



children's
JUSTICE CENTER
SALT LAKE COUNTY



Welcome



Salt Lake County Children's Justice Center

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 19, 2025



AGENDA – Brandon Turner

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Roll call
3. Approval of the minutes
4. Public comment
5. CJC staff and program update
6. Friends nonprofit report
7. Forensic Interviews refresher
10. Other business



A cluster of five stylized butterflies in various colors (blue, green, yellow, orange) is positioned in the top left corner of the slide.

Roll Call, Minutes, Public Comment

• Roll Call

- Welcome board members and guests

• Approval of the minutes

- Proposed edits
- Motion to approve
- Vote

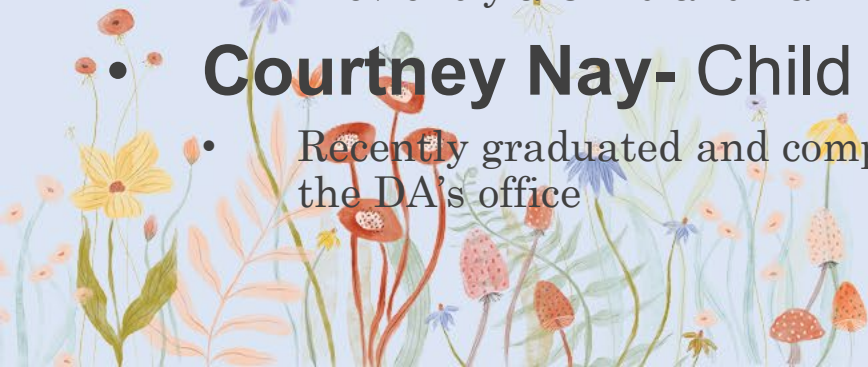
• Public Comment



CJC Staff and Program Update –

We are excited for our two new Victim Services Coordinators at CJC South and Child and Family Specialist at CJC North joining the team!

- **Kristy Morris-** Victim Services Coordinator (CJC South)
 - Previously a Youth Worker with Youth Services.
- **Sarah Brasher-** Victim Services Coordinator (CJC South)
 - Previously a Child and Family Specialist at CJC North
- **Courtney Nay-** Child and Family Specialist (CJC South)
 - Recently graduated and completed internship with Survivor and Victim Services with the DA's office



CJC South Renovations:

Medical Exam Room:



CJC South Renovations:

MH Specialist, Medical, and Manager Offices:



CJC South Renovations:

Concrete slab and new shed :



CJC Mental Health Specialist Update:

- **Number of Children and Caregivers Served**

Since January 27th, the Mental Health Therapist has coordinated with **38 parents/caregivers** via phone or in person to support connection with community and/or mental health services.

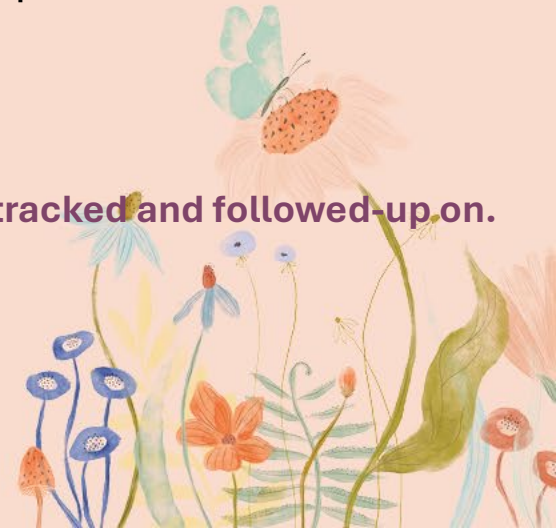
- **Direct Services to Children: 3 children** have been directly served by the Mental Health Therapist who were struggling with active suicidal ideation.

- **Referrals to Long-Term Therapy**

- 100% of families served at the CJC were provided with referral information for therapy. Out of all the families that were provided this information:
 - **Direct Referrals: 9 families** were directly referred to long-term therapy.
 - **Indirect Referrals:** An additional **14 families** were referred to an agency on the approved provider list. These families either preferred to make contact independently or did not respond to follow-up about a direct referral.

MH Specialist will continue to work on the following :

- Improving data tracking and metrics
- Relationships with Linked Providers to ensure all families receiving mental health services are being tracked and followed-up on.
- Increasing number of linked providers
- MH/CJC Training with Linked Providers
- OnSite Skills Groups



Friends Nonprofit Items

- \$188,000+ raised through the Giving Machines this holiday season to support the CJC program.
- Approximately \$6,500 raised in April for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

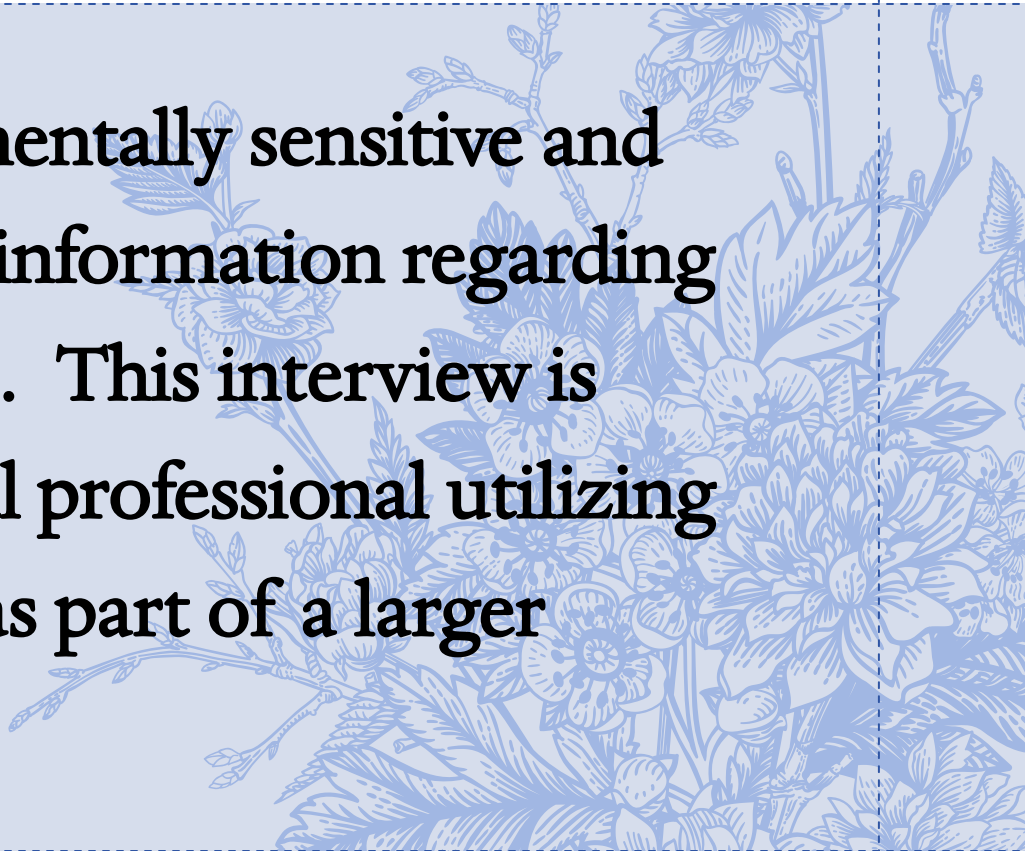


Question Types in the Forensic Interview



What is a Forensic Interview

A forensic interview of a child is a developmentally sensitive and legally sound method of gathering factual information regarding allegations of abuse or exposure to violence. This interview is conducted by a competently trained, neutral professional utilizing research and practice-informed techniques as part of a larger investigative process.





“Allowing children to talk about what they’ve experienced in their own words.”

Child Forensic Interviewing: Best Practices

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



OJJDP
JUVENILE JUSTICE
B U L L E T I N

Working for Youth Justice and Safety

September 2015

Robert L. Listenbee, Administrator

From the Administrator

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is committed to preventing the victimization of children and ensuring the well-being of all youth. In suspected abuse or maltreatment cases, law enforcement, medical, court, and other child protection professionals must respond swiftly and effectively and in a manner that avoids retraumatizing the affected youth.

To assist those who work in this field, the National Children's Advocacy Center convened experts from the major national forensic interview training programs to identify best practices in child forensic interviewing in cases of alleged abuse or exposure to violence.

The resulting discussions led to this publication, which provides guidance

**Child Forensic Interviewing:
Best Practices**

Chris Newlin, Linda Cordisco Steele, Andra Chamberlin, Jennifer Anderson, Julie Kenniston, Amy Russell, Heather Stewart, and Viola Vaughan-Eden

Highlights

This bulletin consolidates the current knowledge of professionals from several major forensic interview training programs on best practices for interviewing children in cases of alleged abuse. The authors discuss the purpose of the child forensic interview, provide historical context, review overall considerations, and outline each stage of the interview in more detail.

Among the topics that the authors discuss are the following:

- No two children will relate their experiences in the same way or with the same level of detail and clarity. Individual characteristics

Understanding Memory: Recall vs. Recognition

Recall - Tapping into recall memory, prompting the child to recall specific details and narrative from experienced events.

Recognition – Responses that recognize memory details based on options provided to the child by the interviewer.



Recall vs. Recognition Prompts

Recall prompts are open-ended, inviting the child to tell everything he or she remembers in his or her own words; such prompts have been shown to increase accuracy (Lamb, Orbach, Hershkowitz, Horowitz, and Abbott, 2007; Lamb et al., 2008). Open-ended questions encourage children to elaborate and to include salient details without significant input from the interviewer, who should use them throughout the interview.

Recognition prompts may elicit greater detail once the child has exhausted his or her capability for narrative or when a child cannot comprehend a more open-ended question. The risk of using recognition prompts is that they may elicit responses that are less accurate or potentially erroneous if the child feels compelled to reach beyond his or her stored memory.



Question Types

INVITATION	DIRECTIVE	OPTION-POSING	SUGGESTIVE
<u>Open-ended</u> requests for free-recall reports or elaborations that <u>do not focus</u> the child on a particular type of information or restrict the content of the child's responses. GENERAL Tell me everything that happened. And then what happened? CUED You said your dad broke your arm. Tell me everything about your dad breaking your arm. Tell me everything that happened from when you woke up today until you went to school.	<u>Open-ended</u> requests for more information about <u>details already mentioned</u> by the child that <u>refocus</u> the child's attention on a specific aspect. Formulated as "wh" questions. You said you were at the mall. Where exactly were you? What color was the sword? You said your friend saw what happened. What is her name?	<u>Closed-ended</u> questions asking for recognition reports by asking the child to affirm, negate, or select <u>interviewer-generated options</u>. Formulated as yes/no and forced choice questions. Best way to formulate forced choice: Was it <u>A</u> or <u>B</u> or <u>something else</u>? Did your dad say something to you? Did Joe touch you over the clothes, under the clothes or something else?	Questions stated in a way that communicates what <u>response is expected</u>, <u>assumes</u> details or <u>introduces</u> information not reported by the child. Joe had sex with you, didn't he? Did Joe tell you to keep it a secret? Who else has touched you?



Best Practice In a Forensic Interview

Majority of questions should be open-ended

- Increases accuracy
- Decreases Suggestibility

Exhausting Narrative

- Thorough and detailed
- Sequence of events

Conversational

- Building trust and rapport
- Comfortable experience

Follow Guidelines

- Structure
- Flexibility

Questions?

Dusty Schumacher

385-285-2660

dschumacher@saltlakecounty.gov





Other Business

- Other trainings or information that the board would like regarding the CJC
- Anything else?



children's
JUSTICE CENTER
SALT LAKE COUNTY