

Missouri Task Force on Children’s Justice

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

The Task Force on Children’s Justice was established under the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) in 1991. All states receiving CAPTA funding are 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, representatives of parents’ groups, 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 mission and 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. The Task Force is also charged with the oversight and distribution of Children’s Justice Act 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, reviews and discusses activities to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation; cases involving suspected child maltreatment-related fatalities; and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, in a manner which reduces additional trauma to the child victim and the victim’s family and also ensures procedural fairness to the accused.

In addition to meeting quarterly, the Task Force via the use of subcommittees, held in-person meetings and conference calls, conducted case reviews, reviewed policy, tracked and evaluated proposed legislation, reviewed reports, and engaged in dynamic discussions which clearly displayed the value of having a multidisciplinary task force involved in the evaluation of the child welfare system’s response to reports of child abuse and neglect.

In 2018, the Task Force maintained full membership consisting of 21 members and met membership requirements as specified by CAPTA in Section 107(c)(1). Below are the names, titles, designations of disciplines, and brief descriptions of the relevant experience of each of the Task Force members. Each member serves a term of four years and may serve a consecutive three terms.

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

<p>Kelly Schultz (Parent Group Representative)</p>	<p>Kelly Schultz is the Director of the Office of Child Advocate. Prior to being the Child Advocate for the State of Missouri, Kelly spent the previous twelve years working in the Missouri State Capitol. She worked for Minority Secretary Sara Lampe – Springfield, Minority Leader Jeff Harris – Columbia, Senator Sidney Johnson – St. Joseph, and Senator John Schneider – Florissant. In addition to her public policy experience, Kelly has 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 Masters in Public Administration from the University of Missouri.</p>
<p>Kendra House (Health Professional)</p>	<p>Kendra House is a detective with the Maryland Heights Police Department. She received her Associates Degree in Nursing from Florissant Valley Community College in 1997. Kendra’s experience includes nine years as a registered nurse working in the Intensive/Critical Care Unit at St. Joseph’s Health Center in St. Charles, Missouri as well as the Emergency Department at the Christian Hospital Northwest, St. Louis, Missouri. Kendra followed up her nursing education and experience by attending and graduating from the law enforcement academy and gaining employment with the Maryland Heights Police Department where she has served for the past 16 years, ten of those years serving as a juvenile detective working primarily on child sexual and physical abuse cases. Kendra has also served as a death investigator for the St. Louis County Medical Examiner’s Office. Her extensive professional background in nursing, juvenile detective work, general law enforcement and death investigation brings a wealth of information to the Task Force.</p>
<p>Danielle Corley (Child Protective Service Agency Representative)</p>	<p>Danielle Corley is a Field Support Manager for the Northern Region of the Children’s Division with a focus on the investigation of child abuse and neglect. Danielle has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri and a Masters 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 . Judge Harvey began a private practice, and in 1986 was appointed prosecuting attorney for</p>

	<p>Saline County by Governor John Ashcroft. He served as prosecuting attorney until 2000 when he was appointed by Governor Mel Carnahan as 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>Carolyn Green (Child Advocate)</p>	<p>Carolyn Green is the founding Executive Director of Child Safe of Central Missouri, Inc., a child advocacy center serving 11 Missouri counties. Carolyn served as Child Safe's Executive Director from 2000 until her retirement in December, 2015. Prior to serving the child advocacy center, Carolyn served ten years with the Department of Mental Health and 20+ years with the Department of Social Services, more than half of which were county and state level supervisory or administrative positions.</p>
<p>Rick Gaines (Family Court Representative)</p>	<p>Rick Gaines graduated from Lincoln University (Jefferson City, MO) in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He began his professional career in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Callaway Counties) 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 (St. Louis County). Rick has served on several statewide committees that have helped shape Missouri's Juvenile Justice work, including the recently enacted Missouri Juvenile Officer Performance Standards. Rick has a passion and commitment to the important work that impacts Missouri's youth and families.</p>
<p>Judge Rachel Bringer Shepherd (Criminal Judge)</p>	<p>Rachel Bringer Shepherd is the presiding Circuit Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit in the State of Missouri. Prior to serving as judge, she was a State Representative for eight years and practiced law in Palmyra. Judge Shepherd also served as the assistant prosecutor in Marion County from 2000-2002, and was a law clerk for Judge Reinhard with the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District from 1995-1997. Judge Shepherd currently serves as co-chairperson of the Missouri Children's Justice Task Force, and she and her husband have served as licensed foster parents for four years. For the past eight years, Judge Shepherd has sponsored and organized free continuing legal education training for attorneys serving as Guardians Ad Litem for the Tenth Judicial Circuit as well as neighboring counties. Judge Shepherd graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts with honors in English from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1992. She received her Juris</p>

	<p>Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School in 1995, where she served as a member of the Missouri Law Review.</p>
<p>Greg Holtmeyer (Adult Former Victim)</p>	<p>Greg Holtmeyer is the Access and Abilities Coordinator at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from 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.</p>
<p>Chris Jensen (Family Attorney)</p>	<p>Christopher Jensen is a partner at Baylard, Billington, Dempsey & Jensen, P.C. located in Union, Missouri, where he has practiced law since 1995. He graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia receiving his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with an emphasis in marketing, in 1992 and his Juris Doctorate in 1995. Chris has been particularly involved in the juvenile court system in Franklin County over the past 16 years. In addition to his representation of hundreds of parents, he has been a court approved Guardian ad Litem since 2010. Chris also serves as Chairman of the Franklin County Children and Families Community Resource Board, which administers over \$3 million in annual tax revenue for non-profit services within the county. He is also a member of the Fostering Court Improvement team of the 20th Judicial Circuit and the Franklin County Cares Trauma Informed Community Initiative. Chris is an active member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Union, serving on the Finance Council.</p>
<p>Judge Leslie Schneider (Circuit Judge)</p>	<p>Leslie Schneider is the Administrative Family Court Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in Missouri, comprised of Boone and Callaway counties. Judge Schneider received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1976. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1979. After Judge Schneider graduated from law school, she was employed as a Missouri Assistant Attorney General, presenting cases before the Missouri Commission on Human Rights and representing the Department of Primary and Secondary Education and the State Board of Education. In 1983, Judge Schneider started a private practice of law where she continued until being elected as Associate Circuit Judge in 2006. During her years in private practice, her primary practice was in Family Law. 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 Committee as well as the Family Court Committee of the Missouri Supreme Court. She was an adjunct professor teaching Family Law at the University of</p>

	Missouri – Columbia for approximately 5 years.
Rene Howitt (Child Advocate)	Rene Howitt is the founder of a non-profit child advocacy organization “COPE24...Changing Our Parenting Experience.” COPE24 promotes the need to make parenting and child development education priorities in all high schools, reaching all students, secondary to only the core subjects. She has authored two books: <i>Whose Best Interest and Fosterhood</i> ; Co-Authored a bible study: <i>Family; It’s Complicated</i> . A Bible Study of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Genesis. She is the creator of several programs, curricula and reality-based documentary videos, including COPE24 Parenting Skill Program, The Life Sentence, Life-Line (documentary subjects teen parenting), and Parenting Under The Influence (documentary subjects drugs, alcohol and parenting). Currently, COPE24 is in production of a documentary video that will cover ACEs. Some combination of these products used in over 500 school districts nationwide. All materials are designed to educate our youth on the tremendous responsibility that comes with parenting. Rene is a former foster care provider.
Dan Patterson (Prosecuting Attorney)	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. He has achieved many honors, including, but not limited to graduating Cum Laude from the University of Missouri; Layout & Design Editor for the Missouri Law Review in 1992 and 1993; recipient of the West Publishing Award for Best Work in Legal Research & Writing, 1990; and an extensive honorable military service record including his current position as Lieutenant Colonel, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 35 th 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
Sheriff Clay Chism (Law Enforcement Community)	Clay Chism is the Callaway County Sheriff. Clay is in his 19th year of service at the Callaway County Sheriff’s Office and was elected Sheriff in November 2016. During a past assignment as the Investigations Division supervisor, Clay oversaw numerous child abuse and neglect investigations. Clay received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, and his Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration degree from Columbia College, 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.
Chief Bill Carson (Law Enforcement Community)	Bill Carson is the Chief of Police for the Maryland Heights Police Department. He has thirty-nine years of experience as

	<p>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>Donna Cash (Experienced in working with homeless children and youth-as defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a))</p>	<p>Donna Cash is the Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant program at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). In addition, she supervises Title I programs for Missouri’s Charter Schools. She has been with the Department for 25 years and before beginning her tenure with the Federal Programs Section, she has worked in the Discretionary Grants Section and the Curriculum and Assessment Section of DESE. Donna received her Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia College majoring in history with minors in sociology and psychology. She is an active member of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth as well as Empower Missouri. She also serves on the Special Education Advisory Panel and the State Interagency Coordinating Council.</p>
<p>Melissa Smyser (Mental Health Professional)</p>	<p>Melissa Smyser is employed as the Chief of Children’s Community Operations for the Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health. Melissa provides consultation, technical assistance and training to the Community Mental Health Centers in the Central Region. She coordinates state-wide policy, planning and administration for community behavioral health services under the Director of Children’s Services for the Division of Behavioral Health. Melissa has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Central Missouri State University, and received her Masters of Social Work from the University of Missouri. Melissa is a Licensed Master Social Worker.</p>

<p>Dr. James Anderst (Health Professional)</p>	<p>Dr. James Anderst is a board certified Child Abuse Pediatrician and Director of the Division of Child Adversity and Resilience at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. He is also a Professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Anderst completed medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin, a residency at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, and fellowship and Master’s Degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center. Dr. Anderst has created educational tools for medical providers and legal investigators that are in use nationally and internationally. Dr. Anderst has published numerous peer-reviewed studies and book chapters regarding child maltreatment, and provides educational and research lectures nationally.</p>
<p>Stacey Goodwin (awaiting approval) (Persons Working with Children With Disabilities)</p>	<p>Stacey Goodwin has been with the Department of Mental Health (DMH)/Division of Developmental Disabilities for 24 years. She supervises a team of 14 service coordinators for St Charles County. She was recently nominated and attended the DMH Leadership Academy. Stacey has been the System of Care lead for many years, and strives to work together with many agencies to build great wrap around services for families in need. She volunteers to be a 3rd party reviewer for Children Division's Permanency Placement Meetings. Stacey sits on the Fostering Court Improvement Board to bring information about Developmental Disabilities to that team.</p>
<p>Lisa Mizell (awaiting approval) (Child Advocate)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Jill Groff-Rosloniec (awaiting approval) (Parent/Child Attorney)</p>	<p>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. Jill believes the work of the Task Force is relevant and important She could provide insight on behalf of abused and neglected children as well as sharing perspective from the child attorney standpoint to the Task</p>

Missouri Task Force on Children’s Justice

2019 Program Performance Annual Report

Statement of Needs

The Task Force on Children’s Justice requires stable, flexible, and ongoing funding to support efforts to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect, and reduce trauma to child victims. This 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 Task Force requires assistance and support from many state and local partners to succeed in these efforts.

The term investigator will be used several times throughout this report. In Missouri, this term refers to the Children’s Division workers who are conducting child abuse and neglect investigations and assessments.

Task Force Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes

Critical Event Review Committee

The Critical Event Review Committee began meeting quarterly in the fall of 2013 to review child abuse and neglect cases, including fatalities, near-fatalities, and serious physical injuries. The committee has continued to meet quarterly throughout this reporting period, and has found reviewing a variety of cases from various regions of the state; essential to comprehensively assessing the child welfare system’s response to reports of child abuse and neglect. Reviews afforded committee members the opportunity to review reports and the investigative responses of each of the individual disciplines involved in the investigative process. The committee continues to make case specific recommendations with the intent of evaluating them individually and collectively from a more systemic perspective along with other evaluative activities of the Task Force.

The committee read several critical incident reports that included allegations of physical or sexual abuse by a parent or caretaker in the home. In each of these reports, the parent or caretaker reported that they were schooling the children in the home. A concern of the committee was that these children tended not to be seen in public, such as schools or other community related activities. The committee recommended that in cases where multiple allegations of abuse and/or neglect have been reported and parents have reported they are home schooling, the Children’s Division requests the parent or caretaker to provide documentation that supports home schooling is occurring. Some examples of supporting documentation include tests, schedules, homework, and calendar of events.

Under current Missouri Statute [§167.042 RSMo.](#), the parent, legal guardian, or another person responsible for the care, custody, and control of a child, may indicate they are providing for their child(ren)’s educational needs through home schooling. Verification may be obtained in many ways, including, but not limited to:

- Requesting the parent/caretaker to show the Children’s Service Worker a copy of their home schooling records

- Confirming whether or not the child(ren)'s names appear with the recorder of deeds or chief school officer in the county where the child legally resides pursuant to [§167.042 RSMo.](#)
- Asking when, where, and how home schooling takes place within the family system

The Children's Division does **not** have the legal authority to compel a family to produce home schooling records. However, if the family willingly provides home schooling records, the Children's Service Investigator may review the records to see if they are maintained in compliance with [§167.031 RSMo.](#)

The Children's Division is currently revising their policy manual to reflect that an investigator may ask for proof of home schooling including a record of their home schooling documentation. If during the assessment period staff cannot verify home schooling is occurring, they will send a Compulsory Attendance Notification Letter to the superintendent or designee of the school district in which the child(ren) reside informing them that home schooling cannot be verified. For those cases in which the investigator has decided by a preponderance of the evidence that educational neglect exists, a Compulsory Attendance Notification Letter will be sent to the superintendent or designee of the school district in which the child(ren) reside.

The Task Force continues to have concerns regarding the effects of substance use and abuse on families. The committee has reviewed multiple cases when a child had been identified as being substance exposed at birth and/or the mother was addicted to a substance at the time of the birth. It was not always reflected in the record that adequate services were provided to the mother and child regarding treatment, mental health needs, and community support. The Task Force felt that substance affected infants and mothers needed a better support system and safety network of family and service providers. At the November 2018 Task Force meeting, Suneal Menzies with the Assisted Recovery Centers of America Midwest provided the Task Force with a discussion and presentation regarding to the opioid epidemic in the US and specifically in Missouri. Suneal stated that nationally, opioid related deaths are the #1 killer behind smoking. St. Louis, Missouri, has the 6th highest overdose rate of all US cities which is driven by heroin and fentanyl. The opioid epidemic is serious in Missouri and this is a topic and crisis that the Task Force will be following closely as it relates to child abuse investigations.

The critical events committee also found that in some of the cases reviewed involving child fatalities, investigative work was lacking when no foul play was immediately suspected. These reports included infant fatalities in which infants were found unresponsive and no explanation could be given as to why the child had died. Concern of whether or not the child in each case was in a safe sleep environment was raised by the review committee. The Task Force will continue to encourage and support training specific to gathering information and investigation by the first responders, including law enforcement and EMS. Investigation and prosecution could be improved if responders interviewed the adults involved at the earliest possible time after the incident occurred or was reported. The critical event review committee also stressed the importance of gathering collateral contact information during an investigation, and how it can be critical to seeing the entire picture in each situation.

Recruitment Committee

The recruitment committee is responsible for monitoring the CJA's membership to ensure it consists of a minimum of 21 members and represents the required disciplines as specified in Section 107(c)(1) of the Act. The recruitment committee has had a very active year as many members termed out, retired, or had to resign for various reasons. In February of 2019, four new members were approved by the Task Force, the Children's Division, The Department of Social Services, and the Missouri Supreme Court Justice. Those four new members consisted of two judges, a parent/child attorney, and a chief juvenile officer. That still left three vacancies to be filled. In February 2019, three additional members were approved by the Task Force and Children's Division. They are currently in the process of being approved by the

Missouri Department of Social Services and the Missouri Supreme Court Justice. Once those three appointees are approved, the Task Force will be at 21 members. The Task Force is currently seeking a defense attorney to bring the Task Force to 22 members.

Applications for membership will continue to be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Those interested may attend all open meetings in advance of selection to the Task Force. The membership application is posted on the Task Force's state website.

Project Impacts and/or Progress

In 2018, the Task Force continued to make significant progress in its efforts. The Task Force examined its work from previous years and re-evaluated its recommendations, including those identified in the three year assessment submitted in 2016, for improvement of the child welfare system's investigative and prosecutorial response to determine whether or not those recommendations continued to be priorities. Members maintained a high level of commitment to the work and were very active, engaged, and motivated to find ways to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force continued to keep the improvement of the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect, and reducing trauma to children as its targets for its work moving forward while continuing to make efforts to connect its work to other child welfare program areas and objectives.

At the August 2018 meeting of the Task Force, special guest, Emerson "Skip" McGuire of the State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) gave a presentation on the history of the STAT Unit, current initiatives, and future endeavors. STAT has staff based all over the state and assists with criminal investigations involving the death of a child or any crime against a child including child abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, child exploitation, and internet crimes. STAT also manages and supports the Missouri Child Fatality Review Program (CFRP), which serves as an administrative review of child fatalities. They also have an employee that is revitalizing the local CFRPs across the state. Missouri requires that each of its 114 counties have a multi-disciplinary CFRP. The local panels are required to complete the Child Fatality Review Program Final Report. Review of these reports from across the state reflect that the local panels need targeted training regarding the necessary information that must be included in the report. There are instances that have been identified where questions were left blank, or supporting information was not included.

There was discussion by the Task Force regarding the elected office of coroner. The job of a coroner is to determine the cause of death. In the State of Missouri, there are no specific qualifications for this elected position, and there are elected coroners that do not have a medical background or training in the area of death investigations. Concerning safe sleep deaths, there was a concern that some coroners are resistant to tell parents that their child's death was preventable, thus ultimately identifying the child's death as "SIDS", which could be misleading. "SIDS" means that the otherwise healthy infant's death could not be explained which is not the case when the death could have potentially been avoided had the infant been in a safe sleep environment. There are instances when an infant's death was potentially a crime, but there was no immediate investigation on the scene by law enforcement to determine if a crime was committed. These types of deaths may not initially look suspicious, but without proper investigation by law enforcement and a determination of death by an autopsy, a death may be erroneously ruled "accidental" which was actually a crime. Due to the increase in identified unsafe sleep deaths in infants, STAT reported that they have an employee based in the St. Louis area that is collaborating with community partners on initiatives related to safe sleep.

At the February 2019 meeting, Michele Renkemeyer, the Department of Social Services (DSS) Director of Strategic Performance and Innovations, introduced the DSS Objectives and DSS Placemat. Michele provided an overview of the DSS Placemat Initiatives for 2018 and 2019. Missouri has dedicated itself to improving infrastructure and building the capacity of individuals, families, and communities to secure

and sustain healthy, safe, and productive lives. Specific to the Children’s Division (CD), she described the efforts to redesign the child welfare system in 2018. Some of the initiatives included answering all calls timely to the child abuse and neglect hotline, eliminating overdue investigations, and streamlining the investigation process. The number of hotline calls received has increased overall in the past year. In January 2018, the Cisco phone system was installed for all hotline locations. The ability to be on the same technology platform coupled with the increased queue size from 12 to 50 with no maximum hold time has decreased the amount of ‘busy signals’ provided to reporters. The addition of a ‘hold my place’ feature was also added in January 2018 for non-emergent mandated reports. The queue was also divided into three sections: Emergency Reports, Non-Emergent Permissive Reporters, Non-Emergent Mandated Reporters. These enhancements have allowed for triaging calls more effectively. This has led to an overall increase in the number of calls that are sent to field investigators.

It was also shared with the Task Force that in October of 2017, there were approximately 7,500 overdue child abuse and neglect reports. In late 2017 and throughout 2018, emphasis was placed on reducing the number of all overdue child abuse and neglect reports, specifically overdue investigations. As of April 2019, the number of overdue investigations was approximately 425. These initiatives will continue to be the focus of the DSS and CD throughout 2019. Through trainings supported by the Task Force, CD investigators continue to receive the tools they need to effectively complete investigations in a timely manner.

Linkage to CFSR:

Missouri had a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) in the summer of 2017. The Children’s Division has for many years collaborated with stakeholders in the development of policy and practice. During the second round of the Child and Family Service Reviews, Missouri developed 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. The CFSR Advisory Committee’s centralized focus is to build an advisory resource infrastructure to result in positive outcomes for children, youth and families. A broader collaboration of this kind will benefit families in improved access and service availability, and a reduction of services and funding fragmentation.

As the Division developed the goals and objectives for the 2015 – 2019 Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP), several groups were consulted for assistance. The CFSR Advisory Committee regularly reviews data and practice standards, and provides input and feedback. Their guidance is valuable in the development of the five year plan. This group continues to be a part of the implementation and monitoring of the CFSP. As the Division continues to strive to meet the goals of the strategic plan, this group is consulted throughout the process. The Annual Progress and Service Report (APSR) is reviewed by this committee each year.

Two of the members of the CJA Task Force sit on the CFSR Advisory Committee and attend multi-disciplinary meetings to discuss areas of improvement needed on the CFSR. Those members are able to share information from the CFSR Advisory Committee to the rest of the Task Force. The Task Force discusses any needs identified and makes recommendations as necessary. Those recommendations are then taken back to the CFSR Advisory Committee.

Linkage to the Court Improvement Program:

In order to ensure compliance with the CJA program instructions 107 (e) (1) (A) and (B), and to further improve the collaboration efforts of the Task Force with other groups and committees developed to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect, as well as improving court programs, the Task Force utilized Kim Abbott of the Office of State Court Administrator (OSCA), to

keep the Task Force informed about the progress of efforts, initiatives and programs being developed and implemented by the Court Improvement Program (CIP). Kim is Missouri's contact for the CIP, and she provided the Task Force with updates on the progress of the CIP at the quarterly Task Force meetings. The Task Force utilized this collaboration to help align the work of the Task Force with the CIP when applicable. In 2019, the Task Force intends to continue staying connected to the CIP and its efforts, and continue to take advantage of opportunities to align the work of the programs.

The CIP partners with the Children's Division on a variety of projects throughout the year. A newly formed partnership effort has been created to assist local courts in challenging work related to child abuse and neglect. In the fall of 2018, the group hosted interactive regional workshops in five areas across Missouri. All juvenile court judges and commissioners were invited to attend, along with chief juvenile officers, circuit managers, a guardian ad litem and a parent attorney from each circuit. The circuit teams reviewed local data and outcomes, clearly defined the various roles and responsibilities in the child welfare process, and were provided guidance in addressing the challenges specific to each location.

Engaging the judicial leaders will also be topic of regional workshops in 2019, at which time the number of invitees will be doubled to include more legal partners.

Linkage to Anti-Trafficking Efforts:

In 2015, the General Assembly created a task force on human trafficking. The purpose of the task force was to raise awareness of the human trafficking problem in Missouri and provide organizations and agencies that enforce human trafficking laws and assist victims with a central place to share information. The Commission is currently working on finalizing recommendations to the Supreme Court to improve the judicial response to these issues.

In 2016, HB 1562 was signed into law on June 22. The bill expanded the criminal sex trafficking of a child to include advertising a child to participate in a commercial sexual act. It also protected records from exams conducted as a result of child abuse investigations.

During the 2017 legislative session, enhancements were made to the statutory definitions of abuse and neglect that better enable the Children's Division to identify child victims of trafficking:

- Abuse: Any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody, and control, except that discipline including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be construed to be abuse. Victims of abuse shall also include any victims of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as those terms are defined in 22 U.S.C. 78 Section 7102(9)-(10).
- Neglect: A failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child's well-being. Victims of neglect shall also include any victims of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking as those terms are defined in 22 U.S.C. 78 Section 7102(9)-(10).
- Care, custody, and control: Those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child includes, but is not limited to:
 - The parents or legal guardians of the child;
 - Other members of the child's household;
 - Those exercising supervision over a child for any part of a twenty-four hour day;
 - Any person who has access to the child based on a relationship to the parents of the child or members of the child's household or the family; or
 - Any person who takes control of the child by deception, force, or coercion.

As a result of these definition changes, a new child abuse and neglect screening criteria were implemented at the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Unit (CANHU):

Child(ren) of any age have forcefully or willingly been involved in any sexual activity in exchange for anything of value, such as money, drugs, shelter, food, or clothes. This includes situations in which a third party profits from the child's sex act. This also includes situations in which the child's basic needs are met in exchange for a sexual act and situations in which the child's parent/caregiver allows, permits, or encourages a child to engage in a commercial sex act. Examples include pornography, prostitution, stripping, and survival sex.

A new reporter description code of Child Sex Trafficking (HT) code was added to the computer database and the existing reporter description code of Prostitution (A8) was discontinued. The addition of this new HT code provides the ability for staff to make findings specific to child sex trafficking.

In 2018, HB 1246 was signed in law on March 1. The bill mandates the creation of a poster related to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and requirements for its publication and display.

To comply with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, the Children's Division has contracted with Cornerstones of Care to provide introductory training on Human Trafficking to all CD and contracted staff. The objectives of this training include being able to define and recognize the scope of human trafficking, being able to identify indicators and people at high risk, identifying resources for potential victims, and learning preventative strategies. Cornerstones of Care continues to provide this training on an as needed basis for new staff and any employee that has not yet received training on human trafficking.

To expand on the Introduction to Human Trafficking training, the Children's Division is currently in the process of establishing an expert partner, and developing an advanced Human Trafficking training curriculum for CD staff, as well as foster/relative providers and residential providers. This advanced training will further strengthen skills in the areas of identifying, assessing, and engaging child trafficking victims. To directly align with the implementation of the advanced Human Trafficking training the Children's Division will also be updating CD policy to guide CD staff, as well as contracted staff, as to how to respond to potential victims of child trafficking.

Children's Division staff continues to expand their awareness of, and response to concerns of human trafficking, by developing local protocols within multi-disciplinary teams, and collaborating with federal law enforcement agencies for assistance in investigating cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.

The activities and recommendations included in this report provide further evidence of the Task Force's awareness of these plans and programs. The Task Force will continue to consider these efforts when discussing and brainstorming ideas for potential projects for improvements in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect moving forward.

Linkage to Court and Legal Representation Improvement Work:

Juvenile Courts and Child Welfare Meetings (Supreme Court)

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

Over the last year, the statewide PCSW has continued to convene on a regular basis. The group's priorities for the year ahead include 1) planning and executing another set of regional court convenings, to include a greater number of participants (up to ten) from each site; and 2) individualized follow-up and support with specific circuits to coach and support court partnerships.

Regional Court Convenings

A series of regional convenings were held in the fall of 2018. The teams consisted of the judge, juvenile officer, Guardian Ad-Litem (GAL), Children's Division staff and contracted foster care staff. At each court convening, participants were provided a binder/ toolkit which included information about roles and responsibilities, and information about the Family First Act. The convenings introduced the expectation that each circuit would begin or renew multidisciplinary court partnership efforts. Each team was given data for its circuit, and was asked to discuss the trends and possible strategies for improvement. The circuits were also encouraged to meet regularly to continue to discuss strategies for improvement. Feedback from the convenings was largely positive. Responses to the court convening follow-up survey showed that at least 60% of circuits had held or scheduled their first court partnership meeting as of early December 2018.

Court Technical Assistance (TA) Teams

While these state-level meetings were useful, the group agreed that more collaboration was needed at the local level. The PCSW decided to design and implement court technical assistance teams in each of Missouri's 46 circuits. Each team will be led by a local judge, and consist of representatives from the Children's Division, the juvenile office, the GAL, and the Parent's Counsel Bar. The Court Technical Assistance Teams will meet on a monthly basis to review data, trends, discuss common barriers seen across cases, and foster an overall culture of learning and continuous quality improvement. These teams are still under development.

Staff from the Children's Division are available to provide continued support and regular data dissemination as a basis for each monthly discussion. A "TA Request Form" has been developed and shared with all 46 circuits. This form can be used to request data, best practice resources, specific training, in-person support/ facilitation, etc. The Children's Division's data team has begun producing quarterly reports for all 46 circuits, to be used as conversation starters, at court partnership meetings.

Jurist-in-Residence (JIR) Work

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

- Missouri's Jurist-in-Residence, James Welsh, convened a very helpful meeting of Circuit 7 stakeholders on January 14, 2019. This is one of the selected JIR sites; Judge Davis and her team seem interested and invested in deepening their court partnership work. Primary topics included improving transportation supports for parents to attend services and visitation, and improving clarity around the Signs of Safety mapping process.
- Similarly, on January 30, 2019, Judge Welsh led a JIR meeting in Pemiscot County. The conversation focused on the lack of resources in this area of the state (especially for substance use

treatment), a desire to expand the availability of foster homes (for older youth in particular), and exploration of establishing a CASA program in this region.

- On January 17, 2019, the Children's Division was informed that one of the JIR sites would be Cole County. Additionally, the JIR is exploring starting a site in the 9th Circuit. The 9th Circuit has high rates of youth in residential care and, like many places, training may be needed around the upcoming FFPSA requirements for residential placement.

Judicial Engagement Team (JET)

Collaboration between courts and child welfare agencies, along with other community stakeholders, has long been recognized as a requirement for the protection and well-being of children. The Children's Division has worked closely with Casey Family Programs Judicial Engagement Teams in Kansas City and Springfield, Missouri. JET is a tenured and highly experienced team that assists courts in using data to inform what needs to be done to achieve the best outcomes for children. These groups have addressed concerns such as Termination of Parental Rights, case backlogs, and reducing the number of youth placed in congregate care settings. JET is currently exploring launching a third site in the St. Louis area.

Child Welfare Opportunities for Law students

The Children's Division is very enthusiastic about improving child welfare practice across the state by building stronger partnerships with Missouri's law schools. In January 2019, the Children's Division convened a group consisting of universities. Several promising ideas were generated, and next steps were identified, including interest in summer externships, year-long fellowships, and semesters-in-practice.

Staff Competency in Court

Legal Aspects training continues to be offered a minimum of six times per year, with additional classes scheduled upon the request of specific circuits. The Legal Aspects trainer collaborates with the local jurisdiction requesting specific training, encourages and supports co-training with the juvenile office attorneys. They encourage participation of court personnel along with Children's Division staff, if such an environment is conducive to learning and strengthens partnership and understanding.

Other Activities

- The Children's Division's data team has begun producing quarterly data reports for all 46 circuits (to be used as conversation starters at court partnership meetings).
- On February 27-28, 2019, Dr. Jerry Milner visited Missouri. The visit included a special event for juvenile judges in Springfield (Greene County). The event showcased effective judicial leadership techniques to foster multidisciplinary collaboration, and to reduce the number of youth in residential placement. Dr. Milner shared his vision around the important role that judges can play in prevention and safely reducing the foster care population.

The Task Force is made up of several juvenile attorneys and three judges that have been a part of the activities described above in one capacity or another. These projects are ongoing and will continue to be followed and discussed by Task Force members in years to come.

CJA Funds Allocated/Finance Committee:

In 2018, the finance committee met quarterly via conference call to review grant applications and to actively monitor the expenditure of funds. The committee was able to thoroughly review grant applications, and discuss all aspects of the applications prior to the quarterly meeting of the entire Task Force. This process proved to be very beneficial to the Task Force for ensuring the appropriate use of CJA funds.

The finance committee recommended and the Task Force voted to fund the following projects which were successfully completed in 2018 or early 2019:

The Child Center-What No One is Talking About and Everyone Needs to Know: Understanding Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB); April 4, 2018

The Child Center Inc. requested funds for a conference titled, “This is What No One is Talking About and Everyone Needs to Know”. The conference was focused on youth with problematic sexual behaviors. This one-day workshop included a morning session focused on defining and understanding problem sexual behaviors (PSB). Participants learned how to distinguish between PSB and typical behavior that is developmentally appropriate. The afternoon session consisted of focusing on medical and therapeutic response and treatment modalities that are best practices in addressing PSB in children. Grant funding was requested for speaker fees, publication materials, and 75 tuition scholarships for the conference. The finance committee approved funding for \$8,100 which covered scholarships for participants only. This is supported by the recommendations in A1 (page 21).

Total: \$8,100

Missouri KidsFirst-Springfield ChildFirst Training on April 23-27, 2018

Missouri KidsFirst requested funding for scholarships for 23 trainees to attend ChildFirst three-day training and 39 trainees to attend the five-day training course in Child Abuse Investigation. Priority was given to prosecutors, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, Children’s Division staff and child advocacy center staff as scholarship recipients. The goal of the grant was 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. Upon reviewing attendee surveys, it was found this training was seen as “very effective” in regard to court testimony and other court related topics. This is supported by the recommendations in C2 (page 23).

Total: \$43,900

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Spring Educational Conference on May 23-25, 2018

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association requested funds for lodging and registration fees for 25 scholarship recipients. Three plenary sessions, as well as nineteen breakout workshops for professionals, were offered during the Spring 2018 Educational Conference. Several plenary and workshop sessions were applicable to the requirements of the Missouri Task Force on Children Justice. The seminars were intended to assist various disciplines who work in the child welfare system to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, as well as making sure multi-disciplinary team members receive ongoing training and education. The break-out sessions allowed participants to connect, collaborate and obtain new strategies, theories and trends. The workshops included the following goals for participants:

- Professionals who work in the field of juvenile justice will improve their investigation skills and prosecution of abuse and neglect cases by attending seminars which address best practices, factors, and barriers they will encounter when handling abuse and neglect cases;
- Due to the increased knowledge juvenile justice professionals will obtain from attending these seminars, cases involving abuse and neglect will be investigated more thoroughly and successfully;
- Professionals will learn to strategize and put theories into place to overcome team issues and to successfully bring multi-disciplinary teams into each case;

- Professionals will strengthen their interview skills;
- Professionals will have a better understanding of youth culture and how adolescents respond to trauma.

A survey was given to participants to assess the value of the conference, and the survey revealed attendees found this training was beneficial to their professional development. This is supported by the recommendations in A1 (page 21).

Total: \$14,000

Children’s Mercy Hospital - Child Protector Smart Phone Application Updates

In 2016, The Children’s Mercy Hospital Division of Child Abuse and Neglect submitted a grant request to finance the costs associated with developing a Missouri specific “Child Protector” Smart phone application that could be utilized by all multidisciplinary team members involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect. CJA’s own Dr. James Anderst utilized his expertise along with several other doctors at Children’s Mercy Hospital to provide the most up to date information about mechanisms of injuries to children for the development of this application. CJA in Texas is also funding a version of this program for their state. The application is available for download to smart phones, and to be embedded in child protection agency’s websites for immediate use by Children’s Division investigators and others working to prosecute child abuse and neglect. The top countries using this application are the United States, Vietnam, Canada, the UK, and Russia. The top cities are Chicago, Kansas City, Dallas, Houston, and Austin. Missouri can now report having a state-specific version of this application.

In 2018, another grant request was submitted by The Children’s Mercy Hospital Division of Child Abuse and Neglect related to updates and improvements to the Child Protector application. This project is building on previously existing material developed using Texas and Missouri CJA funding. All activities will add to and enhance the existing material. The goal of this project is to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of suspected child physical abuse, including child fatalities, by updating the decision trees in the Child Protector app to reflect current science. This project is on-going and will be completed by the end of 2019. This is supported by the recommendations in A1 and B3 (pages 21 and 22).

Total: \$33,974

Missouri KidsFirst Victim Advocacy Training

Missouri KidsFirst requested funds for Victim Advocacy Training for 30 advanced Victim Advocacy Training Scholarships and 25 lodging scholarships. The purpose of this proposal was to provide training to victim advocates serving children and their families in Missouri to improve their ability to reduce trauma for children, and their non-offending caregivers, and to improve investigation outcomes. Research demonstrates that coordinated victim advocacy services encourage access to, and participation in, investigation, prosecution, treatment, and support services, and thus are a core component of the multi-disciplinary team’s (MDTs) response. Up-to-date information, ongoing support and access to comprehensive services are critical to a child and family’s comfort and ability to participate in an ongoing investigation, possible prosecution, intervention and treatment. The victim support and advocacy responsibilities are implemented consistently with victims’ rights legislation. Many members of the MDTs may serve as advocates for children within their discipline system or agency. However, victim-centered advocacy is a discipline unto itself with a distinct role on the MDT that coordinates and provides services to ensure a consistent and comprehensive network of support for the child and family. This is supported by the recommendations in C2 (page 23).

Total: \$23,598

The Task Force on Children's Justice sponsored "Show Me a Helping Hand"

The CJA Task Force sponsored a comprehensive workshop for multi-disciplinary team members to focus on sex trafficking, prostitution and male sexual abuse. The target audiences included counselors, therapists, law enforcement, Children's Division, schools, etc. The conference was called "Show Me a Helping Hand" and was held at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, on June 21 and 22, 2018. The conference was free to all attendees. CJA sponsored the cost of two speakers and lodging for 20 attendees that registered before April 15, 2018, and 100 attendees from the Children's Division. The goal was to bring more awareness to male sexual abuse and how best to treat these survivors and prosecute their abusers. The conference was attended by over 200 participants and after evaluation of the surveys, it was found that attendees found this topic relevant and that there are very few conferences available that have addressed this topic. Given the success of the conference, the CJA Task Force is planning a similar conference in 2019. This is supported by the recommendations in A1 (page 21).

Total: \$15,000

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Fall Educational Conference

In 2018, the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association submitted a grant request for CJA funding to support training for multi-disciplinary team members to attend the fall educational conference held October 25-27, 2018. The Task Force voted to approve funding for scholarships for 25 individuals from varying professional disciplines involved in the areas of child abuse and neglect, and juvenile justice. Scholarship recipients were required to attend workshops related to child abuse and neglect.

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association provided three plenary sessions as well as sixteen break-out workshops for professionals during the Fall 2018 Educational Conference. Several plenary and workshops sessions were applicable to the requirements of the Missouri Task Force on Children Justice. These seminars assisted various disciplines who work in the child welfare system to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, as well as making sure multi-disciplinary team members receive ongoing training and education. This is supported by the recommendation in A1 (page 21).

Total: \$10,819

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

MOPS requested grant funding to host training that would improve the prosecution of child sexual abuse by offering prosecutors and other multi-disciplinary team members in the investigation and preparation of criminal trials for crimes against children. Regular training and assistance are imperative due to a high turnover of personnel within prosecution, law enforcement and social services agencies. There is a statewide need in Missouri for the continuous provision of high-quality training to multi-disciplinary teams responding to child sexual abuse cases. MOPS requested funding for 50 scholarships for trainees to attend a multi-day workshop on preparing prosecutors, law enforcement, medical providers, mental health providers, and forensic interviewers for the prosecution of child sex crimes. The Trial School was very interactive with participants being able to break out into small groups for practical exercises. This is supported by A1 (page 21).

Total: \$15,000

Missouri KidsFirst: ChildFirst Training-St. Louis Missouri

Missouri KidsFirst requested funds for scholarships for 56 trainees to attend a three-day or five-day training course for Child Abuse Investigation Training. Priority was given to prosecutors, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, and Children's Division staff in allocating scholarships. The training was designed for investigative teams of law enforcement officers, social workers, prosecutors and forensic interviewers. Students received training on the ChildFirst Forensic Interview Protocol, child development, memory, suggestibility, testifying in court, legal issues and preparing children for court. The five-day course was intended for those professionals who will be conducting forensic interviews of children.

In addition, Missouri KidsFirst is an approved trainer to conduct a three-day child abuse investigation training. The three-day course was intended for MDT members to gain an understanding of the forensic interview process when they are part of the investigation but not interviewing children. The training was provided to MDT members across the state. Teams included a combination of law enforcement, Children's Division investigators, and prosecutors. The goal of this training was to improve the investigative and prosecutorial response to child sexual abuse by increasing the expertise of professionals addressing the investigation, treatment and prosecution of cases of child sexual abuse. The training was held on October 22-26, 2018. This is supported by the recommendation in A1 (page 21).

Total: \$38,500

Three-Year Assessment

Evidence of the Task Force's efforts to thoroughly and comprehensively assess Missouri's response to child abuse and neglect is documented throughout this report. In addition to its ongoing efforts, in February 2019, the Task Force conducted a survey to assess the effectiveness of the multi-disciplinary approach to child abuse and neglect investigations and to conduct a comprehensive statewide review and evaluation of the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases. This same survey was conducted with multi-disciplinary team members in 2016 in order and the thought was to compare survey results from 2016 to 2019 to assess if improvements were made, and where continued work would be most beneficial.

The Task Force sent the survey to the Children's Division, community partners, multi-disciplinary team members and other stakeholders and citizens via an email with a link to Survey Monkey. Task Force members shared the survey with others associated with their respective disciplines. The Children's Division, with the assistance of the Office of State Courts Administrator, CASA, and the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, ensured Children's Division workers, juvenile officers, child advocates and other court staff and judges were afforded the opportunity to participate in the survey as well. As a result of these efforts, the Task Force was able to ensure the opportunity for a statewide response to the survey, which included representation from members of all disciplines involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect, as well as other professionals and citizens interested in child abuse and neglect.

In comparing 2016 and 2019 surveys results showed that 70% of regions surveyed had multidisciplinary teams, and approximately 30% had the written protocol in both years surveyed. It was also found that during both years surveyed, the need for with improved training for professionals who investigate abuse and neglect still remained a concern approximately 62% stating it was an area that needed to be improved.

A need for improvement in judicial understanding of child abuse and neglect cases was 42% in 2016, and in 2019 remained steady with 43% seeing need for improvement. In both years, approximately 50% of those surveyed felt that the prosecutor's and guardian ad litem's involvement and interaction with the child during the court process needed improvement. The survey also resulted in several comments and suggestions from those surveyed. These will be compiled and reviewed by the Task Force for future considerations in training opportunities, grant funding, and community support.

Results from the survey were evaluated in conjunction with results from the previous three-year survey and assessment information gathered through other activities of the Task Force, the work conducted by the critical event review committee, and priorities and recommendations from 2017 and 2018. These continue to be priorities and need ongoing efforts from the Task Force and the Children's Division into 2019.

The Task Force also developed goals that they would like to focus on in 2019 and beyond based on the recommendations of the critical events committee and the results of the survey. The goals are as follows:

1. Improving mandated reporting. Through the Task Force's review of cases and personal experience in their own disciplines, there appear to be gaps in the reach of mandated reporter training and opportunities to increase the quality of reports being made to the hotline. The Task Force would like to evaluate the current training requirements across multi-disciplinary teams to see if the training is consistent across the state to identify gaps with regard to who is receiving the training. The issue of staff turnover is recognized as a possible barrier in mandated reporters getting adequately trained on a consistent basis. The Task Force will seek to collaborate with Missouri KidsFirst to see how mandated reporter training can be enhanced within the State of Missouri. The Task Force will also use this goal as a factor when reviewing grant requests for trainings across the state.
2. Creating high-functioning multi-disciplinary teams. The Task Force recognizes that successful investigation and prosecution of child abuse is a multi-pronged process. Many disciplines must work together to assure that reports of child abuse are adequately investigated, prosecuted and services are provided to families. The Task Force will seek to collaborate with partners such as the Missouri Office of Prosecuting Attorneys (MOPS) to expand and improve multi-disciplinary team training across the state. It is again recognized that turnover in service fields is high, and that in rural areas it is more difficult to coordinate such trainings. The Task Force will also be factoring in the need for training in this area when reviewing grant requests.
3. Supporting collaboration of multi-disciplinary teams in response to the opioid and substance abuse epidemic. Substance Use Disorder has become a prevalent factor in the area of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force will seek to support activities that would promote collaboration between the various agencies and service providers that respond, investigate, and provide services to families affected by substance use and abuse. The Task Force will use this as a factor when reviewing and funding grant requests.

Consistent with the requirements of section 107(e)(1)(A),(B), and (C) respectively the 2019 priorities are as follows:

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

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

- (1) The Task Force has and will continue to assist the Children’s Division and multi-disciplinary team members involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect by focusing efforts on developing, supporting and funding more comprehensive training, including but not limited to: trauma-informed training for Children’s Division investigators; multi-disciplinary team training; forensic interview training; child fatality investigative training; identification of child abuse and neglect; mechanisms of injury; identification of appropriate collateral contacts and witnesses; and proper use of safety and risk assessment tools in the investigative process. The Task Force and Children’s Division have made great strides to address identified areas of need, and have begun to implement training (as described throughout this report) to improve the Children’s Division and the multi-disciplinary team’s abilities to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force will continue to support the Children’s Division in these efforts.
- (2) The Children’s Division, with the support of the Task Force, continues to work with members of all disciplines to improve communications in the multi-disciplinary team response to child abuse and neglect allegations. The Children’s Division works on this not only in the normal course of business through the investigative process, case reviews, development of multi-disciplinary team protocols, and multi-disciplinary team meetings, but also through multi-disciplinary team trainings funded by the Task Force. One of the objectives in the CFSP 2015-2019 is to strengthen Child Advocacy Centers and multi-disciplinary team partnerships through training. The Task Force will continue to support and consider CJA grant applications submitted for the purposes of addressing training needs of Children’s Division staff, Child Advocacy Centers, and multi-disciplinary team members to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect and strengthen partnerships amongst team members.
- (3) At the May 2018 meeting of the Task Force, the 2016 (latest available) Child Fatality Review Annual Report was reviewed by the Task Force. There was discussion regarding whether the report distinguishes that the contributing factors of death were caused by substance use. Example: If a car accident was caused by substance use while driving or cardiac arrest induced by overdose. The report does not distinguish if substance use was associated in the death in any way. The Task Force recommended that the report also note the association of substance use in a death rather than as a contributing factor.

Missouri’s state level Child Fatality Review Panel (CFRP) began a case review process of fatalities which occurred as a result of child abuse or neglect beginning with CY2014, in response to the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities’ recommendation for states to conduct a five-year retrospective review of child fatalities. The sub-committee met at least monthly in 2018 to complete the case reviews. The case review team consists of a wide representation of professions, including child welfare, prosecutors, child advocates, medical, law enforcement, child abuse and neglect prevention, and public health professionals. The case review team focused on identifying areas in which various systems could have intervened to prevent the fatality, in an effort to make recommendations for policy and legislative changes in the realm of child welfare.

The report was completed in February 2019 and is waiting for approval for public dissemination. Some of the recommendations that the sub-committee reported out were as follows:

- Create a culture of safe sleep by requiring all hospitals to engage in safe sleep practices and model what a safe sleep environment looks like. Provide more

education for the public about what safe sleep looks like, and how to access safe sleep resources as needed;

- Improve the investigation of child deaths by conducting a full investigation by law enforcement on all sleep related deaths, and mandated use of the Missouri Department of Social Services Death Scene Investigation Checklist for all child deaths. They recommended requiring law enforcement agencies receive training in investigating child death;
- Children’s Division assess all unexplained child and sleep deaths;
- Improve provision of resources to high risk and/or high needs families;
- Educate citizens of Missouri on how to prevent or address scenarios that increase the risk for a child fatalities;
- Increase and improve interagency collaboration in cases with suspected child maltreatment;
- Improve mandated reporters’ ability to recognize and respond to suspected child maltreatment;
- Increase the functionality of county and state Child Fatality Review Panels.

The Task Force could play a vital role in supporting training and further education to agencies and the community based on these recommendations.

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

- (1) The Task Force supported a Children’s Justice Act sponsored conference in June 2018. CJA Task Force Member, Greg Holtmeyer, proposed that the Task Force sponsor a comprehensive workshop for multi-disciplinary team members to focus on sex trafficking, prostitution and male sexual abuse. The target audience included counselors, therapists, law enforcement, Children’s Division, schools, and other related professions. The conference was called “Show Me a Helping Hand” and was held at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, on June 21 and 22, 2018. The conference was free to all attendees. Two nationally renowned speakers, Mic Hunter and David Lisak spoke on the topic of male sexual abuse. Also speaking at the conference was CJA Task Force member Kelly Schultz, who presented “Stewards of Children”, which is a comprehensive training on the prevention of child sexual abuse. CJA Task Force Member Greg Holtmeyer presented “Know Your Why”. The conference drew approximately 200 attendees from the State of Missouri as well as other states. The Task Force was very proud of the success of their first conference. Given the success, the Task Force voted to host another conference regarding male sexual abuse in 2019. Plans are underway and the dates set for the conference are June 27 and 28, 2019, at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.
- (2) Missouri KidsFirst sponsored ChildFirst which was a three-day training course and a five-day child abuse investigation training. Priority was given to prosecutors, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, Children’s Division staff and child advocacy center staff in allocating scholarships. The goal of the grant was to improve the investigative response to child sexual abuse by increasing the expertise of professionals addressing the investigation, treatment and prosecution of cases of child sexual abuse. The Task Force supported this endeavor by approving a grant to assist in funding the training.
- (3) In 2016, The Children’s Mercy Hospital Division of Child Abuse and Neglect submitted a grant request to finance the costs associated with developing a Missouri specific “Child

Protector” smart phone application that could be utilized by all multidisciplinary team members involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect. CJA’s own Dr. James Anderst utilized his expertise along with several other doctors at Children’s Mercy Hospital to provide the most up to date information about mechanisms of injuries to children for the development of this application. CJA in Texas is also funding a version of this program for their state. The application is available for download to smart phones and to be embedded in child protection agency’s websites for immediate use by Children’s Division investigators and others working to prosecute child abuse and neglect. The top countries using this application are the United States, Vietnam, Canada, the UK, and Russia. The top cities are Chicago, Kansas City, Dallas, Houston, and Austin. Missouri can now report having a state-specific version of this application.

In 2018, another grant request was submitted by The Children’s Mercy Hospital Division of Child Abuse and Neglect related to updates and improvements to the Child Protector application. This project is building on previously existing material developed using Texas and Missouri CJA funding. All activities will add to and enhance the existing material. The Task Force is also committed to supporting the Child Protector application by requesting that any organization that the Task Force has voted to support in regard to grant funding, promote the application at their training or event.

(C) Activities to Reform State Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Procedures or Protocols

The Task Force will continue to review Children’s Division policy and law related to the investigation of child abuse and neglect.

- 1) In 2018 and 2019, the Task Force closely monitored the legislative session as it related to the investigation of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force followed several bills designed to improve the investigative process. The Task Force also reviews Children’s Division policy related to the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect. Bills of particular interest to the Task Force introduced or reintroduced in 2018 and 2019 are as follows:

SB 819 - the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 819 which includes numerous provisions that enhances the Children’s Division’s ability to continue to protect and care for vulnerable children within the state of Missouri.

Provisions of the legislation which impact children in foster care include:

- No fee required for a foster child’s birth, death or marriage certificate or for certificates for parents of a child in foster care;
- Allows 30 days for a foster child’s immunization records to be provided for enrollment in child care;
- Changes the periodicity schedule for Healthy Children and Youth exams to be consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics;
- Allows foster children age 16 and older to open a bank account without having an adult co-signer;
- Allows contracted case managers 30 days to develop a case plan which is consistent with the Children’s Division’s requirement for state agency case managers;
- Requires the Missouri State Highway Patrol to provide ongoing electronic updates to criminal history background checks of foster parents;
- Closes foster home licensing records except under specific circumstances;

- Adds additional convictions as a ground for TPR.

Provisions related to child abuse and neglect reports and investigations include:

- Allows the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline to accept reports for investigation or family assessment if either the child or alleged perpetrator resides in Missouri, may be found in Missouri, or if the incident occurred in Missouri;
- Changes the reporting of drug-exposed children by doctors from reporting to the Department of Health and Senior Services to the Children's Division;
- Changes the retention of reports from one year to 18 years from the date of the report if it was concluded that the child could not be located. Changes the retention of unsubstantiated reports by a mandated reporter from 5 to 10 years and unsubstantiated reports by a permissive reporter from 2 to 5 years.

Provisions related to adoption include:

- Opens up language around what an adoptive parent or child can share about their own adoption;
- Allows for post adoption contract agreements.

Other provisions include:

- Elimination of the Children's Service Commission;
- Creates the Strengthening Families Act which allows a parent to place their child with an individual through a power of attorney;
- Creates the Trauma-Informed Care for Child and Families Task Force;
- Changes the statute of limitations when DNA evidence is recovered;
- Removes the statute of limitations for prosecution of sexual offenses against children.

[SB 800](#) - This legislation impacts children in foster care and allows juvenile courts to enter an order regarding custody of a child, establish a child support order, and establish rights of visitation for the parents of the child. This allows the Juvenile Court to release children from the Children's Division's custody and place children with a non-offending parent who may need legal custody establishment or modification.

2) Strengthening the overall investigation and assessment of families is ongoing. At the February 2019 meeting of the Task Force, Children's Division Legal Aspects Trainer, Albert Grieve, gave an overview of Legal Aspects training that all Children's Division staff receive. This two and one-half day training provides participants with the basics on federal constitutional law involving the rights of parents, children, perpetrators and the state, and how these rights impact (1) the CA/N hotline investigative process, (2) placing a person's name on the Central Registry and (3) in making recommendation for the removal of children from the home. This training also includes the statutory definitions of abuse and neglect and the preponderance of evidence (POE) standard necessary to substantiate a hotline investigation. The legal training portion concludes with a section on evidence and making presentations to the CANRB from a legal perspective. The Critical Thinking portion of the training is specifically tailored to help investigators and supervisors at key decision-making points in the investigative process: gathering information, evaluating evidence and deciding whether or not to substantiate by the preponderance of the evidence standard. All levels of staff take this training and some repeat it every few years.

3) In September 2016, the Children's Division convened an internal workgroup to revise screening protocols at the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline Unit (CANHU). The workgroup

was convened to improve the Children's Division's response to allegations of child abuse and neglect to ensure the agency is intervening with families when it is appropriate and necessary to do so. This workgroup met monthly and was comprised of Central Office staff, CANHU staff, field staff, supervisors, and managers. The group revised the definitions of the conditions needed to take a report of abuse/neglect, along with the criteria for assigning response priorities to abuse/neglect reports. Recommendations were made to add several criteria for taking referrals when the concerns do not rise to the level of a child abuse and neglect report, but do warrant intervention to provide services and education to families. Implementation of this workgroup's recommendations continues to occur. This group still meets regularly and will continue to meet throughout 2019.

- 4) The Task Force will continue to research statutes related to child abuse and neglect in other States throughout the country to determine the consistency of the laws and whether or not current Missouri laws adequately protect children.

Application for Proposed Activities in FY19

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

In 2019, the Critical Event Review Committee will continue to meet quarterly to conduct critical event reviews and make recommendations on cases of child abuse and neglect, focusing primarily on child fatalities, near fatalities and serious physical injury cases. Case specific recommendations will continue to be compiled, evaluated and prioritized as it relates to more systemic concerns to address issues and barriers to the effective handling and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.

In 2019, Missouri will continue to work through its Program Improvement Plan (PIP). One area of need that was identified was the "quality safety and needs assessment" and "workforce development." We want the Task Force to be involved in the review of the PIP by discussing ways to increase quality safety assessments during child abuse and neglect investigations. The Children's Division will then take any recommendations that would increase the safety of children and benefit work force development back to the CFSR Committee to discuss any implementation that could be incorporated into the PIP.

In 2019, the Finance Committee will continue meeting quarterly to review grant applications, monitor expenditures, and evaluate the use of CJA funds. The Finance Committee will continue to support the improvement of the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect by recommending the funding of grants from programs designed to improve the investigative response and the prosecution of child abuse and neglect. The Task Force will focus on funding projects aligned with the Task Force's recommendations for systemic improvement. The Task Force will be particularly interested in funding projects that will enhance training for multi-disciplinary team members investigating child abuse and neglect and any innovative pilot projects designed to focus on improving that process and/or reducing trauma to child victims during the investigative process.

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

In order to remain in compliance with the reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to protect children from abuse, the Legislative Committee will continue to follow legislation pertinent to the work of the Task Force. The Task Force will review prioritized recommendations made as a result of the critical event review committee and the three-year assessment. They will determine whether or not the pursuit of legislative proposals to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect may be appropriate in the coming year.

In 2019, 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.

The Task Force will monitor the outcomes of the Children’s Division’s Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report and the Missouri State Child Fatality Review Program Annual Report. The Task Force will discuss and make recommendations for improvement based on information gathered in collaboration with these reports and findings. When the Missouri State Child Fatality Review Panel has completed their review of 2014 fatalities and the report is approved for distribution, the report will be shared with the Task Force to discuss any findings and further recommendations.

Proposed activities for the Task Force and projects approved for 2019 CJA funding include, but are not limited to, the following projects:

Task Force on Children’s Justice Operating Expenses and Projects

Funding is needed to support and maintain the activities, correspondence, teleconferences, quarterly meetings of the Task Force, meetings of Task Force subcommittees, and attendance for a minimum of two persons to attend a CJA annual conference, in addition to funding grant project requests that may arise as appropriate.

Total: \$ 10,000

Missouri KidsFirst: ChildFirst Training St. Louis

Missouri KidsFirst requested grant funding for ChildFirst training. ChildFirst training will be offered in St. Louis, Missouri, at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel -Chesterfield. The training is scheduled for November 4-8, 2019. The purpose of this proposal is to improve the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse in Missouri by providing essential training for investigative teams working with a child advocacy center (CAC) that will include the following subjects: the CAC model and multidisciplinary approach to investigating child abuse/neglect; roles and responsibilities of each member on the multidisciplinary team; the ChildFirst Forensic Interview Protocol; child development, memory, and suggestibility; testifying in court; legal issues; and preparing children for court.

Objective 1: By December 2019, at least 60 professionals will be trained in ChildFirst forensic interview process for interviewing children regarding alleged abuse.

Objective 2: By December 2019, 100% of professionals trained will understand the benefits of using a multidisciplinary team approach to investigating allegations of child abuse, what it means to act as a “neutral” professional when obtaining information from a child during a forensic interview, and the latest research on the forensic interviewing of children.

Objective 3: By December 2019, 50% of professionals trained will have applied the information and techniques learned during the didactic portion of the training through their participation in the mock interviews on days four and five of the training.

Total: \$25,183

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

The purpose of this training is that NCADA will provide substance use awareness and trauma education for law enforcement officers, attorneys, and guardians ad litem in order to aid in improving the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect in a manner which reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family. Service will be performed through six live trainings and four webinars beginning in July 2019 and ending in June 2020, so as to coordinate with the State of Missouri's fiscal year.

NCADA will educate professionals in the following areas:

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

Total: \$27,435

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA) Spring Educational Conference

The Missouri Juvenile Justice Association will provide three plenary sessions as well as nineteen break-out workshops for professionals during the Spring 2019 Educational Conference on May 22-24, 2019. Several plenary and workshop sessions are 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 as well as making sure multi-disciplinary team members receive ongoing training and education in order to improve the investigation and prosecution of abuse and neglect cases. The following sessions have been set up on the following topics:

- 1) "Human Trafficking";
- 2) "Criminal Minds: Inside the Mind of a Pedophile";
- 3) "Corroborating Evidence: Reducing the Child's Stress and Strengthening Your Case";
- 4) "Fatal Fires Involving Children: Accidental, Homicide or Suicide?";
- 5) "Failure to Thrive: Identification and Management";
- 6) "Religious Medical Neglect-When and How to Compel Medical Care"

Plenary and break-out sessions allow workers to connect, collaborate and obtain new strategies, theories and trends. The grant will assist in funding for scholarships for lodging and attending the conference.

Total: \$10,751

State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) – Operation Cyber Safe

The purpose of the grant application is to secure funds to purchase advanced forensic software to recover evidence of technology facilitated crimes against children. STAT investigators use various types of

software to recover evidence of all types of crimes against children. The evidence is recovered from computers, cell phones, tablets, and other digital devices. These software licenses will be used by STAT to further STAT's mission to protect children and support the agencies that protect the children of Missouri. STAT specifically will be requesting funds to purchase Mobilyze software to process cell phones and tablets and Blacklight software to process data from computers and other digital devices.

The goal is to reduce the number of children in Missouri that are sexually abused by persons known and unknown to them and stop the distribution of pictures and digital images which memorialize the crime against the child. The service delivery dates are projected to be December 1, 2018 to December 31st, 2019.

Total: \$4,749

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

MOCSA is requesting funds to provide seven regional trainings to MDTs. The project is designed to improve the handling of child sexual abuse investigations in juvenile assessment reports or reports to law enforcement and the Children's Division involving youth with sexual behavior problems. As a result of better trained professionals who understand the dynamics of both the victims and the child instigators in these cases, additional trauma to child victims will be avoided. The training is designed to give professionals access to the knowledge they need, to address these issues in a way that increases positive outcomes for the child victim, the child with sexual behavior problems, and their caregivers, while also improving community safety.

The project will commence on January 1, 2019, and conclude December 31, 2019. Seven 6-hour trainings will take place between January 1 and December 31, 2019. The training will take place regionally throughout the State of Missouri to reach the highest number of multidisciplinary team members. Seven communities will be selected where trainings have not already taken place.

Total: \$29,224

Missouri KidsFirst ChildFirst-Springfield

The purpose of this proposal is to improve the investigation of child sexual abuse by providing training to multi-disciplinary team members. The training was set for April 28-May 3, 2019, in Springfield, Missouri. 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.

Objective 1: By June 2019, a minimum of 30 professionals will be trained and know the ChildFirst Missouri forensic interview process for interviewing children about abuse.

Objective 2: By June 2019, 100% of professionals trained will understand the benefits of using a multi-disciplinary team approach when interviewing children about abuse, what it means to act as "neutral" professional when obtaining information from a child during a forensic interview and have read significant research and professional articles related to the forensic interviewing of children.

Objective 3: By June 2019, 50% of professionals trained will have applied the information and techniques by participating in role-play interviews during the five-day ChildFirst Missouri training.

Total: \$43,150

The Task Force on Children's Justice sponsored "Show Me a Helping Hand"

The CJA Task Force will again sponsor and host a comprehensive workshop for multi-disciplinary team members to focus on sex trafficking, prostitution and male sexual abuse. The target audiences include counselors, therapists, law enforcement, Children's Division, schools, and other related professions. We hope to exceed over 400 attendees this year. The conference will again be held at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri on June 27 and 28, 2019. The conference will be free to all attendees. CJA will sponsor the cost of two speakers and lodging for 20 attendees that registered before April 15, 2019, and 25 attendees from the Children's Division. The hope is to further bring awareness to male sexual abuse and how best to treat these survivors and prosecute their abusers.

Total: \$20,000