

**ADVISORY BOARD
OF THE
SALT LAKE COUNTY CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER**

Meeting minutes

Prepared by: Michelle Grahame, CJC Victim Services Coordinator

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, January 11, 2021

LOCATION: WebEx

PRESENT: Susanne Mitchell, Blake Nakamura, Carola Verdoia, Kris Ownby, Karen Crompton, Brooks Keeshin, Ryan Woodmansee, Kalab Cox, Sandy Growe, Alissa Black, Carol Anderson, Todd Mitchell

GUESTS: Lorianne Szendre, Lizet Torres, Tiffany Lawrence

EXOFFICIO: Michelle Grahame

EXCUSED: Scott Mourtgos

1. Carol Verdoia called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.
 - A. Welcome Guests and new members: Kalab Cox is the new designee for Josh Jones from the Friends Nonprofit. Tiffany Lawrence is the assistant to the Friends Nonprofit.
2. Roll Call- Michelle Grahame
Excused: Scott Mourtgos
3. Approval of the November minutes- Carol Verdoia
 - A. Carol Verdoia asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Brooks Keeshin made the motion, Carol Anderson second, all in favor. November minutes approved.
4. Public Comment- Carol Verdoia
 - A. Open for public comment- No public in attendance
5. Business Items- Susanne Mitchell
 - A. The nominating committee will be meeting soon to fill vacancies on the board.
6. Friends Nonprofit Update- Kalab Cox
 - A. The Friends are looking to fill board positions due to terms ending soon and thanked those who have served long terms on the board.
7. CJC Program Update- Susanne Mitchell
 - A. Awards recognition- recognition awards are being presented from the Victim Services Division to MDT professionals voted on by the CJC staff and funded by the Friends Nonprofit. Law enforcement professional of the year is awarded to Detective Christopher Benedict with the Unified Police Department. Child Protection Caseworker of the Year is awarded to Ashley Tryon. Outstanding Professional of the Year is awarded to Sergeant Dan Moriarty with the Unified Police Department. Outstanding Agency of the Year is awarded to the Persons Crimes Unit of the Sandy City Police Department.

- B. Update from the Statewide Advisory Board meeting- Children's Justice Centers in the state are moving away from burning interviews on hard copy CDs to transferring interview files to an online secure system. The Salt Lake County CJC is currently looking at transitioning to this process.
 - C. Status of CJC funding- There was no rollover money from last year, and the CJC is down one Victim Services Coordinator position. The National Children's Alliance awarded the CJC with a \$50,000 grant to hire an additional Victim Services Coordinator that is time-limited from February to December. There is a reduction in the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) that may be expected in July. The Friends Nonprofit have contracted a grant writer, Kalab commented she has been great and has been extended for another six months.
8. CJC Services Update- Lizet Torres
- A. OMS Survey Results.
 - Lizet presented the results of the Outcome Measurement Survey from January 1- December 31, 2020 that was filled out by caregivers while at the CJC. In total, 281 surveys were completed. Lizet went through the questions and read feedback comments left by caregivers. Lizet stated the comments are helpful to discuss with the Victim Services Coordinators to continue to improve client services.
 - Lizet went through the results of the OMS survey sent out to MDT members at the end of 2020. Comments from professionals were positive, and managers are looking at the suggestions made to improve MDT collaboration.
 - Susanne stated there was a comment regarding caseworkers not giving out referent information to investigators who need it for the investigation, and asked Carol or Ryan to clarify the rule on that. Carol stated DCFS has an obligation to make sure referent information is kept confidential and not widely distributed. If the investigator needs the referent information, the DCFS worker can give that information verbally. Ryan asked if DCFS can give out the contact number for the referent or can only give the name. Carol clarified DCFS can give out that information, but not in document form. Ryan said he would discuss this at internal meetings to keep caseworkers informed.
 - B. Status report on No Access cases and agency adjustments.
 - Since October 2020 when DCFS No Access cases took effective and CPS workers are no longer involved in the investigative process, 168 cases have been shared with the CJC from Heather Stewart at the Attorney General's Office - Children's Justice Program. Of the cases that have been shared, 59 have been served at the CJC. 43 had a forensic interview, and 28 had CJC forensic interview team assistance. 6 of the cases were medical exams, and 10 were team staffing only meaning the case was staffed but not interviewed at the CJC. Lizet stated detectives have been great at reaching out to CJC staff to follow up with families to provide services when the interview was done off-site.
 - Susanne commented on statistics discussed at the Statewide Advisory Board. Cases served at the CJC locations statewide are down 19% for cases that should have been served at the CJC but were not. There was also a drop of 34% in medical exams for children who qualify for an exam that did not receive one. Susanne and Lizet stated this is being discussed with CJC staff and the medical team on how to ensure that these children get access to care.
9. CJC Relocation Project- Susanne Mitchell
- A. The CJC relocation project from the Avenues to the District Attorney's office is still in progress. The CJC will be located on the first floor, which is a better location and more cost effective. Susanne stated they are hoping to relocate in the next two months and will provide the board with an update at the next meeting.
10. Other Items- All members
- A. Victims Services Update- Lorianne Szendre. The number of cases coming in has been the same amount prior to COVID, however cases where charges are being filed are failing to move along in the process. Jails had to reduce population, and the court is shut down for trials and other hearings. Lorianne said there is a regular schedule and routine regarding court and specific types of cases to push along, but the backlog is

still increasing. There have been no trials since March 2020. Regarding clients impacted by this, people are mostly understanding of what is going on but do have some frustration and can be more difficult for families depending on their situation. The Victim Services Counseling Unit has been focused on the process and developing relationships with families by conducting meetings with clients over the phone or video. They have noticed there has been difficulty for families accessing services and an increase in emergency needs, which is something there are looking at addressing.

- B. Court Operations- Blake Nakamura. The county is currently in the “red zone”, which means no jury trials can occur. January 21 is supposed to be the first jury trial scheduled to occur, but unlikely to happen. There is a pilot project in the works regarding jury trials.
 - C. No other updates from board members
 - D. Next meetings for 2021 via WebEx: April 5, August 2, November 1 or 8
8. Motion to adjourn meeting at 1:35pm- Susanne Mitchell made the motion, Blake Nakamura second. All in favor, meeting adjourned.