and Maintenance of Task Force (Sections 107(b)(2) and 107(c)(1) of the Act)

The Missouri 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, reviews policy, and tracks and evaluates proposed legislation.

In 2022, the Task Force maintained twenty-one members, each serving a term of four years and may serve a consecutive three terms. Below are the names, titles, designations of disciplines, and brief descriptions of the relevant experience of the Task Force members that participated in 2022.

<p>Leanne Reese (Court Appointed Special Advocate Representative)</p>	<p>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>
<p>Kelly Schultz (Parent Representative)</p>	<p>Kelly Schultz is the Director of the Policy and Partnerships for the Missouri State Alliance of YMCAs. Previously, Kelly was the Child Advocate for the State of Missouri for ten years and spent twelve years working in the Missouri State Capitol. 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>Danielle Corley (Child Protective Service Agency Representative) Resigned December 2022 due to change in job duties and appointment to Deputy Director with the Children’s Division</p>	<p>Danielle Corley was 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 Business Administration degree. Judge Harvey began a private practice and in 1986 was</p>

	<p>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 Missouri Juvenile Officer Performance Standards. Rick has a passion and commitment to the important work that impacts Missouri's youth and families.</p>
<p>Greg Holtmeyer (Adult Former Child 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 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) Co-Chair</p>	<p>Christopher Jensen is a partner at Baylard, Billington, Dempsey, Jensen, Struzzi & Piontek, 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</p>

	<p>Franklin County over the past 20+ 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. He also serves as an elected member of the Union Ambulance District Board of Directors.</p>
<p>Judge Leslie Schneider (Circuit Judge) Resigned at the end of 2022 due to retirement from the bench.</p>	<p>Leslie Schneider was 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>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 23rd 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</p>

	<p>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 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>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 Disabilities)</p>	<p>Stacey Goodwin has been with the Department of Mental Health (DMH)/Division of Developmental Disabilities for 28 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</p>

	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) Co-Chair	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)	Russell 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)	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

	<p>Psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She provides state-wide training, consultation, and technical 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>
<p>Dr. Tanya Burrell (Health Professional) Resigned due to moving out of the country in May 2022</p>	<p>Dr. Tanya Burrell has been a child abuse and neglect pediatrician at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, since 2013. Prior to becoming part of faculty staff at Children’s Mercy, Dr. Burrell completed medical school at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, a 3-year general pediatrics residency at Hope Children’s Hospital and a 3-year subspecialty training in child abuse and neglect pediatrics at Children’s Mercy Hospital. Dr. Burrell has participated in various research projects focusing on the improvement of the evaluation of children with injuries. Dr. Burrell serves on the Board of Directors for Sunflower House, which is an accredited child advocacy center in Shawnee, Kansas. She is also a board member of Violence Free Kansas City, which serves to reduce exposures to violence and trauma and increase utilization of supportive resources within the Jackson County area. She serves as a multi-disciplinary team member to effectively communicate medical findings of the children she has evaluated to investigative agencies. Dr. Burrell regularly provides education to various learners including other physicians, nurses, and medical students.</p> <p>One of Dr. Burrell’s areas of focus within the field of child abuse and neglect pediatrics is on prevention. She currently oversees the ACT Program. The ACT Program is a positive parenting program developed by the American Psychological Association that focuses on reducing parents’ use of physical punishment, increasing parents’ nurturing behaviors, and increasing parents’ knowledge base of normal child development. Working closely with various head start programs, elementary schools, and Children’s Division workers within the</p>

	Jackson County area, Dr. Burrell has been able to provide this service for hundreds of families and help empower caregivers to create safe and nurturing homes.
Shelly Shugart (Child Advocate)	Shelly (Graf) Shugart has worked for the Missouri Department of Corrections for 26 years. She is currently the Planning and Grants Manager in the Office of the Director. She spent approximately 16 years as a field Probation and Parole Officer specializing in supervision of sex offenders. Shelly worked closely with law enforcement and the courts during that time, having been a court liaison for most of those 16 years. She is currently a Board member of Child Safe of Central Missouri, a non-profit organization that conducts forensic interviews for child abuse cases in Central Missouri. She is also President of Cancer Perks, a non-profit providing services to cancer patients in Pettis and Saline Counties.
Terrie Martin (Law Enforcement Community— Probation and Parole) Resigned due to changing of job roles in December 2022	Terrie Martin launched her career with the State of Missouri in 1997, when she became a Youth Specialist with the Division of Youth Services. After serving a year in this capacity, Terrie accepted a position as a Field Probation and Parole Officer with the Department of Corrections. Terrie was a Probation and Parole Officer for 18 years and supervised domestic violent offenders as well as sexual offenders. In 2016, Terrie accepted a promotion to the position of Corrections Training Officer where she was able to teach new Probation and Parole Officers as well as other new employees for the Department of Corrections. In 2019, Terrie promoted to her current position as Probation and Parole Staff Development Manager. Terrie currently supervises eight Probation and Parole Safety Trainers throughout the state. In addition, she organizes new staff training for the Division of Probation and Parole. Terrie is an active member of her parish and is a mother of two wonderful boys in the Jefferson City area.
Lindsey Parton (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))	Lindsey Parton, MSW, LCSW, began her career in social work over 14 years ago while employed as a Community Support Specialist. She grew to love the ever-changing environment and welcomed the challenges and successes of the field, which led her to her current position. Lindsey serves as a District Social Worker for Marshall Public Schools in Marshall, MO. She enjoys working with students and families and has a targeted focus on assisting those who are living in McKinney-Vento educationally defined homeless situations. Lindsey has a community-integrated approach, building partnerships and involvement with many groups and organizations. She has served as a board member for the Community

	<p>Food Pantry, Pinwheels for Prevention (Child Abuse Prevention), the Saline County Inter-Agency Council, as well as co-founded a non-profit homeless shelter for young women. Lindsey currently serves on the board for the Mental Health Association of Saline County, and the Saline County Holiday Project. She received her Master’s in Social Work from the University of Missouri-Columbia and in 2017, became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She opened her own counseling practice in 2022 to help better serve her community.</p>
<p>Dr. Terra Frazier (Health Professional)</p>	<p>Dr. Frazier is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Childhood Adversity and Resilience at Children’s Mercy Hospital/ University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri. She completed medical school at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, followed by residency and fellowship at Children’s Mercy Hospital. She is board certified in General Pediatrics and Child Abuse Pediatrics. Dr. Frazier works full time in the field of Child Abuse Pediatrics both inpatient and outpatient, providing care that encompasses the full range of child abuse pediatrics. She serves on numerous multi-disciplinary teams related to child protection in Kansas and Missouri, including past appointment to the Attorney General of KS Human Trafficking Task Force, current appointment to the MO State Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board, participation on CAC advisory boards, county MDT review panels and the MO State Child Fatality Review Panel. These experiences have allowed her to participate in building partnerships among multidisciplinary team members increasing the ability to improve outcomes for the children of Missouri.</p>
<p>The Honorable Tracy Gonzalez (Family Court Judge)</p>	<p>Judge Tracy Z. Gonzalez was elected to the Boone County Court in 2018 as an Associate Circuit Judge over Division IX. Division IX handles juvenile (abuse and neglect and delinquency), criminal and order of protection (adult and child) dockets. Judge Gonzalez is a graduate of the Saint Louis University, School of Law, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of Wisconsin.</p>
<p>Jerilyn “JJ” Gossrau (Mental Health Professional)</p>	<p>JJ Gossrau, MSW, LCSW, Director of Young Adult Services at the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH), coordinates the development and implementation of statewide initiatives, policies, and procedures under the Director of Children’s Services for the Department of Mental Health. Prior to her current role, Ms. Gossrau provided clinical coordination for</p>

	<p>Community Operations in the Division of Behavioral Health, and worked as a residential social worker providing individual, group, and family therapy to young people and their families at Hawthorn Children’s Psychiatric Hospital. She has also provided evidence based fidelity services for Integrated Treatment as a Research Specialist at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health. Her professional interests include effectively supporting young adults in transition, social and educational inclusion for youth and young adults with disabilities and early identification and intervention for youth and young adults experiencing early signs and symptoms of mental illness, with a special focus on early psychosis. She earned a Bachelor Degree at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan and a Master Degree in Social Work with an emphasis on mental health and non-profit management at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.</p>
<p>Pinkie Maxell (Child Protection Agency)</p>	<p>Pinkie Maxwell is a Field Support Manager for the Children’s Division in the St. Louis Region. Ms. Maxwell supervises the child abuse and neglect units in St. Louis City and County. She has worked for the Children’s Division for 20 years.</p>
<p>Aimee Meyer (Social Worker/Child Advocate)</p>	<p>Aimee Meyer is a Community Advocate-Juvenile Justice with Centene (Show Me Healthy Kids with Home State Health). She graduated with a BSW from MacMurray College in 1996 and an MSW with a concentration in Children, Families and Youth from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in 2000. She is currently working towards an MBA in Healthcare Administration from the University of Central Missouri. Aimee was previously a Deputy Juvenile Officer II with the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court in both Child Protection and Domestic Relations as a Divorce Mediator. Aimee was also a Child Protection Specialist with the State of Illinois. Aimee is a former licensed foster parent with the State of Missouri and has two adopted children from the Missouri foster care system.</p>

Statement of Needs

The Task Force on Children’s Justice (Task Force) is responsible for providing stable, flexible, and ongoing funding to support efforts to improve the investigative approach and response to child abuse and neglect. 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

Recruitment Committee

The Recruitment Committee is responsible for monitoring the Children’s Justice Act’s (CJA) membership to ensure it consists of a minimum of twenty-one members and represents the required disciplines as specified in Section 107(c)(1) of the Act. The Missouri Task Force achieved full membership in 2022. There were a number of retirements and job duty changes at the end of 2022, so four new members were recruited and were approved for membership in March 2023.

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

The committee was formed to assist the Task Force in maintaining focus on the goals the Task Force has identified through last year’s Three-Year Assessment, as well as reviewing the annual report to ensure that the Task Force is aligning grant funding and efforts with statutory requirements.

Based on the Three-Year Assessment, the following recommendations were made to the Task Force:

1. Seek out and fund opportunities that address the most requested content outlined in the Three-year assessment.
 - The Missouri Task Force is committed to seeking out opportunities to fund and assist in advocating for further trainings that were identified by multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) in the Three-Year Assessment such as advanced advocacy training, basic MDT functioning, basic child abuse training, child death

investigation, cultural humility, and MDT roles in child abuse investigation. The Task Force will support these efforts as they support the requirements listed in Category A.

2. Work with grantees to improve communication efforts to increase reach across the state and disciplines. Encourage grantees to share marketing and communication strategies with one another and leverage each other's networks to share opportunities. The Task Force could also look into creating a shared distribution list or website with information about CJA-funded opportunities and the links to register.
 - The MO Task Force sees the opportunity they have to assist in enhancing the effective investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of cases across the state. By reaching out to not only our grantees but to each of the disciplines that are included in the Task Force, we can better communicate what assistance we can provide. This supports each of the categories (A, B, and C). The Task Force is committed to collaborating across disciplines of mental health, law enforcement, court staff, and our legislators in hopes to connect with those entities that might not be aware of how the Task Force could assist their initiatives and also provide support for law reform in Missouri.
3. Partner with state and local law enforcement leaders to learn how to better engage law enforcement professionals. The Task Force could conduct a focus group with law enforcement professionals to learn more about their specific barriers to participation and training needs.
 - The investigation starts with the Children's Division and Law Enforcement. Cross-training could be nothing but beneficial to these two crucial disciplines in investigating child abuse and neglect. This supports Category A.
4. Work with grantees and partner organizations to better understand why participation is lower in rural counties and how it could be bolstered. Explore the ideas generated in this evaluation, including additional scholarships and virtual opportunities.
 - We have found numerous training needs in the rural areas of Missouri. Missouri is a large state and most of it is rural. More populated areas of the state have more training closer training opportunities as well as more resources. Identifying ways to get the rural disciplines better training opportunities in the area of child abuse and neglect supports Category A.
5. Prioritize conference and training opportunities that include aspects that attendee's value, outlined in the Three-year assessment. See Appendix B.
 - Seeking out and supporting training opportunities as identified in the Three-Year Assessment supports Category A, B, and C as supporting identified opportunities could reach any of the three categories depending on the need of the grantee.

The Task Force has been working with a consultant, With Insight, throughout 2022. With Insight has been conducting stakeholder surveys and focus groups to develop a strategic plan to update the grant application process and attract new potential grantees to apply for Children's Justice Act Task Force Grant monies based on survey results. The collaboration with With Insight will continue throughout 2023.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee held discussions and scoring via e-mail on grant applications and presented recommendations for funding to the full Task Force at the quarterly meetings. The primary focus of the Task Force is to support trainings and conferences that can enhance the

collaborations and knowledge of the numerous multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) across the state. The Finance Committee will also be working with the Goal Committee to enhance the grant application and process in 2023.

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee had discussed filming a video highlighting the Children's Division's programs. Instead, the Children's Division did a multipart series where different aspects of their role, as well as members of the MDT's roles, were explained. Key legislators and their staff attended the WebEx presentations throughout 2022. In 2022, the Legislative Committee followed legislation and updated Task Force members on the status of legislation. Members of the MDT represented on the Task Force had conversations about the impact of bills on investigations and prosecution as well on their own specific professional roles in order to facilitate communication and collaboration among the professionals in responding to proposals. Each member of the Task Force was encouraged to speak with their legislator about their role and the function of MDTs in child welfare.

Critical Events Committee

The Critical Events Committee did not meet in 2022. There was anticipation of a larger role for the Task Force in a more state-wide critical event review. This has recently been discussed again and the Task Force will be meeting with Missouri's Child Fatality Review Panel and the Children's Division's Critical Events Coordinator on how to better coordinate a holistic review that will include the three entities. The Task Force will oversee the logistical coordination of the reviews as well as have members participate in the reviews.

Project Impacts and/or Progress

In 2022, the Task Force continued examining areas in need of improvement, including multi-disciplinary team collaboration.

Missouri KidsFirst, with funding from the Children's Justice Act, is coordinating a multi-year Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Initiative to improve the MDT response to child abuse by increasing the capacity and coordination of MDTs. This will improve effective team functioning statewide and increase access to services for children impacted by abuse. Missouri KidsFirst spent the fall of 2022 gathering data to inform the strategic plan for the initiative. This included listening sessions with over thirty MDT stakeholders, an MDT Assessment that was completed by over three hundred MDT members, focus groups and a follow up survey to generate key learnings to inform the strategic plan. A full report from the MDT Assessment survey along with key findings were published in January 2023 and will inform the final strategic plan that is to be completed in March 2023. Activities from the strategic plan will be piloted in the spring of 2023.

Linkage to CFSR/CFSP:

The Children's Division's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) Coordinator, JoDene Bogart, updated the Task Force on Round Four of the CFSR at the quarterly meeting in December 2022. Round 4 of the CFSR and will be beginning in July-September 2023. Missouri has opted for a traditional review which will bring a team in to Missouri to complete the review. The CFSR uses a statewide assessment using case-level reviews and interviews with key stakeholders and partners. Task Force members played a role with stakeholder interviews that were completed in spring/summer 2022. Ms. Bogart discussed that she was planning focus groups for early 2023. A critical demographic to attend the focus

groups were natural parents and foster parents that have been involved with the Children's Division through child abuse and neglect reports or foster care. To better assist travel costs for these participants to attend the focus groups in Jefferson City, Missouri, the Task Force suggested that Ms. Bogart submit a grant request for funding for the offset of travel costs. The Task Force also assisted Ms. Bogart in recruiting community members across disciplines to participate in the focus groups.

During the weeks of February 27 and March 6, 2023, there were opportunities for community partners to meet with Children's Division staff and other child welfare stakeholders and talk about the child welfare system in Missouri. During these sessions, data was used to guide the conversations, talk about the positive aspects of the child welfare system as a whole in Missouri, and take a look at where improvements are needed. Half-day sessions were scheduled by topic throughout the two weeks in late February and early March. Task Force members in attendance included co-chairs Lisa Mizell and Chris Jensen and Task Force Coordinator Cari Pointer. Ms. Bogart used the approved Task Force grant funds to reimburse foster and adoptive parents for their travel costs to participate in the focus groups and will also be using any remaining funds to reimburse the foster and adoptive parents to attend the CFSR Stakeholder interviews in July 2023.

Task Force member 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. Recommendations are then taken back to the CFSR Advisory Committee. The purpose of this collaborative advisory committee is twofold: first, to serve as a vehicle for cross-system collaboration to promote the achievement of better outcomes for the children, youth, and families; and second, to fulfill an ACF requirement for a collaborative process.

Linkage to Anti-Trafficking Efforts:

Children's Division staff Kara Wilcox is an appointed member of the Missouri Supreme Court's Combatting Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Commission. The Commission consists of multi-disciplinary professionals appointed by the Supreme Court working to improve the judicial response to these issues. In alignment with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, the Children's Division provides an Advanced Human Trafficking Training curriculum for all staff. This advanced training helps strengthen skills in the areas of identifying, assessing, and engaging child trafficking victims. To coincide with the Advanced Human Trafficking Training, the Children's Division updated policy and procedures in August 2021 to require the utilization of a comprehensive assessment tool to assist in the identification of child victims of human trafficking. Furthermore, the Children's Division Training Unit developed an enhanced version of the Introduction to Human Trafficking training, including four pathways intended for administrative staff, field staff, supervisory staff, and caregivers, to educate on the basics of understanding trafficking and its implications.

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 has partnered with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Texas Department of Public Safety to provide Interdiction for the Protection of Children Training (IPC) statewide. IPC is designed to provide expertise and investigative assistance on human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and child sex crime investigations to patrol officers. IPC training teaches officers what to look for during traffic stops and appropriate questions to ask children and adults. IPC opens communication between the Missouri Children's Division, Child Advocacy Centers, medical and mental health professionals, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to help identify if a child is in danger during a traffic stop.

At the May 2022 Task Force meeting, Shima Rostami and Rhonda Liming from Gateway Human Trafficking gave a presentation on trends, misconceptions on trafficking, current data on trafficking in Missouri and around the country. The Task Force continued to support human trafficking prevention and victim support through grant funding with Gateway Human Trafficking.

Linkage to the Court Improvement Program

To ensure compliance with the CJA program instructions and 107(e) of CAPTA, 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 Courts 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 to assist local courts in work related to child abuse and neglect.

The Partnership for Child Safety and Well-Being (Partnership) meets monthly and includes the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a leading juvenile officer, staff from the Department of Social Services and the Office of State Courts Administrator, which includes the Court Improvement Program Coordinator. The Partnership meets to ensure child welfare stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities in the formal court process and make decisions in the best interests of children while safely and timely achieving permanency for abused and neglected children. The joint effort focuses on practice, policies, and data; and utilizes trainings and various information sharing techniques to engage staff across the state.

The Partnership for Child Safety and Well-being continued their efforts to bring together the judiciary, juvenile office, child welfare agencies, advocates, and stakeholders to build effective and respectful working relationships that ensure children are safe, healthy, and thriving. The Partnership met a total of five times in 2022. Each meeting included updates from all members.

The March meeting largely focused on residential care including discussion on qualifying facilities, need for a state plan, need for additional guidance and funding sources. In July, partnership planning and updates included the Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Roles and Responsibilities Project Child Abuse and Neglect Process: Initial Case Assessment Activities Document. A subgroup was established to review the process and establish a finalized document. The group members included staff from the courts, Department of Social Services, Court Improvement Program staff and Casey Family Programs. The September and October meetings included continued review for the QRTP Roles and Responsibilities Project.

In December, the QRTP Roles and Responsibilities Project Group discussed the implementation plan. The group explored the idea of providing the information in the Judicial Educations training of Fundamental Skills. OSCA staff worked on a bench card with the new Missouri standards. The group discussed how to address the family perspective earlier on with suggestions of more family therapy or offering drug treatment options and; creating better practices with law enforcement who are not conducting investigations to submit a referral to juvenile officer. The group began reaching out to behavioral health liaison court and community partners to create MOUs and create a checklist for Children's Division workers to better assist in interviews.

Membership changes were addressed and the State Court Administrator, Supreme Court Judge and Director of Children's Division will meet to discussion new membership and begin conversions with facility leaders in early 2023.

Linkage to Court and Legal Representation Improvement Work

The Task Force collaborated with the Missouri Office of Prosecuting Services (MOPS) to assist in funding for several trainings and conference opportunities for team members relating to the prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases. They are outlined below. Special Prosecutor Kayla Womble also came to a Task Force's quarterly meeting to update the Task Force on trends, needs, and upcoming opportunities for further collaboration.

Enhanced Response to Children and Families Impacted by Domestic Violence

The Children's Division Prevention and Safety Unit has a lead member and back-up member involved with the St. Louis Domestic Violence Fatality Review Panel. The panel was organized in January 2022 to review select intimate partner violence fatalities to help improve community interventions and learn how to reduce the incidence of intimate partner fatalities. The panel's permanent members consist of circuit attorney, medical examiner, law enforcement, public health, emergency medical services, victim services, domestic violence shelters/organizations, Children's Division and rape crisis centers. Other individuals that may participate in reviews include, batterers, intervention programs, defense attorney, substance abuse counselors, judges, probation and parole officer, FBI, survivor and survivor family members. The group met four times in 2022 and conducted an in-depth reviews of two cases As the process continues, the group hopes to eventually publish their recommendations.

CJA Funds Allocated/Prior Year Performance Report:

In 2022, the Finance Committee reviewed grant applications and monitored the expenditure of funds. The Finance Committee recommended and the Task Force voted to fund the following projects that were successfully completed in 2022:

Missouri KidsFirst: MDT Enhancement Initiative—Phase 1

Missouri KidsFirst began the strategic planning process for a multi-year Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Enhancement Initiative in August 2022. The purpose of the initiative is to improve effective team functioning statewide and increase access to services for children impacted by abuse by increasing the capacity and coordination of MDTs. As part of the planning process, Missouri KidsFirst decided to replicate the Multidisciplinary Team Assessment that was initially utilized in 2016 to assess the current functioning of MDTs in Missouri. Additional questions

were added to the original assessment survey to determine what areas of improvement should be prioritized for MDTs as part of the multi-year MDT Enhancement Initiative.

The Multidisciplinary Team Assessment measures perceptions of MDTs' collaboration, membership, process and dispositions. The report on the 2016 assessment was used as a baseline. The responses from the fall of 2022 provided valuable insights on MDT functioning and additional input on what is needed to enhance the effectiveness of MDTs. The mean Overall Score of Team Functioning for all assessment respondents was 3.78, equating to a perception that their teams were functioning at a *moderate to high* level.

Total: \$54,650

Missouri KidsFirst: ChildFirst®

Missouri KidsFirst (MKF) coordinated ChildFirst® Missouri May 2-6, 2022. Thirty-five individuals participated in the five-day training and thirty-three received a certificate of completion. They were able to accommodate more than thirty participants by bringing in an extra actor. The two participants who did not receive a certificate completed four out of five days, but were not counted as complete as they did not complete a mock interview. Despite not completing a mock interview, both took the post-test and passed with scores in the 90%+ range.

Five faculty members, three expert presenters, one potential faculty member, five actors, two actors-in-training and two Missouri KidsFirst staff were in attendance. Additional attendees included juvenile court officers, detectives, child/family victim advocates, other child advocacy center (CAC) staff members, assistant prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement officers, Children's Division investigators, and forensic interviewers. One hundred percent 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. Thirty-three of the thirty-five attendees practiced applying the ChildFirst interviewing protocol and methods through mock forensic interviews. During these mock interviews, ChildFirst® Missouri faculty and the attendees peers filled out feedback forms to provide every participant with reflections on strengths and areas for improvement.

Total: \$44,869

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Spring Conference

The conference was held in person on May 11-13, 2022, in Springfield, Missouri. The conference included four plenary sessions and eighteen workshops. Plenary sessions offered included those which addressed strategies for helping children succeed in schools; fine tuning the multi-disciplinary team; effective practices to improve the life outcomes of children who have experienced the juvenile justice system, as well as a survivor's story of overcoming domestic violence and abuse. There were also workshops that addressed:

- How children cope with abuse and neglect and how the child welfare system can respond to their needs;
- Practicing self-care;
- Understanding characteristics/behaviors of child rapists and strategies for investigating these suspects and the crime scene;
- Working with law enforcement to ensure you have a legally sufficient referral;
- Behavioral risk assessment basic concepts;

- Custody modifications;
- HANDLE WITH CARE Project;
- Diverting youth from the juvenile justice system;
- Balancing the constitutional rights of the parent, child and state; and testifying in court.

Evaluations were e-mailed to the attendees through Survey Monkey. Overall, the evaluations were positive with 69% of the attendees rating the conference excellent and 29% rating it as good. Attendees noted that the information provided was relevant and useful to their positions. 90% said the plenary and workshop sessions increased their knowledge of child welfare and juvenile justice.

Total: \$20,775

Missouri KidsFirst: Virtual *ChildFirst*®

Missouri KidsFirst (MKF) coordinated a virtual ChildFirst® national course August 1-5, 2022. Nineteen individuals participated in the five-day training and fourteen received a certificate of completion. Four participants were designated as auditors by Zero Abuse Project, the course facilitators, and attended all of the course except for the mock interviews. They received a certificate of attendance in lieu of a certificate of completion.

Participants represented the many professions serving in multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs). Attendees included juvenile court officers, detectives, child/family victim advocates, other child advocacy center (CAC) staff members, assistant prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement officers, Children's Division investigators, and forensic interviewers. The participants were able to attend from all geographic areas of the state because the virtual format eliminated travel costs. One hundred percent 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.

Zero Abuse Project administered an evaluation for each session of the five-day training and an end of session survey which measured participant's response to the content and the individual presenters.

Total: \$5,985

Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS): Child Sexual Abuse Trial School

The Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) received Children's Justice Act funding for a Child Sexual Abuse Trial School to provide training to prosecutors and other allied professionals in Missouri on the topic of sex crimes against children. Child Sexual Abuse Trial School was held October 11-13, 2022 in Jefferson City, Missouri.

The Child Sexual Abuse Trial School (CSATS) strived to improve the investigation and prosecutorial response to child sexual abuse by increasing the expertise of professionals in the preparation and execution of child sexual abuse trials. Objectives included:

Objective 1: A minimum of fifty professionals will be trained and able to articulate the role they play in the investigation and prosecution of child sex crimes as measured by a post-training participation evaluation.

Objective 2: A minimum of eighty percent of professionals trained will have an increased knowledge about the dynamics of sexual abuse, corroboration of evidence, charging decisions of prosecutors, how to be an effective witness, testifying in court, selecting jurors, and the presentation of the case in trial as measured by post-training participant evaluations.

An evaluation sheet was provided for each day of training, which each session individually identified. With fourteen faculty members and attendees, CSATS successfully met both objectives. Attendees included:

- Twenty Attorneys, including Prosecuting Attorneys, Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys and Attorneys for the Juvenile Officer.
- Twelve Forensic Interviewers
- Twenty-one Law Enforcement Officers
- Eighteen Children's Division Investigators
- Four Medical Professionals

Total: \$15,840

Gateway Human Trafficking: Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking Conference

This two-day conference was held on October 20 and 21, 2022, in a two-day format and four consecutive sessions on each day. The conference was held hybrid to make it more accessible for service providers and our speakers. The training was held in partnership with the University of Missouri-St. Louis Sociology Department. It was open to service providers and professionals who directly work with children in preventing and prosecuting trafficking and exploitation cases, including law enforcement, criminal justice and child welfare system providers. Of those attending, 60% were social service providers. Each session had objectives that they wanted participants to meet. Of the evaluations surveyed, there was an increase in knowledge per the participants before and after the session.

Total: \$12,250

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Fall Conference

The MJJA Fall Conference was held October 26-28, 2022, in Osage Beach, Missouri. The conference was held in person and included four plenary sessions and nineteen workshops. There were plenary sessions on the criminalization of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) adolescents, sextortion, and cyber bullying along with trends/updates in child welfare and juvenile justice. In addition, there were workshops planned that addressed juvenile justice and mental health; termination of parental rights and preparation for trial; the trauma and delinquency connection; hearsay exception for children in a family court case; how to work as a multi-disciplinary team; grandparent, elderly surrogates or guardians of at-risk juveniles; cross-examining an expert witness, as well as drug identification and awareness. Task Force Mission related topics and speakers included Tina Meier who founded the Megan Meier Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, in memory of her 13-year-old daughter, Megan Taylor Meier, who took her own life after being cyberbullied by an adult neighbor pretending to be a boy on MySpace. Tina Meier shared her daughter's story and showed first-hand the devastating effects of bullying, cyberbullying, and suicide.

Attendees were e-mailed an evaluation through Survey Monkey. Overall, the evaluations were very positive. 72.73% of attendees rated their conference experience as Excellent, followed by 25.62% who rated it as Good, .83% rated the conference as Fair and 0.83% who rated their conference experience as Poor. Attendees noted that the information provided was relevant and useful to their positions. 89% said the plenary and workshop sessions increased their knowledge of child welfare and juvenile justice; 11% said it increased their knowledge somewhat and 0% felt they did not learn anything. Three subsequent reminders were sent asking attendees to complete the survey. The results were analyzed and broken down by plenary and workshop. Our Program Leadership team uses this information to improve our conferences as well as for planning future conference workshops and plenary sessions.

Total: \$20,779

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) HANDLE WITH CARE Project

HANDLE WITH CARE is a program designed to ensure that children who are exposed to trauma in their home, school, or community receive appropriate interventions to help them succeed academically, divert them from insertion into the juvenile justice system, and reduce additional trauma to the child. HANDLE WITH CARE fits within the requirements set forth in the Children's Justice Act, particularly in the area of reducing additional trauma to children who have been the direct victim of abuse or neglect or who have otherwise been subjected to trauma. As a recipient of Task Force Funding, MJJA purchased and launched the HANDLE WITH CARE website. They also purchased the educational materials for participating schools so those materials could be distributed before the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Evaluation Methods:

HANDLE WITH CARE Missouri Website: We would regularly check the number of visitors to the HWC Missouri website and compile the number of contacts/inquiries received at MJJA as a result of a visit to the website.

Educational Materials: At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, we would utilize a survey to be distributed via Survey Monkey to all schools who received the two educational resources. Schools will be asked to rate the quality of the educational materials and how the materials were used to incorporate trauma-sensitive strategies within their district.

Data Collection, Evaluation and Analysis: MJJA is pursuing funding from other sources to contract for extensive data collection, evaluation, and analysis of HANDLE WITH CARE in Missouri.

Total: \$21,036

Missouri KidsFirst: *ChildFirst*®

Missouri KidsFirst (MKF) coordinated ChildFirst® Missouri October 24-28, 2022, in St. Louis, Missouri. Thirty-three individuals participated in the five-day training and thirty-two received a certificate of completion. Three faculty members, three expert presenters, one prosecutor from the Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (audit participant), five actors, and two Missouri KidsFirst staff were in attendance.

Attendees included juvenile court officers, detectives, child/family victim advocates, other child advocacy center (CAC) staff members, assistant prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement officers, Children's Division investigators, and forensic interviewers. Six of the participants were employed at least part-time as forensic interviewers. In addition, one participant is a Forensic Services Manager and one is a CAC Executive Director. One hundred percent 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. Thirty-two of the thirty-three attendees practiced applying the ChildFirst interviewing protocol and methods through mock forensic interviews. During these mock interviews, ChildFirst® Missouri faculty and the attendees peers filled out feedback forms to provide every participant with reflections on strengths and areas for improvement.

Missouri KidsFirst administered an evaluation for each session of the five-day training and an end of session survey which measured participant's response to the content and the individual presenters.

Total: \$35,651

Show Me a Helping Hand Conference

The Missouri Children's Justice Act Task Force sponsored the 5th Annual Show Me a Helping Hand Conference on November 3-4, 2022. This two day event was hosted on the Lincoln University campus in Jefferson City, Missouri. Two of the Task Force members, Greg Holtmeyer and Dr. Terra Trazier gave presentations at the conference. It was a lecture/question/answer session format that focused on sexual abuse and trafficking, trauma, and physical injuries. Continued Education Units and POST credit was given free to qualified attendees.

There were seven speakers from various backgrounds, including survivors, talking about all aspects of child abuse.

Topics covered were:

- Striking Out with Child Safety--Greg Holtmeyer
- Intersections of Mental Health and Substance Use--Kelbe McGill
- Prey: The Secret that Almost Killed M--Brad Watson
- Building Resilience: Surviving Secondary Traum--Seth Elliot
- The Stop Trafficking Project®--Eric Barreras
- Men and Boys: Invisible Victims of Sex Trafficking--Shima Rostami
- Show Me Injuries to be Concerned About and What to Do with The--Dr. Terra Frazier

Evaluations were given after the morning and afternoon sessions via QR code which then With Insight compiled for the Task Force to review. It was determined that almost half of the attendees were Children's Division employees. Respondents noted a 3.6 average out of a 4 point scaled regarding the quality of the conference. Every speaker got an outstanding evaluation and all were between a 3.2 and 3.8 average receiving positive feedback. Regarding impact of the conference, the average score was 3.5.

Total: \$28,000

With Insight

The Task Force contracted with Insight to assist and provide support to implement the evaluation and administration recommendations outlined in the Task Force's Three-Year Assessment report.

Phase 1.

Stakeholder input

July – December 2022

- Identify the stakeholder groups that should provide input on the grantee application and process (e.g., current and former grantees, declined applicants, potential applicants, goal committee).
- Facilitate two to three focus group sessions with stakeholder groups to gather feedback on the application and process.
- Facilitate up to two extended working sessions with current grantees to gather input for shared survey tool and shared reporting requirements.
- Summarize feedback from stakeholder groups and share back with task force.
- Guide task force to align data efforts with grant making strategy.

Phase 2.

Product development

January – March 2023

- Create a draft grant application and process based on feedback from stakeholders.
- Create a draft grant report template based on input from grantees.
- Develop a shared survey tool that grantees can implement for their conferences and trainings. Present draft products to task force for feedback and edits.
- Finalize products based on feedback from task force.

Phase 3.

Roll out of new products

April – December 2023

- Provide guidance to task force to roll out new products and processes.
- Offer support to grantees to integrate survey tool into their existing evaluation processes/platforms.
- Provide technical assistance and support to collate data across grantees and report on results.
- Discuss how findings can influence task force strategy.

Total: \$9,999

Missouri KidsFirst: *ChildFirst*®

This in-person offering of ChildFirst® Missouri Forensic Interviewing training was held in Springfield, Missouri, the week of February 25, 2023. Thirty-nine individuals participated in the five-day training and thirty-six received a certificate of completion. The three

participants who did not receive a certificate completed all five days, but failed based on either their mock interview performance or post-test scores as assessed by ChildFirst® Missouri faculty. These issues were communicated with their supervisors. In addition, five faculty members, three expert presenters, five actors, and two Missouri KidsFirst staff were in attendance.

Missouri KidsFirst invited two actors to audit ChildFirst® Missouri. Both of these actors were able to attend this ChildFirst® Missouri course and provided course participants with new scenarios in the practice interviews using materials/information/guidance provided by our lead ChildFirst® Missouri faculty member. Having professional actors with the proper training participate in the course is a benefit to course participants and allowed all the actors to have breaks and provide feedback to all thirty-nine participants.

Attendees included juvenile court officers, detectives, child/family victim advocates, other child advocacy center (CAC) staff members, assistant prosecuting attorneys, law enforcement officers, Children's Division investigators, and forensic interviewers. Twelve (over 25%) of the participants were either currently employed as or taking on the role of forensic interviewer at a Missouri CAC.

One hundred percent 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.

All thirty-nine attendees practiced applying the ChildFirst interviewing protocol and methods through mock forensic interviews. During these mock interviews, ChildFirst® Missouri faculty and the attendees peers filled out feedback forms to provide every participant with reflections on strengths and areas for improvement.

Total: \$43,825

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Parent Engagement Project

The Missouri Children's Justice Act Task Force supported the CFSR Statewide Assessment Event by providing funding so that parents with lived experience who attended the event sessions were able to receive a monetary stipend. This stipend was provided to reimburse parents for travel expenses, as well as to compensate them for time spent participating in the session(s). In total, there were fifteen sessions held between February 27 and March 9, 2023. Throughout the two-week Statewide Assessment Event, there were sixteen spaces available for parents with lived experience. Through diligent recruitment, fourteen of the spaces were filled. However, only five parents were in attendance at the event. Three parents attended in person and an additional two parents participated virtually.

Total: \$325

Consistent with the requirements of section 107(e)(1) the 2022 priorities were:

(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 continued to support the process of the investigation and prosecution by collaborating with the Missouri Office of Prosecution to fund trainings for MDT members such as Children’s Division investigators, law enforcement and prosecutors. The Task Force not only assisted funding for Sexual Abuse Trial School, but also for fundamental trainings offered across the state.
- (2) The Task Force supported Missouri KidsFirst by assisting in the funding of ChildFirst® programs, offering both an in person and a virtual training course of child abuse investigation training. Priority was given to prosecutors, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, Children’s Division staff and child advocacy center staff when allocating scholarships. The training assisted 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. The Task Force will continue to support this endeavor as grant applications are submitted.

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

- (1) The Task Force again sponsored the Children’s Justice Act Show Me a Helping Hand conference in November 2022. CJA Task Force Member, Greg Holtmeyer, spearheaded the effort by co-organizing and speaking at the event on past childhood trauma. The focus included male sexual abuse, human trafficking and past trauma. The target audience included counselors, therapists, law enforcement, Children’s Division, schools, and other related professions. The conference was free to all attendees and also provided free CEU and POST credit hours to qualified attendees, as well as sponsoring fifty hotel rooms for attendees.
- (2) The Task Force is funding a multi-year MDT Enhancement Project with Missouri KidsFirst (MKF) which is intended to build more highly functioning MDTs across the state that in turn will assist in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The enhancement initiatives will likely lead to cases being referred and completed in a timelier manner as well as few cases falling through the cracks with teams working together more cohesively throughout the life of the case. The project is currently in Phase 3 which includes the hiring of a Project Manager and determining pilot sites. A strategic plan was developed in March 2023 that will guide the project throughout 2023. MKF updates the Task Force on progress bi-quarterly. The Task Force hopes to continue to support this effort into 2023-2024.

(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.

Senate Bill 775

Child Trafficking (Sections 210.1500, 210.1505, & 211.031)

This act provides that when a child is located by a law enforcement official and there is reasonable cause to suspect the child may be a victim of sex trafficking, the law enforcement official shall immediately cause a hotline report to be made to the Children's Division. If the Children's Division determines that the report merits a child abuse/neglect investigation, the reporting official and responding Children's Division frontline team member(s) shall ensure the immediate safety of the child. If the law enforcement official has reasonable cause to believe the child is in imminent danger, the official may take temporary protective custody.

This act also establishes the "Statewide Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children". The council shall collect data relating to sex trafficking of children and develop best practices regarding the response to sex trafficking of children. The council shall submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before the council expires on December 31, 2023. In addition, this act gives family courts exclusive original jurisdiction in proceedings involving a child who has been a victim of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation.

Offense of Prostitution (Section 567.020). The act provides that a person shall not be certified as an adult or adjudicated for the offense of prostitution if the person was under the age of 18 when the alleged offense occurred. Such person shall be considered a victim of child abuse and reported immediately to the Children's Division and to the juvenile officer for appropriate services.

Application for Proposed Activities in FY23

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

In 2023, 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 continue to align their efforts with training aimed at growing strong and healthy MDTs. The Finance Committee hopes to improve the grant application process in 2023.

The Goal Committee will take data and recommendations taken from the Three-Year Assessment and work with Within Insight to modify and develop goals for the coming three years. The Goal Committee has made recommendations to continue with collaborating with Within Insight to work on evaluation methods for future grantees and also to update the grant process, which in turn will improve trainings that are funded by the Task Force. The Goal Committee is also eager to continue work with Missouri KidsFirst on the approved MDT

Enhancement Initiative as described in the next section. The Goal Committee will meet as needed to support the goals developed to keep them moving forward.

Compliance with Section 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. 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 2023, 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 2023 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.

Estimated Cost: \$10,000

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Spring Conference

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association will provide four plenary sessions as well as twenty break-out workshops for professionals during the spring 2023 Educational Conference. Several plenary and workshop sessions will be applicable to the requirement of the Missouri Task Force on Children Justice in that these seminars will assist various disciplines who work in the child welfare system to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases in such a way that minimizes the amount of trauma to the child and their family as well as make sure multi-disciplinary team members receive ongoing training and education in order to improve the investigation and prosecution of abuse and neglect cases. MJJA is committed to having a conference track that is focused on identifying, investigating, and prosecuting abuse and neglect of children while at the same time minimizing the child and family’s exposure to trauma. Plenary and break-out sessions allow workers to connect, collaborate and acquire new strategies, theories and trends.

Estimated Cost: \$22,568

Missouri KidsFirst: *ChildFirst*® EX: Expanded Forensic Interview Process Training

Missouri KidsFirst will coordinate a three-day *ChildFirst*® EX: Expanded Forensic Interview Process Training for professionals conducting forensic interviewers. Missouri KidsFirst has a

contract for the training with Zero Abuse Project (formerly the Gunderson National Child Protection Center) to conduct the training October 3-5, 2023, in Kansas City. Missouri KidsFirst will contract with Zero Abuse Project to provide the education for up to twenty participants. Missouri KidsFirst will facilitate the statewide peer review to follow immediately on October 6, 2023, with participants in ChildFirst® EX and up to ten additional forensic interviewers.

Estimated Cost: \$18,406

Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) Family and Sexual Violence Conference

MOPS has a three-day event schedule for May 16-18, 2023, in Springfield, Missouri. The goal of this training is to improve the investigation, prosecutorial response, and victim advocate assistance to physical and sexual child abuse by increasing the expertise of professionals in the preparation and execution of child abuse cases, from investigation to trial.

- **Objective 1:** Approximately twenty-five professionals will be trained and able to articulate the role they play in the investigation and prosecution of physical and sexual child crimes as measured by a post training participation evaluation.
- **Objective 2:** A minimum of 80% of professionals trained will have an increased knowledge about the following topics: dynamics of physical and sexual abuse; corroboration of evidence; charging decisions of prosecutors; understanding medical evidence; advocating for victims; how to be an effective witness when testifying in court; and working with the MDT; all measured by post training participant evaluations.

Estimated Cost: \$16,262

Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) Sexual Trial School

Child Sexual Abuse Trial School is scheduled for the week of either September 11 or September 18, 2023, at a location that is still to be determined, located somewhat centrally in Missouri. The goal of this training is to improve the investigation and prosecutorial response to child sexual abuse by increasing the expertise of professionals in the preparation and execution of child sexual abuse trials.

- **Objective 1:** Approximately sixty professionals will be trained and able to articulate the role they play in the investigation and prosecution of child sex crimes as measured by a post training participation evaluation.
- **Objective 2:** A minimum of 80% of professionals trained will have an increased knowledge about the dynamics of sexual abuse, corroboration of evidence, charging decisions of prosecutors, how to be an effective witness, testifying in court, selecting jurors, and the presentation of the case in trial, as measured by post training participant evaluations.
- **Objective 3:** A minimum of 80% of professionals trained will have applied the information and techniques from the training in practice labs during the second and third days of the training.

Estimated Cost: \$21,300

Missouri Office of Prosecution Services (MOPS) Child Abuse Statewide Trainings

Trainings will be determined throughout the calendar year 2023. The goal of this training is to improve the investigation, prosecutorial response, and victim advocate assistance to physical and sexual child abuse crimes by increasing the expertise of professionals in the preparation and execution of child abuse cases, from investigation to trial.

- **Objective 1:** Conduct separate trainings for two different topics (Cursory Interviewing of Children and Investigating and Prosecuting Physical and Sexual Child Abuse) in four different geographical locations across the state, up to 8 multi-disciplinary trainings. Two trainings (one for Cursory Interviewing of Children and one for Investigating and Prosecuting Physical and Sexual Child Abuse) will be held in the northern part of Missouri; two trainings (one for Cursory Interviewing of Children and one for Investigating and Prosecuting Physical and Sexual Child Abuse) will be held in the western part of Missouri; two trainings (one for Cursory Interviewing of Children and one for Investigating and Prosecuting Physical and Sexual Child Abuse) will be held in the eastern part of Missouri, and two trainings (one for Cursory Interviewing of Children and one for Investigating and Prosecuting Physical and Sexual Child Abuse) will be held in the southern part of Missouri.
- **Objective 2:** At least fifteen professionals will be trained per training session and will be able to articulate various criteria—depending on the training they participated in—as measured by a post training participation evaluation. For the Cursory Interviewing of Children training, participants will be able to articulate what a cursory interview is and what steps they can implement from the training to better their cursory interviewing skills. For the Investigating and Prosecuting Physical and Sexual Child Abuse, participants will be able to articulate their role in the investigation and prosecution of a child abuse case and what steps they can implement from the training to be more effective within their role.
- **Objective 3:** A minimum of 80% of professionals trained will have an increased knowledge after attending one of the trainings; all measured by post training participant evaluations. For the Cursory Interviewing of Children training, participants will have an increased knowledge of what a cursory interview is, how to properly perform a cursory interview, and next steps to take after a cursory interview is performed. For the Investigating and Prosecuting Physical and Sexual Child Abuse training, participants will have an increased knowledge of their role in a child abuse case investigation/prosecution, and how they can complete their role more effectively.

Estimated Cost: \$4,335

Show Me a Helping Hand Conference—CJA Task Force Sponsored

The 6th Annual Show Me a Helping Hand Conference is set for November 2-3 2023, at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. Topics covered will include the male victims, sexual abuse and trauma, human trafficking, and various other topics. The Task Force plans this conference with Task Force member Greg Holtmeyer chairing the planning committee.

Estimated Cost: \$30,000

Missouri KidsFirst ChildFirst® Training

This in-person offering of ChildFirst® Missouri Forensic Interviewing training will take place in St. Louis, MO, the week of October 23rd. MDT members from around the state are invited to apply to attend the training. Goals: 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. These goals will be achieved through this interactive, intensive training that combines lecture with hands on experience. From the pre-course materials on linguistics, child development, memory, suggestibility and other pertinent topics, to required-reading in the form of homework each day, students are expected to study a significant amount of literature relating to child sexual abuse

Estimated Cost: \$43,750

Missouri KidsFirst MDT Enhancement Initiative

This MDT Enhancement Initiative Strategic Plan Implementation proposal starts a multi-year project based on feedback and identified needs of MDTs across Missouri. This proposal is for the first year (12 months) of strategic plan implementation. During this time, the MDT Enhancement Program Specialist will cultivate the role of the MDT Facilitator at CACs, provide professional support for a training ecosystem and pilot team-building activities to create alignment and role clarity among MDT members. The goal of this one-year grant is to improve the MDT response to child abuse by increasing the capacity and coordination of MDTs through a multi-year MDT Enhancement Initiative which will improve effective team functioning statewide and increase access to services for children impacted by abuse. The long-term vision for the project is that all MDTs have the resources they need to effectively serve children and families across the state.

Estimated Cost: \$125,000

Medical Evaluation of Child Maltreatment: Education to Improve MDT Child Protection Response

A multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to investigation and intervention in suspected cases of child maltreatment has been established as the standard of care. The collaboration of professionals from multiple disciplines, to include child protective services (CPS), medical personnel, law enforcement, court officials, and others, is crucial to coordinate investigation, maintaining a trauma-informed approach for involved children and families. By participating in this sharing of information and expertise, MDTs aim to achieve just and efficacious responses to suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. Surveys of CPS workers have indicated that medical input is helpful in their case investigations.

The goal of this grant proposal is to develop and deliver a curriculum which improves the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect by increasing Children's Division and multidisciplinary team knowledge of the medical forensic evaluation for suspected victims of child abuse and neglect.

Estimated Cost: \$17,186