

**State of North Carolina**  
**2024 Children's Justice Act Application and**  
**Three-Year Assessment**



North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission  
North Carolina Department of Public Safety  
1201 Front Street Raleigh, NC 27609  
919-733-4564 (Main)  
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## I. Grantee Identifying Information

Date Submitted	June 7, 2024
Legal Name	North Carolina Department of Public Safety
Applicant Agency	North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission 1201 Front Street Raleigh, NC 27609 Phone: 919-733-4564 Fax: 919-733-4625
Children's Justice Act Coordinator	Toni E. Lockley 1201 Front Street Raleigh, NC 27609 Phone: 919-899-9220 Fax: 919-733-4625 E-mail: <a href="mailto:toni.lockley1@ncdps.gov">toni.lockley1@ncdps.gov</a>
EIN	30-0712287
UEI	UDLHCUUWF3J8
Type of Applicant	State
Type of Application	Continuation
Start Date	10/01/2023
End Date	09/30/2027
Estimated Funding	495,684.00
Authorized Representative	Caroline Farmer, Executive Director North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission 1201 Front Street Raleigh, NC 27609 Phone: 919 733-4564 Fax: 919-733-4625 E-mail: <a href="mailto:caroline.farmer@ncdps.gov">caroline.farmer@ncdps.gov</a>

## **II. Introduction**

In 1974, the United States Congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to improve the identification, prevention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Section 107 of CAPTA, known as the Children's Justice Act (CJA), authorizes eligible states to fund programs to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases. CJA-funding eligibility is contingent upon the satisfaction of five criteria:

1. Compliance with the CAPTA Basic State Grant to improve Child Protective Services;
2. Establishment and maintenance of a multi-disciplinary advisory Task Force;
3. A comprehensive review (to be completed every three years) of the systems handling child abuse and neglect;
4. State adoption of Task Force recommendations from the most recent three-year review;
5. Submission of an annual Children's Justice Act Application to the Children's Bureau, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

North Carolina's Basic State Grant under CAPTA is administered by the Division of Social Services, a division of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The State Task Force (CJA Task Force), Three-Year Assessment (3YA), and federal application for funding are all assigned to the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee of the Governor's Crime Commission, itself a part of the Department of Public Safety. In fulfilling its role in this regard, the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee calls upon the work of the Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force. The CJA Task Force is composed of members who work directly with issues and cases of child maltreatment in North Carolina. North Carolina's CJA Task Force has been functioning in its current form since July of 2003, the year when the Children's Justice Act Task Force was made an adjunct committee to the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee.

### III. Children’s Justice Act Task Force Membership and Function

**Children’s Justice Act  
Task Force Membership Listing  
State/Territory: North Carolina**

<b>Task Force Membership Designation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Relevant Background/ Experience</b>
Law Enforcement	Victor Maynard	Retired LEO	Guilford County Sheriff’s Office	Deputy Vic Maynard brings over 30 years of experience at the Guilford County Sheriff’s Office. As a certified law enforcement instructor and SWAT team leader, he’s shown strong leadership.
Criminal Court Judge	Donald Cureton, Jr.	District Court Judge	Judicial District in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina	District Court and Juvenile Court Judge for the 26th Judicial District, serving Mecklenburg County of North Carolina.
Civil Court Judge	William Solomon, Jr.	District Court Judge	Judicial District in Edgecombe, Nash, and Wilson County, North Carolina	Judge William Solomon, Jr. serves as the District Court and Juvenile Court Judge for the 7th Judicial District, covering Edgecombe, Nash, and Wilson County, North Carolina.
Prosecuting Attorney	Whitney Belich	Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor	North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys	Whitney Belich has been the Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor since 2019. Additionally, Whitney co-chairs the Intentional Death Committee of the NC Child Fatality Task Force and is a member of the Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect.
Defense Attorney	Lyana Hunter	Assistant Public Defender	NC Public Defender’s Office in New Hanover County, North Carolina	Lyana Hunter has represented parents and juveniles since 2007. She is a board-certified child welfare law specialist in North Carolina and nationally.
Attorney for Children	Deana Fleming	Attorney	Orange & Chatham County Department of Social Services	Deana Fleming is a Board-Certified Specialist in Child Welfare Law. She specializes in juvenile law, social services law, adoption, and related appeals. She first became involved with the juvenile court system in law school as a volunteer guardian ad litem and family court intern in

<b>Task Force Membership Designation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Relevant Background/ Experience</b>
				Durham.
Attorney for Children	Matt McKay	Child Advocate Attorney	Mecklenburg County, North Carolina	Matt McKay has dedicated 20 years to serving as a Guardian ad Litem attorney advocate for the State of North Carolina. He holds certifications as a Child Welfare Law Specialist from both the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) and the State Bar.
Guardian ad Litem	Lorrie L. Dollar	Administrator	NC Guardian ad Litem Program	Lorrie Dollar has over 30 years of legal experience in North Carolina. She served as legal counsel and chief of operations for the NC Department of Correction/Public Safety for over 10 years and as the Administrator for the NC Guardian ad Litem Program for nearly 3 years.
Health Professional	Meggan Goodpasture	Associate Professor of Pediatrics	Wake Forest School of Medicine	Dr. Meggan Goodpasture, MD is a pediatrics specialist in Winston Salem, NC and has over 18 years of experience in the medical field.
Health Professional	Deborah Flowers	Medical Services Coordinator, MSN, CPNP, SANE-A, SANE- P	Child Advocacy Centers of NC	Deborah Flowers has been the Medical Services Coordinator at the Child Advocacy Centers of North Carolina since January 2019. Additionally, she is a member of the NC Pediatric Society's Committee on Child Abuse.
Mental Health Professional	Margaret Samuels	Director	North Carolina Child Treatment Program (NC CTP)- Center for Child and Family Health	Margaret Samuels is a clinical social worker and Director of the North Carolina Child Treatment Program. She spent several years as the Executive Director of the Orange County Partnership for Young Children (OCPYC) where she was responsible for the overall development, operation, evaluation and monitoring of early education policies and programs for Orange County, NC through the Smart Start and NC

<b>Task Force Membership Designation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Relevant Background/ Experience</b>
				Pre K programs.
Child Protective Services	Kathy Stone	Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention Division of Social Services, Child Welfare	NC Department of Health and Human Services	Kathy Stone has been the Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services at DHHS/Division of Social Services since 2020. Prior to this, she dedicated 40 years to a local Department of Social Services, specializing in Child Protective Services.
Individual Experienced in Working with Children with Disabilities	Cari Carson	Supervising Attorney	Disability Rights North Carolina	Cari Carson joined DRNC in December 2023 as supervising attorney on the Education Team. Cari has centered her legal career on advocacy for students with disabilities in public schools. She previously chaired DRNC's mental health advisory council.
Parent/ Representative of Parent Group	Stacy Morgan	Executive Director	Mental Health Transformation Alliance	Stacy Morgan serves as the Executive Director of the Mental Health Transformation Alliance a statewide Family Run Organization that provides supports and resources to families, youth, young adults, individuals with disabilities and special populations. She serves as the Family Co-Chair for the NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families Policy & Research Workgroup.
Adult Former Victim of Child Abuse and Neglect	The representative is listed under the "Other" Members category to maintain the anonymity of the person.			
Individual Experienced in Working with Homeless Children and	Patricia Cardoso	Administrator-Guardian ad Litem Division	Haven House	Patricia Cardoso has been with Haven House Services since 2007, serving as COO since 2017. She oversees agency operations and compliance, previously leading the Diversion

<b>Task Force Membership Designation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Relevant Background/ Experience</b>
Youth				Programs.
Other Task Force Member	Kella Hatcher	Executive Director	North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force	Kella Hatcher, JD, currently leads the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force, advocating for child welfare and policy changes.
Other Task Force Member	Deana Joy	Executive Director	Child Advocacy Centers of North Carolina	Deana Joy is currently the Executive Director of CACNC. Prior to joining CACNC, she worked with the Sexual Assault Response & Resource Center where she worked in direct services to victims.
Other Task Force Member	Rhonda Morris	Executive Director	Kids First, Child Abuse Treatment Center	Rhonda Morris has served as the Executive Director of Kids First, Inc., a Child Advocacy Center covering seven rural counties in northeastern NC, for the past 24 years.
Other Task Force Member	Christine Shaw Long	Executive Director	North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission	Christine Shaw Long is the Executive Director of the NC Human Trafficking Commission. She is an approved consultant with the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center.



**CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT  
TASK FORCE  
OPERATING PRINCIPLES  
Adopted November 2018**

The Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force developed these operating principles to guide the role, function, and actions of the CJA Task Force to carry out its purpose as defined below.

I. Statutory Basis

1. The CJA Task Force is established in accordance with the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Section 107(a)) which authorizes grants to states to develop, establish, and operate programs designed to improve:
  - A. The assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases, including cases of suspected child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner which limits additional trauma to the child and the child’s family;
  - B. The assessment and investigation of cases of suspected child abuse-related fatalities and suspected child neglect-related fatalities;
  - C. The investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation; and
  - D. The assessment and investigation of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health related problems who are suspected victims of abuse or neglect.

Limitations. As per the Federal Program Instruction: Supporting child abuse prevention programs or treatment services are not appropriate uses of CJA funds.

2. CJA grants shall be used to implement CJA Task Force recommendations in the following three categories:
  - A. Handling of cases of child abuse and neglect. Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation and cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems, as well as cases involving suspected child-maltreatment-related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as interstate, federal-state, and state-tribal, in a manner which reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim’s family and which also ensures procedural fairness to the accused;
  - B. Innovative approaches. Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the prompt

and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation cases and cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems, including the enhancement of performance of court-appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem for children, and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused; and

- C. Process improvement. Reform of state laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols, and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation and cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.

## II. Purpose

- 1. The purpose of the CJA Task Force is to oversee the appropriation of North Carolina CJA funds to support the improvement and strengthening of the front end, intake and investigative piece of child abuse and neglect. This mission requires a spirit of collaboration and a positive working relationship between the Governor's Crime Commission and the CJA Task Force. As such, each party in the collaboration has a specific role to play. The respective roles are:

- A. The role of Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) is to:
  - 1. Administer the CJA Grant and assign the function of Grant Manager to a position within the GCC.
  - 2. Facilitate the appropriate business office process of grant funding allocation, based on recommendations it receives from the CJA Task Force.

- B. The Role of CJA Task Force members:
  - 1. Contribute to the review of applications for funding
  - 2. Contribute to the Three-Year Assessment review and evaluation process in his/her specific area of expertise.
  - 3. Adhere to state confidentiality requirements
  - 4. Regularly attend and fully participate in all scheduled meetings.
  - 5. Comply with ethics and recusal provisions

- C. The role of the State Coordinator/Grant Manager:
  - 1. Administer the CJA funds.
  - 2. Serve as grant administrator on CJA funded projects.
  - 3. Provide advice, guidance, technical assistance, and information regarding the expected role and function of the CJA Task Force as mandated by the requirements of the CJA Program Instruction.
  - 4. Attend all CJA Task Force meetings.
  - 5. Keep CJA Task Force members apprised of the meeting schedules and distribute minutes and other pertinent mailings necessary for CJA Task Force members to fulfill their responsibilities.

6. Act as liaison between CJA Task Force and the Federal Administration for Children and Families to facilitate communication.
7. Act as liaison between CJA Task Force and the GCC to facilitate communication.
8. Present financial reports to CJA Task force members' status of CJA funds available for allocation to future projects.

### III. Activities

#### 1. The CJA Task Force's duties are as follows:

- A. Three Year Assessments. Every three years the CJA Task Force is required to create a set of training and policy recommendations for systems improvement in the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation cases, and of child maltreatment-related fatalities.
  1. The CJA Task Force does so by reviewing the preceding Three-Year Recommendations and assessing the degree to which those recommendations have been implemented and identifying and evaluating areas needing reform.
  2. In this process, the CJA Task Force may consider information obtained through a variety of sources, such as formal assessments, questionnaires, opinions of experts, and the professional experiences and judgment of CJA Task Force members. The CJA Task Force may also use qualitative and quantitative data gathered from funding grantees per the Request for Proposal (RFP) requirements.

This assessment leads to new recommendations for improvements to the current system. Once the new recommendations have been approved by the CJA Task Force, they are presented to the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Committee for review and approval. The JJ Committee then presents the recommendations to the full GCC.

- B. Monitoring Recommendations. At each meeting, the CJA Task Force is responsible for reviewing the current recommendations and sharing updates on any progress made toward the recommendations.
- C. Grant Proposal Review. Each year, the CJA Task Force assesses grant proposals to determine which proposals best meet the CJA Task Force Recommendations. The CJA Task Force provides this information and funding recommendations to the JJ Committee. The JJ Committee's funding recommendations are forwarded to the GCC who then vote on the recommendations and approve the funding of the grants.

- D. Annual Application. Each year, GCC staff, with the input of the CJA Task Force, submits a CJA funding application.
- E. Legislation and Public Policy. The CJA Task Force may submit proposed statutory improvements consistent with its mission or recommendations, or express opinions on other state policy issues. In order to make a recommendation on a legislative or policy issue, the matter must be presented to and approved by the CJA Task Force. Thereafter, the recommendation will be forwarded to the JJ Committee for consideration and if approved, forwarded to the GCC for consideration. If approved, GCC staff will ensure distribution to the appropriate persons or agencies.

#### IV. Membership

1. The CJA Task Force shall be composed of individuals with knowledge and experience relating to the criminal justice system and issues of child physical abuse, child neglect, child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child maltreatment related fatalities. In accordance with the federal program instructions, the CJA Task Force shall include members representing the following disciplines:
  - A. Law Enforcement Community
  - B. Criminal Court Judge
  - C. Civil Court Judge
  - D. Civil/Criminal Defense Attorney experienced in cases related to child abuse and neglect
  - E. Prosecution Attorney experienced in cases related to child abuse and neglect
  - F. Child Advocate(s) (Attorney(s) for children)
  - G. Court Appointed Special Advocate Representative(s)
  - H. Health Professional(s)
  - I. Mental Health Professional(s)
  - J. Child Protective Service Agencies
  - K. Individual(s) experienced in working with children with disabilities
  - L. Parents and Representative of Parents' Groups
  - M. Adult former victims of child abuse and or neglect
  - N. Individual experienced in working with homeless children and youth
2. Task force members can represent only one professional category in the task force, though they may have experience in multiple categories. For example, if a prospective member represents a parents' group and works with children with disabilities, the member can either represent the parents' group or the group working with children with disabilities, but not both.
3. The CJA Task Force should strive to attain members who bring diverse

perspectives and reflect the varied ethnic, gender, and geographic communities located in North Carolina.

4. CJA Task Force members will make nominations and assist in recruiting from relevant federal, state and county associations, coalitions, or professional organizations. A prior Task Force member is eligible for nomination so long as he or she has not been a member for at least one year prior to being nominated. Nominations must be seconded and require a majority vote to pass. The CJA Task Force Chair will make initial contact requesting interest of a nominee to serve on the CJA Task Force. The nominee will be provided the following information:

- A. Operating Principles
- B. Current Three-Year Assessment and Recommendations
- C. Task Force Membership List

Nominees interested in serving will send a brief biography and statement of interest to the Chair. The resulting list of candidates and their information will be sent to the CJA Task Force and the chair of the JJ Committee by the CJA Chair. At the next scheduled CJA meeting, the CJA will vote on the candidates.

5. Terms begin on July 1 and end on June 30. Members serve a two-year staggered term and may be re-elected for a second and third terms if they express interest in continuing to serve. Members must have attended at least 60% of scheduled CJA Task Force meetings during their current term in order to be eligible for re-election.
6. Each member is expected to attend all CJA Task Force meetings. In-person attendance is preferred but virtual attendance is permitted. Members are encouraged to find a representative if the member is unable to attend a meeting. If member does not attend two (2) consecutive, regularly scheduled meetings of the CJA Task Force, the Chair, or individual designated by the Chair, will contact the member to discuss the absences, and determine whether or not to recommend that the CJA Task Force remove the member and fill the resulting vacancy.
7. Vacancies in membership shall be filled as soon as practical. If a vacancy is filled mid-term, the new member will serve the rest of the prior member's term and be eligible for two terms thereafter.
8. The CJA Task Force shall have between fourteen (14) and twenty-five (25) members. The Task Force may vote to have additional members relevant to Task Force work.

## V. Officers

1. Officers of the CJA Task Force shall consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair.
2. The Duties of the Chair include:

- A. Guiding and leading the CJA Task Force toward its goals;
  - B. Presiding at CJA Task Force meetings;
  - C. Appointing committees as needed;
  - D. Overseeing federally required assessments; and
  - E. Preparing a written agenda for meetings of the CJA Task Force.
3. The Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair and perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or be necessary in the absence of the Chair.
  4. Election of Officers shall occur at the meeting prior to June 30 and the terms begin on July 1. Nominations are from the floor and require no second. Elections are by voice vote. The Chair is elected for a two-year term and may be re-elected for one additional term. The Vice-Chair is elected for a one-year term and may be re-elected for one additional term.

## VI. Committees

1. Committees shall be formed at three-year intervals to coincide with adoption of CJA Task Force recommendations. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall determine the number of committees needed and the focus of each. At a minimum, there shall be at least one committee charged with overseeing the assessment process required by the Children's Justice Act.
2. The CJA Task Force Chair shall designate the chairperson for each committee. CJA Task Force members are expected to serve on committees as needed.
3. Committees may make recommendations regarding legislative positions or other policy considerations for vote of the CJA Task Force.
4. Committees shall meet as needed to complete their work.

## VII. Meetings

1. The CJA Task Force shall meet at least four times a year, with additional meetings called by the Chair if necessary. A meeting schedule with at least three future meeting dates set shall be established at the last quarterly meeting prior to the end of each calendar year. The Chair shall establish meeting dates in consultation with the CJA Task Force and GCC Staff.
2. The CJA Task Force may adopt a position, plan action, or amend a recommendation upon a majority vote of members in attendance, at a duly announced meeting, provided that a written agenda has been distributed to all members at least three days in advance. Although additional items may arise for discussion at a meeting, no final action shall be taken without written notice to all members unless there is unanimous consent of those in attendance, and a

quorum exists.

3. The attendance of a majority of CJA Task Force members at a meeting shall constitute a quorum.
4. Members must be in attendance to vote on matters under consideration by the CJA Task Force, except in the case of elections or matters previously discussed at a CJA Task Force meeting which may be carried out virtually. Only duly elected CJA Task Force members are permitted to vote.
5. Each CJA Task Force member shall have one vote.
6. CJA Task Force meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise specified by these bylaws.

#### VIII. Conflicts of Interest

1. A CJA Task Force member has a duty to disclose any potential individual or organizational conflict of interest that might occur on an issue before the CJA Task Force unless that conflict is obvious or previously disclosed. Each CJA Task Force member shall annually sign a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form.

#### IX. Amendments

1. These Operating Principles may be modified by the CJA Task Force membership at a duly announced meeting where a quorum exists, provided that proposed amendments are distributed to members at least ten days in advance of the meeting.



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Governor's Crime Commission

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

### Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting

#### Virtual Meeting via WebEx

1201 Front Street

Raleigh, NC 27609

Thursday, April 13, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	Call to Order and Roll Call	Deana Joy, Chair
1:05 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Approval of 2.2.2023 Minutes	CJA Task Force
1:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	GCC Staff Updates	Toni Lockley, GCC Staff
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	DHHS Presentation	Kathy Stone, DHHS
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	2023 CJA Application Review	CJA Task Force/GCC Staff
2:15 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.	2023 CJA Application Discussion and Voting	Deana Joy, Chair
2:35 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	CJA Membership Update	Deana Joy, Chair
2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Old/New Business	
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

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# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Governor's Crime Commission

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffalo, Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

### Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting

**Date:** April 13, 2023

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via WebEx and in-person at 1201 Front Street

### In Attendance

Members: George "Tripp" Ake, Whitney Belich, Rick Croutharmel, Lorrie Dollar, Jennifer Evans, Kella Hatcher, Deana Joy, Nick Lett, Victor Maynard, Matt McKay, Stacy Morgan, Rhonda Morris, William Solomon Jr., Kathy Stone

Staff: Diane Barber, Toni Lockley, Adonicca McAllister, MK Smith

### Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Deana Joy at 1:00 P.M. After roll call a quorum was established.

### Reminders

Chair Deana Joy provided an ethics reminder from the General Statute, Chapter 138A-35, and other provisions of the State Government Ethics Act. A reminder for recusal was made. No conflicts were raised, and no one recused themselves.

### Approval of 2.2.23 Minutes

The minutes were sent prior to the meeting. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

### DHHS Presentation

Kathy Stone, Section Chief of Safety and Prevention Services provided an update for DHHS, which included a presentation on the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP), the Annual Plan Services Report (APSR) and the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). The presentation

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highlighted the process through which NCDSS partners with stakeholders to review data, information, CFSP goals, objectives, and progress.

## GCC Staff Updates

Toni Lockley shared the GCC staff updates, which included an overview on the FY23 CJA Program Instruction, federal call updates, and upcoming events, including the 2023 CJA Grantees and State Liaison Officers (SLO) Annual Meeting on May 23 - May 24, 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland, and the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (virtual) on April 11 - April 13, 2023 and April 18 - April 20, 2023.

## 2023 CJA Application Review

Adonicca McAllister and Toni Lockley presented the CJA Scoring Review, including a ranking of the five submitted priority applications by average score of the CJA Task Force.

GCC staff recommended either funding the highest-ranking project application in full and allowing the project the opportunity to increase their budget or funding the two highest funding project applications at a reduced budget.

## 2023 CJA Application Discussion & Voting

Chair Joy opened the floor for discussion of the FY2023 CJA priority applications. Members discussed the five priority applications.

Rhonda Morris moved to fully fund PROJ016185 – District 12 Child Abuse Prosecution Team, District Attorney’s Office - 12. George “Tripp” Ake seconded. The CJA Task Force voted to approve funding PROJ016185 for FY2023 CJA priority applications.

## Membership Update

There were no membership updates.

## Old/New Business

There was no old or new business.

## Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting will be on July 13, 2023

Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:27 P.M.

## Attachments

- Agenda
- Roll call
- Minutes from prior meeting
- Voting Roll
- All other attachments listed individually



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Governor's Crime Commission

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

### Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting

#### Virtual Meeting via WebEx

1201 Front Street

Raleigh, NC 27609

Thursday, August 3, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	Call to Order and Roll Call	Deana Joy, Chair
1:05 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Approval of 4.13.2023 Minutes	CJA Task Force
1:10 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.	CJA Annual Grantee Meeting Update	Deana Joy, Chair
1:25 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	GCC Staff Updates CJA Solicitation Update	Adonicca McAllister, GCC Staff
1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Funding Priority Discussion CJA Purpose/Assessment	Toni Lockley, GCC Staff
2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Building Trauma-Informed Courts in North Carolina	Belinda Young-Rose, UNC Injury Prevention Research Center
2:45 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Member Updates	CJA Task Force
2:50 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Old/New Business	
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

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# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Governor's Crime Commission

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

### Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting

**Date:** August 3, 2023

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via WebEx and in-person at 1201 Front Street appreciate

### In Attendance

Members: George "Tripp" Ake, Whitney Belich, Rick Croutharmel, Lorrie Dollar, Jennifer Evans, Deborah Flowers, Kella Hatcher, Deana Joy, Nick Lett, Christine Long Proxy- Nancy E. Hagan, Victor Maynard, Matt McKay, Stacy Morgan

Staff: Diane Barber-Whitaker, Lindsay Bohan, Daun Brown, Adonicca McAllister, MK Smith

Guests: Belinda-Rose Young

### Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Deana Joy at 1:01 P.M. After roll call a quorum was established.

### Reminders

Chair Deana Joy provided an ethics reminder from the General Statute, Chapter 138A-35, and other provisions of the State Government Ethics Act. A reminder for recusal was made. No conflicts were raised and no one recused themselves.

### Approval of 4.13.23 Minutes

The minutes were sent prior to the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by George "Tripp" Ake, seconded by Deborah Flowers. The members voted and the minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

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## GCC Staff Updates

Adonica McAllister shared the GCC staff updates, which included details on the FY23 CJA Program Instruction and funding update, federal call updates, and the GCC transition to NC EBS (Enterprise Business Services) in September 2023.

## Funding Priority Discussion

Adonica McAllister provided recommendations for the upcoming year, including developing a process for the upcoming 3-Year Assessment, collaborating with the R/ED Subcommittee on racial equity initiatives in child welfare, and creating performance measures for subrecipient projects.

## Building Trauma-Informed Courts in North Carolina

Belinda-Rose Young, Principal Investigator for UNC – Chapel Hill Injury Prevention Research Center, presented an update on the subgrant Building Trauma-Informed Courts in North Carolina.

## Member Updates

There were no updates from the CJA Task Force members.

## Old/New Business

There was no old or new business.

## Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting will be on October 12, 2023  
Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:01 P.M.

## Attachments

- Agenda
- Roll call

- Minutes from prior meeting
- Voting Roll
- All other attachments listed individually



NC Department of Public Safety  
GOVERNOR'S CRIME COMMISSION

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffaloe Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

**Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting**

**Virtual via WebEx**  
**Thursday, November 30, 2023**  
**1:00pm – 3:00pm**

1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Call to Order and Roll Call Approval of 8/3/2023 Minutes Ethics Reminder	Deana Joy, Chair
1:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	GCC Staff Updates	Adonica McAllister, Juvenile Justice Lead Planner
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Focus Group: NCDSS Statewide Assessment for Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)	Kathy Stone, NC Department of Health and Human Services
2:30 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Workgroup Discussion	Deana Joy, Chair
2:40 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Member Updates	CJA Task Force
2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Old/New Business	Deana Joy, Chair
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn	







# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Governor's Crime Commission

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

### Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting

**Date:** November 30, 2023

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via WebEx

#### In Attendance

**Members:** Whitney Belich, Judge Donald Cureton Jr., Lorrie Dollar, Jennifer Evans, Deana Joy, Nick Lett, Matt McKay, Kathy Stone

**Staff:** Marty Brown, Grace Clougherty, Sandy Dixon, Caroline Farmer, Adonicca McAllister,

**Guests:** Melissa Murphy (Public Knowledge), Christina Remlin (Public Knowledge)

#### Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Deana Joy at 1:02 p.m. There was not enough attendance to establish a quorum.

#### Reminders

Chair Deana Joy provided an ethics reminder from the General Statute, Chapter 138A-35, and other provisions of the State Government Ethics Act. A reminder for recusal was made. No conflicts were raised and no one recused themselves.

#### Approval of 8.3.23 Minutes

The minutes were sent prior to the meeting. The minutes were not able to be approved due to not enough attendance to establish a quorum. The minutes will be approved at the meeting on

#### GCC Staff Updates

Adonicca McAllister shared the GCC staff updates:

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1. CJA funding updates.
2. Subrecipient update on Building Trauma-Informed Courts in NC.
3. EBS transition
4. Application cycle updates- unable to open applications during normal application period but focusing on other committee work.
5. Funding priorities
6. JJ Team recommendations

## Focus Group: NCDSS Statewide Assessment for Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

Kathy Stone presented on the NCDSS Statewide Assessment for CFSR and introduced Christina Remlin and Melissa Murphy from Public Knowledge.

Christina Remlin and Melissa Murphy lead a focus group for the meeting with structured questions.

## Workgroup Discussion

Deana Joy presented on the workgroup discussion. Adonicca McAllister and Deana Joy came up with workgroups to draft sections of the 3-year assessment as well as creating requested performance measures in order to measure the true impact of the committees. The four work groups are Child Welfare, Prosecution and Law Enforcement, Clinical Services, and Racial Equity. Members of the committees will be assigned to a work group.

## Member Updates

Whitney Belich shared that she is in participating in a child abuse training that is being supported through our funding.

Nick Lett shared that they have wrapped up his grant period for the funds we provided and wanted to thank everyone for their work.

Deana Joy shared information on a major Child Maltreatment Symposium in Myrtle Beach from April 29<sup>th</sup> 2024 – May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024.

Matt McKay mentioned a lab system update that has been adopted in Mecklenburg.

## Old/New Business

Adonicca McAllister said that an email will be sent out to the members with the upcoming calendar and other resources. She also mentioned that we will have to vote on minutes at the next meeting.

## Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting will be on January 11, 2024  
Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

## Attachments

- Agenda
- Roll call
- Minutes from prior meeting
- Voting Roll
- All other attachments listed individually



NC Department of Public Safety  
GOVERNOR'S CRIME COMMISSION

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffaloe Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

**Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting**

**Virtual via WebEx**  
**Thursday, January 11, 2024**  
**1:00pm – 3:00pm**

1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Call to Order and Roll Call Approval of 11/30/2023 Minutes Ethics Reminder	Deana Joy, Chair
1:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	GCC Staff Updates	GCC Staff
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Building Trauma-informed Courts in North Carolina	Belinda-Rose Young, UNC Injury Prevention Research Center
2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	DSS Update	Kathy Stone, DHHS
2:15 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	CJA 3-Year Assessment Workgroups	CJA Task Force
2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Old/New Business Approval of 8/3/2023 Minutes	Deana Joy, Chair
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn	





# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Governor's Crime Commission

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffalo, Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

### Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting

**Date:** January 11, 2024

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via WebEx

### In Attendance

**Members:** Lauren Amato proxy for Christine Long, Whitney Belich, Rick Croutharmel, Lorrie Dollar, Jennifer Evans, Lyana Hunter, Deana Joy, Nick Lett, Christine Long Proxy Matt McKay, Stacy Morgan, William Solomon, Jr., Kathy Stone

**Staff:** Diane Barber-Whitaker, Marty Brown, Caroline Farmer, Toni Lockley, Adonicca McAllister, Calla Walker, Jason Wimmer

**Guests:** Belinda-Rose Young (UNC – Chapel Hill Injury Prevention Research Center), Stephanie Satkowiak (NC Administrative Office of the Courts)

### Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Deana Joy at 1:00 p.m.

### Reminders

Chair Deana Joy provided an ethics reminder from the General Statute, Chapter 138A-35, and other provisions of the State Government Ethics Act. A reminder for recusal was made. No conflicts were raised, and no one recused themselves.

### GCC Staff Updates

Toni Lockley and Adonicca McAllister shared the GCC staff updates, which included updates about the new grants management system, a funding update, subrecipient performance, and an update on the federal calls attended by staff.

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### Approval of 8.3.23 Minutes

The minutes were sent prior to the meeting. The members voted and the minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

### Approval of 11.30.23 Minutes

The minutes were sent prior to the meeting. The members voted and the minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

### DHHS Presentation

Kathy Stone, Section Chief of Safety and Prevention Services provided an update for DHHS, which included a presentation on the 2023 Legislative Changes. The presentation highlighted Safe Surrender, the State Office of Child Fatality Prevention, and other legislative updates.

### Building Trauma-Informed Courts in North Carolina Project

Belinda-Rose Young presented an update on the previously funded project Building Trauma-Informed Courts in North Carolina. The presentation highlighted the project's accomplishments, development of the training curriculum, and the implementation of the system.

### Breakout Workgroups

Adonicca McAllister provided information to the workgroups on the development of the CJA 3-Year Assessment, setting current priorities, and evaluating the previous assessment. The four work groups are Clinical Services, Prosecution and Law Enforcement, Child Welfare, and Racial Equity. Workgroup objectives included identifying a workgroup chair, setting meeting dates, and discussing goals.

### Member Updates

Nick Lett shared that he would be taking another position with a different agency at the end of the month, and has identified who will replace him.

### Old/New Business

No old or new business.

## Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting will be on April 11, 2024. Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

## Attachments

- Agenda
- Roll call
- Minutes from prior meeting
- Voting Roll
- All other attachments listed individually



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Governor's Crime Commission

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffalo, Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

### Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting

**Date:** April 11, 2024

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via WebEx

#### In Attendance

Members: Whitney Belich, Patricia Cardoso, Rick Croutharmel, Lorrie Dollar, Jennifer Evans, Deb Flowers, Kella Hatcher, Lyana Hunter, Jolona Kinlaw Proxy for Cari Carson, Matt McKay, Stacy Morgan, Kathy Stone

Staff: Toni Lockley, Adonicca McAllister, Jason Wimmer

#### Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Lorrie Dollar at 1:00 p.m.

#### Reminders

Vice Chair Lorrie Dollar provided an ethics reminder from the General Statute, Chapter 138A-35, and other provisions of the State Government Ethics Act. A reminder for recusal was made. No conflicts were raised, and no one recused themselves.

#### Approval of 1.11.24 Minutes

The minutes were sent prior to the meeting. Stacy Morgan moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Lyana Hunter. The members voted and the minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

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## GCC Staff Updates

Toni Lockley provided the GCC Staff Updates, which included national observances, the FY24 CJA Application and 3 Year Assessment, Membership, and other relevant information.

## DSS Update

Kathy Stone, Section Chief of Safety and Prevention Services provided an update for DHHS, which included updates on the SWA and CFSR, practice model implementation, and Children's Bureau stakeholder interviews. There were also events announced for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

## NC Child Fatality Task Force Updates

Kella Hatcher, Executive Director of North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force, provided presentation on the NC Child Fatality Prevention System. The presentation discussed the role of the Child Fatality Task Force, the 2024 NCCFTF action agenda, legislation impacting the child fatality prevention system, and recommendations from the Task Force.

## CJA 3-Year Assessment Workgroup Response/Review Discussion

Toni Lockley presented a review of responses from the CJA 3YA workgroups. Staff provided the opportunity for discussion and additional feedback for the development of the assessment.

## Priority Setting/Subrecipient Application

Adonicca McAllister presented on the CJA funding priorities and performance measures, including feedback from the Children's Bureau and recommendations from staff. CJA Task Force members had the opportunity to discuss funding priorities, recommend criteria for funds allocation, and establish performance measures for each priority.

## Old/New Business

No old or new business.

## Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting will be on July 11, 2024. Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

## Attachments

- Agenda
- Roll call
- Minutes from prior meeting
- Voting Roll
- All other attachments listed individually

DRAFT



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Governor's Crime Commission

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Robert A. Evans, Chairman  
Caroline Farmer, Executive Director

### Children's Justice Act Task Force Meeting Special Meeting

**Date:** May 7, 2024

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via WebEx

#### In Attendance

Members: Whitney Belich, Cari Carson, Lorrie Dollar, Jennifer Evans, Meggan Goodpasture, Lyana Hunter, Deana Joy, Christine Long, Stacy Morgan, Rhonda Morris, Kathy Stone

Staff: Diane Barber-Whitaker, Caroline Farmer, Toni Lockley, Adonicca McAllister, Jason Wimmer

#### Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Deana Joy at 12:00 p.m.

#### Reminders

Chair Deana Joy provided an ethics reminder from the General Statute, Chapter 138A-35, and other provisions of the State Government Ethics Act. A reminder for recusal was made. No conflicts were raised, and no one recused themselves.

#### GCC Staff CJA Priority Overview/Recommendations

Toni Lockley provided a brief presentation to facilitate discussion by the Task Force. The staff recommendations for upcoming funding priorities, including moving to a 3-year period of performance, prioritizing/emphasizing a one of the three federally mandated areas per application period, focusing on narrowing which program types to fund, and promoting racial equity in child welfare.

## Votes: CJA Priority Recommendations

Kathy Stone moved to approve a three-year performance period for upcoming subawards; seconded by Lyana Hunter. The motion was adopted by the Task Force.

Rhonda Morris moved to give priority to one federally required area per year while still accepting applications for the remaining two, with the focus to be reviewed and decided on by the Task Force annually. Rhonda Morris seconded the motion; the motion was adopted by the Task Force.

Cari Carson moved to prioritize CJA Priority One in the 2024 RFA, seconded by Rhonda Morris. The motion was adopted by the Task Force.

## CJA Operating Principles Discussion/Recommendations

The CJA Task Force reviewed and discussed the Operating Principles. Motion to approve without additional revisions was made by Lyana Hunter; seconded by Rhonda Morris. The motion was adopted by the Task Force.

## Announcements and Adjournment

Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

## Attachments

- Agenda
- Roll call
- Voting Roll
- All other attachments listed individually

## **IV. Prior Year Performance Report**

Program Performance Reports for the Period of 05/01/2023 – 05/31/2024

### ***FY2023 CJA – G-2303NCCJAI***

**Subrecipient:** North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

**Grant Name:** AOC Guardian ad Litem Children Justice Act - Trauma Informed Enhancements for Abused and Neglected Children Victims

**Agreement:** 2000071225

**Federal Amount:** \$ 417,857.45

**Award Date:** 05/08/2024

**Start Date:** 10/01/2023

**End Date:** 09/30/2025

### **CJA Required Category**

While subrecipient programs may align with more than one topical area found at CAPTA Section 107 (e)(1)(A), (B), and (C), the primary category addressed by this project is CJA Required Category A.

### **Task Force Recommendations/Goals Met**

Though many factors caused delays with the project start, we anticipate the following Task Force goals/recommendations to be met by this project: A1, A2, A6, A7, B4, C5.

### **Project Summary**

More than 17,000 children served by the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program each year, are appointed due to abuse or neglect. Fulfilling the statutory duty, the NC GAL program dually appoints a child advocate volunteer and attorney. This legal representation assures the best of interest of the child is known to the court through court hearings or reports.



Lorrie L. Dollar, Esq.  
NC Guardian ad Litem Administrator

North Carolina Judicial Branch

PO Box 2448, Raleigh, NC 27602  
O 919-990-1311  
Lorrie.L.Dollar@ncocourts.org



April 3, 2024

Toni E. Lockley  
NC Department of Public Safety  
Governor's Crime Commission  
1201 Front Street  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Dear Ms. Lockley:

Pursuant to the request recently made regarding Agreement 2000071225, to follow is our delay justification statement.

On July 18, 2023, GCC notified the NC Guardian ad Litem Program (NCGAL) that we would be the recipient of the Children's Justice Act grant for the proposal for Trauma Informed Enhancements for Abused and Neglected Children. We received the modifications required notification letter on July 21, 2023. After the grant was loaded in GEMS, GCC sent an updated modifications required letter on August 23, 2023, which NCAOC signed and submitted.

In August of 2023, NCGAL hired a new grant manager. In September, GCC migrated their grant management from GEMS to EBS. As of October 10, 2023, all state agencies began converting to the new NC Financial System which replaced NCAS.

During the acclimation time period for the new grant manager, significant revisions were made by that grant manager to the current agreement. These revisions necessitated review and discussion with GCC to ensure compliance with the original goals and objectives of the agreement. Ultimately, it was determined that the revisions were not compliant, and were not approved. Accordingly, it took additional time for the grant manager to review the original goals and objectives to ensure capability and compliance. Currently no further delays are anticipated, and the NCGAL program looks forward to issuance of the award letter in order to commence implementation.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Lorrie L. Dollar, Esq.  
NC Guardian ad Litem Administrator

\*\*\*

## ***FY2022 CJA – G-2203NCCJAI***

**Subrecipient:** Children’s Advocacy Centers of North Carolina, Inc.

**Grant Name:** Expansion and CQI of Forensic Services to Child Abuse Victims

**Agreement:** 2000070987

**Federal Amount:** \$ 209,510.55

**Award Date:** 10/28/2022

**Start Date:** 10/01/2022

**End Date:** 09/30/2024

### **CJA Required Category**

While subrecipient programs may align with more than one topical area found at CAPTA Section 107 (e)(1)(A), (B), and (C), the primary category addressed by this project is CJA Required Category A.

**Task Force Recommendations/Goals Met:** A6, A7, C5

### **Project Summary**

This project seeks to improve investigative services, prosecution, and trauma informed service delivery to victims of child abuses through the provision of technical assistance, training, and continuous quality improvement activities.

### **Outputs**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

- Completed two trainings for 46 medical professionals. 93.51% of attendees agreed or strongly agreed that the content increased their knowledge.
- Completed all CQI medical training with ongoing medical related technical assistance being provided 459 times. We had 256 total participants on the monthly trainings. Completed 35 forensic interview peer review sessions with 234 forensic interview professionals attending. Developed the learning collaborative that was added to RADAR and completed an initial training for 18 new professionals.
- Completed sixteen learning collaborative sessions for the newly trained professionals. 96.77% of attendees reported an increase in knowledge and forensic interview skill.

### **Outcomes**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

The forensic interview learning collaborative is the first of its kind nationwide and allows for use to test fidelity and practice for new professionals in the field. This process allows for a stronger skill set by the provider ensuring better service provision to children.

### **Evaluation Methods and Results:**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

Evaluation of this project was measured by the number of trainings provided, number of

professionals attending trainings, number of beer review sessions, and the successful development of the first in the nation learning collaborative for RADAR.

**Subrecipient:** North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts

**Grant Name:** 2022 NCCDA Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor

**Agreement:** 2000071539

**Federal Amount:** \$ 209,510.55

**Award Date:** 01/18/2023

**Start Date:** 10/01/2022

**End Date:** 09/30/2024

**CJA Required Category:**

While subrecipient programs may align with more than one topical area found at CAPTA Section 107 (e)(1)(A), (B), and (C), the primary category addressed by this project is CJA Required Category A.

**Task Force Recommendations/Goals Met:** A1, A2, A6, B1

**Project Summary**

This project will provide a Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor (CARP) that will provide training, technical assistance, resources and more to prosecutors, law enforcement, and other allied professionals across North Carolina.

**Outputs**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

The CARP has conducted several child abuse trainings during the relevant time period. In April, we held a one-day training on handling cases involving child sexual abuse material (CSAM). This training was attended by prosecutors and law enforcement. The CARP also delivered trainings on child abuse reporting laws, understanding legal proceedings, and courtroom testimony to SANE nurses. In July, the CARP held a two-day training for prosecutors, law enforcement, and other allied professionals on Evidence in Child Sex Abuse Cases. In September, the CARP joined the SA/DV program to deliver a three-day Sex Crimes Victims Symposium, which focused on how to best understand and work with victims of sexual assault. Attendees included prosecutors, law enforcement, and other allied professionals. The CARP also delivered a virtual training on Dispelling the Myths of Child Abuse for the National District Attorneys Association.

**Outcomes**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

Many evaluations of the training programs offered contain plans to use the material provided immediately in their work with victims and with child abuse cases.



It has been our goal to continue to bring training and materials that help prosecutors and others better investigate and prepare child abuse cases for trial. With historic staff shortages, many prosecutors are picking up child abuse cases for the first time. They have not worked with child victims and their families before, and they are unfamiliar with the specialized law and evidence that accompany these cases. The same is true of law enforcement. Because of this, it has been imperative to get this specialized knowledge to as many in the field as possible. Based upon feedback, between the trainings, the materials, and the listserv, this information is getting to those who need it and continues to be greatly appreciated. In 2023, the CARP has received over 150 requests for assistance from the field and those needs continue to grow.

### **Evaluation Methods and Results:**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

Recently, we have focused a lot on helping victims as they work their way through the criminal justice process. Not only have these victims experienced trauma but the process itself can be confusing and even traumatic. In learning more about victims and trauma, prosecutors and others who work with victims can make the experience as painless as possible for victims while also building strong cases against offenders. For the first time, the adult SA/DV program and the CA program worked together to create training and training materials. This training brought together victim experts who discussed trauma-informed practices as well as explained evidence-collection processes so those working with victims could understand what they go through and how to better support them.

Though it is hard to gauge the direct impact of programs like this, evaluations from recent programs indicate these trainings have provided much-needed resources and information and that participants will be using the knowledge they gained in the field immediately.

### ***FY2021 CJA - G-2101NCCJA1***

**Subrecipient:** UNC-Chapel Hill

**Grant Name:** Building Trauma-Informed Courts in North Carolina

**Agreement:** 2000071350

**Federal Amount:** \$ 419,021.10

**Award Date:** 07/12/2022

**Start Date:** 01/01/2022

**End Date:** 12/31/2023

### **CJA Required Category:**

While subrecipient programs may align with more than one topical area found at CAPTA Section 107 (e)(1)(A), (B), and (C), the primary category addressed by this project is CJA Required Category A.

## **Task Force Recommendations/Goals Met: A1, A2, A4, A6, A8**

### **Project Summary:**

With guidance from a multidisciplinary team of trauma and resilience practitioners and researchers, we will develop an online training that will introduce ACEs. The project will also describe how individual and collective trauma affects the courthouse experience and share best practices for a trauma-informed courthouse.

### **Outputs**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) describe a range of trauma that is experienced before age 18. The latest North Carolina (NC) data show that 33.8% of adults have experienced two or more ACEs and over 102,000 cases of child maltreatment were investigated in 2018 and 2019. With relatively high rates of ACEs among NC adults and consistent numbers of child maltreatment investigations, it is imperative that our courts include a trauma-informed approach.

This need has been echoed by The North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NC AOC) leadership. The Building Trauma-Informed Courts in North Carolina (BTIC-NC) project is partnering with the NC AOC to develop and implement trauma-informed approaches through the development of an online training curriculum for all Judicial Branch staff and multi-lingual (English and Spanish) booklets for minors. Each English and Spanish booklet is available at two different reading levels and in multiple print layouts for sustainability. In total, there are 16 versions for the courts to choose from.

The BTIC-NC project aims to positively affect the Judicial Branch system through the provision and evaluation of evidence-informed and evidence-informed training and the provision of evidence-based digital and hardcopy resources for the minors engaging with the court. The target audience for the training is all Judicial Branch staff. The training will consist of four modules. Modules 1, 2, 3, and 4a will be general informational that each Judicial Branch staff watches. Module 4b is comprised of three tailored tracks for Judicial Hearing Authorities, Attorneys, and Staff. Each track will provide trauma-informed implementation information that is relevant to their role.

Below is a high-level overview of what each module focuses on:

- Module 1 – Introduction of ACEs
  - The concept of ACEs, the potential effect of generational ACEs, and the relationship between ACEs and trauma
- Module 2 – History and Science of ACEs
  - The research evidence behind ACEs and its effect on the brain and behaviors

- Module 3 – ACEs Resilience and the Court
  - How Judicial Hearing Authorities, Attorneys, and Staff can prevent re-traumatization and contribute towards minors practicing resiliency skills in a court environment.
- Module 4a – Trauma-informed court practices before, during, and after court
- Module 4b – three tailored tracks, based on role types, showing how they can incorporate more specific trauma-informed practices in their day-to-day work.

## **Outcomes**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

With close partnership from the Chief Justice’s ACEs-Informed Task Force, the NC AOC, and a multi-sector project advisory board, we developed a comprehensive training for all North Carolina Judicial Branch Hearing Authorities and Staff and trauma-informed minor- focused booklets.

## Training

- The curriculum was informed by a literature review on evidence- informed and evidence-based trauma-informed approaches within courts, our multi- sector advisory board, and experiences of the Chief Justice’s Task Force on ACEs-Informed Courts.
- The curriculum was reviewed by 41 unique subject matter experts, and piloted by Judicial Branch Hearing Authorities, inclusive of District Court Judges, Magistrates, and many other role types. There has truly been a collaborative effort to share as many resources and information as possible to create an impactful curriculum.
- As of September 30, 2023, the curriculum is being revised based on pilot feedback from our intended audience. In early December, the completed training will be highlighted at the District Court Judges conference. This presentation will help the project get more buy-in for an early 2024 distribution.

## Booklets

- As of September 30, 2023, the content for the booklets is complete and has been translated into Spanish (and back translated to English for thoroughness). Our design consultant has finished all original drawings and the print layout.
- The booklet has been designed to align the NC AOC’s brand guidelines since they will be housed on the NC AOC’s website and distributed in courts across North Carolina. The booklets are available in color and black and white.

## **Evaluation Methods and Results:**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

Everyone who has heard or been a part of the project has done so with enthusiasm. The training is being touted by members of the Judicial Branch to other states as well. We have not

experienced any barriers to project implementation. Thus far, we have been received with enthusiasm and eagerness to support the development of this curriculum. Both products are being adopted by the entire Judicial Branch system with the strong support of Chief Justice Newby. The training has been received well and has already started to affect the way that Judicial Branch Hearing Authorities perceive ACEs. We have received overwhelming feedback that the research evidence on ACEs-related trauma and its effect on the brain resonates with them and has shifted thinking. Although the booklets have not been deployed yet, we expect full cooperation with the support of Chief Justice Newby and the NC AOC.

***FY2020 CJA - G-2001NCCJAI***

**Subrecipient:** Disability Rights North Carolina

**Grant Name:** Safe and Secure Schools (SASS)

**Agreement:** 2000071285

**Federal Amount:** \$ 208,589.99

**Award Date:** 11/16/2020

**Start Date:** 10/01/2020

**End Date:** 09/30/2023

**CJA Required Category:**

While subrecipient programs may align with more than one topical area found at CAPTA Section 107 (e)(1)(A), (B), and (C), the primary category addressed by this project is CJA Required Category A.

**Task Force Recommendations/Goals Met:** A4, A6, C5

**Project Summary:**

SASS will give education, criminal justice & child welfare systems tools to protect students with disabilities & mechanisms to facilitate prosecution of abusers, through collaborative investigations & training.

**Outputs**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

During the first half of this project, Disability Rights North Carolina (DRNC) provided two training sessions regarding abuse, positive behavior supports, and trauma-informed care to special education staff in Cherokee County. DRNC provided a parent-focused version of that training in conjunction with the Autism Society of NC (based in Wake and Guilford counties), which was simultaneously translated into Spanish to ensure ASNC's many Spanish-speaking families could benefit from it. We partnered with the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (Davidson County) to provide the parent-focused version. We also presented a version of the training geared to child therapists to a pediatric therapy practice in Buncombe County.

**Outcomes**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

We commenced regular monitoring visits. We have conducted monitoring visits at 18 schools within 10 districts within the past 6 months. We received 9 complaints of abuse or neglect in schools this period. We have conducted investigations regarding 9 of those complaints, 6 of which are currently ongoing at this time. Of the investigation conducted, 1 involved allegation of assault by a teacher on a student, 1 sexual assault, 1 injury to a student due to allegation of neglect, 3 excessive uses of seclusion/restraints on a student, and 3 allegations of inappropriate use of seclusion and/or restraint. We have reviewed law enforcement investigation reports for three of our investigations and may collaborate with law enforcement as needed. For those 4 active investigations, we intend to share any findings and recommendations with law enforcement when we are closer to completing our investigation.

### **Evaluation Methods and Results:**

*The subrecipient agency reports the following:*

Started researching and developing best practices to incorporate the disability- related needs of students into school safety and crisis plans. Provided training and materials to parent, and education personnel and School Resource Officers Provided training to advocates and mental health professionals regarding abuse and restrictive interventions in schools.

### ***Linkages between CJA and Other Children's Bureau Programming***

#### **Anti-Trafficking Efforts**

*North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, NC Judicial Branch*

The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, as the legislatively designated lead against human trafficking in North Carolina per S.L. 2013-368, is committed to supporting efforts to address and combat child trafficking in the state. The Commission is housed in and staffed by the North Carolina Judicial Branch.

Examples of North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission activities supporting the goals of the CJA include:

- Developing curricula and conducting training for law enforcement and child protective services personnel, as well as other multidisciplinary professionals
- Supporting Child Advocacy Centers
- Developing, revising, and/or implementing uniform standard policies and procedures
- Supporting local and/or State child fatality review teams
- Fostering collaboration between child welfare, legal, and judicial communities
- Partnering to enhance system response and reduce trauma to child victims
- Partnering to create and understand response to populations served by child welfare

*Child Abuse Resource Program, NC Conference of District Attorneys*

Since 2005, the GCC has awarded funds to the NC Conference of District Attorneys (NCCDA) in support of the Child Abuse Resource Program, which is designed to improve the ability of

North Carolina prosecutors to effectively prosecute cases of child abuse and neglect by providing consistent training and assistance. NCCDA Resource Prosecutors develop curricula, training programs, legal memoranda, articles, manuals, other publications, and handle special prosecution cases in their subject matter area of expertise.

In 2023, the Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor (CARP) conducted a training focused on child trafficking that featured state and federal experts in the field. The training was attended by prosecutors, law enforcement, and other allied professionals. Participants learned how to identify, investigate, and prosecute cases involving trafficking and also learned about resources for victims of trafficking. The CARP has also provided resources and technical assistance to both organizations that focus on trafficking, and prosecutors and allied professionals who need more information about how to move forward with cases. As this is a growing problem, continuing education on this topic is essential.

Additionally, the CARP has been involved promising training program focused on equipping patrol officers with tools necessary for identifying victims of human trafficking. To date, this program has trained multiple groups of officers who may not normally receive training about trafficking, such as state troopers and park rangers. These groups often interact with perpetrators and victims of trafficking but have not been given the tools to identify and respond properly. This program provides necessary information and encourages increased vigilance for victims when interacting with the public.

### **Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)**

*NC Division of Social Services, NC Department of Health and Human Services*

The Task Force receives regular quarterly updates on the workstreams at the Division of Social Services (NC DSS) in order to align recommended projects and activities with statewide goals and initiatives. Specific updates provided by NC DSS in 2023 the development of the upcoming five-year strategic plan (CFSP) and review of the previous plan (CFSR). Taskforce members participated in a focus group led by NC DSS during the November 30, 2023 regular Task Force meeting.

NC DSS maintains membership on the Task Force and is responsible for the following:

- CAPTA Administration including work to improve workforce development, Infant Plans of Safe Care for Substance Exposed Infants, Improving Information Systems, and Interagency Collaboration
- Child Welfare policy and practice related to Child Protective Services Intake, Assessment and In Home Services
- Statewide prevention framework and then identify all prevention related services in NC and build into a network of services that can serve all of NC families no matter where they live
- Community Based Child Abuse Prevention funds which provide support to families by funding primary, secondary and tertiary prevention services

- Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) plan, designed to prevent out-of-home placement for child welfare involved children/families by providing evidence-based prevention services statewide

### **Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)**

*NC Division of Social Services, NC Department of Health and Human Services*

In preparation for the Statewide Assessment (SWA) required as part of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), NC DSS engaged the stakeholders and family partners to acknowledge successes and identify opportunities for improvement. Members of the CJA Task Force participated in a stakeholder focus group and provided feedback and recommendations for addressing service gaps during the November 30, 2023 regular Task Force meeting.

### **Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR)**

*NC Division of Social Services, NC Department of Health and Human Services*

The APSR provides a detailed overview of the progress made towards achieving the objectives outlined in the CFSP. While the APSR submission deadline to the Children’s Bureau is scheduled for June 30, 2024, the report is currently under development by partners at NC DSS. This APSR is the last report on NC DSS’s five-year CFSP 2019-2024. NC DSS is in the process of drafting the new CFSP. Members of the CJA Task Force may provide data and information to NC DSS that allows NC to report out on the requirements of the APSR.

### **Linkage to Court and Legal Representation Improvement Work**

*Child Abuse Resource Program, NC Conference of District Attorneys*

As part of ongoing support for the multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to child abuse investigations, the CARP has conducted trainings for increasing effective partnerships, teamwork, and collaboration in child abuse cases, and how each member can best contribute to the success of teams. The CARP works closely with CACs, NC DSS, and law enforcement to legal challenges that can contribute to issues within MDTs, such as information sharing and reporting problems. The CARP serves as a source of information to various programs intended to improve both court outcomes and victim treatment outcomes. These include the Remote Testimony Task Force, the Chief Justice’s ACEs Task Force, the Child Fatality Task Force (co-chair of the Intentional Death Committee), CACNC, and Family Justice Centers.

### **Linkage to the Court Improvement Program**

*North Carolina Court Improvement Program, NC Judicial Branch and partnering agencies*

The mission of the North Carolina Juvenile Court Improvement Program (CIP) is to improve the performance of North Carolina's juvenile courts in abuse and neglect cases so that safety, permanence, and well-being for each child are achieved in a fair and timely manner. CIP funds are used to implement strategies and activities to ensure greater permanence for children and their families and reduce the length of time children remain in foster care. The CIP is a collaboration between the NC Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), NC DSS, and the Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS).

CIP maintains an ongoing partnership with the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to update the Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceeding in North Carolina manual. The Office of Indigent Defense, state Guardian ad Litem Office, and NC Attorney General’s Office provide training requirements to ensure uniform curricula for all attorneys representing parents, children, and the local DSS agencies in child welfare cases. Curricula covering the North Carolina Juvenile Code, attorney best practice standards, and coaching/mentoring from experienced child welfare practitioners ensure that attorneys involved in child welfare proceedings understand 1) the purpose of an abuse, neglect, or dependency case, 2) the different stages of the court case, 3) the elements that apply to each different stage, and 4) how the different stages fit together, so that there is an increased expectation of quality hearings in districts throughout the state. CIP has used this manual to create online, on-demand training for attorneys and judges entering the child welfare area of law. This online training will launch in May 2024.

In addition to the Interdisciplinary Parent Representation Program (IPRP), CIP worked with the NC State Bar to create a juvenile certification for attorneys and sponsors up to ten attorney’s applications each year. This is another means of improving legal representation in child welfare.

CIP continues to work with the NC Division of Child Welfare to implement Safe Babies Court Teams (SBCT) in Yancey/Mitchell and New Hanover counties in 2024. The vision for North Carolina’s Safe Babies Courts is a state where children grow up in families that are safe, nurturing, and able to thrive. The mission statement is: 1) to transform the child welfare court process from an adversarial one to a collaborative, trauma-informed partnership between the court system, the child welfare system, involved families, people with lived experience, and communities, 2) to improve the long-term well-being of parents, children, and families involved in the child welfare court system by providing them with trauma-informed support and services, and 3) to achieve timely permanence, reduce generational trauma, and eliminate maltreatment. In 2023, State staff was hired to oversee this new approach to child welfare courts in the pilot sites. The team is working with local judicial districts to hire and train staff in preparation for case assignment in late 2024.

### **Enhanced Response to Children and Families Impacted by Domestic Violence**

#### *Child Abuse Resource Program, NC Conference of District Attorneys*

The CARP is regularly involved educating and supporting groups who work across systems to improve outcomes for victims of child abuse and domestic violence. Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Family Justice Centers (FJCs) are growing in popularity and strive to be a “one-stop shop” for providing services to victims and their families. Having various agencies housed at the same location increases opportunities for communication and improves collaboration, breaking down silos among service providers. The CARP serve as a bridge to these various groups, a



resource for their members, and an advocate for a cross-system approach, no matter what form that may take. The CARP has both provided training on this topic and attended national trainings to learn more about new and improved ideas to enhance cross-system practices.

### **Other Children's Bureau Processes**

#### *North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force (CFTF), NC General Assembly*

The North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force (CFTF) is a legislative study commission that examines the causes of child death and makes recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on how to prevent child death, prevent abuse and neglect, and support the safety and well-being of children. CFTF is part of the broader statewide child fatality prevention system that includes multidisciplinary teams across the state that review child deaths for the purpose of identifying gaps and deficiencies in systems and making recommendations to prevent child deaths and child maltreatment. Authorizing legislation for the CFTF can be found at NC Gen Stat § 7B-1401.

CFTF has continued efforts to prevent child deaths and maltreatment by studying data surrounding child deaths (from all causes) and making annual recommendations for changes in law and policy. Recent efforts have led to new laws and funding aimed at strengthening the statewide child fatality prevention system to improve its ability to prevent child deaths and maltreatment and promote child well-being in North Carolina.

Other recent efforts of the CFTF relevant to issues surrounding child maltreatment include: strengthening laws that address the safe surrender of infants; improving training for health care providers and law enforcement officers on recognizing and responding to child abuse and neglect; supporting a statewide Child Fatality Prevention System Summit to provide education and support for those who have a role in the statewide system; and recommending the expansion of funding for the early child care system to make quality child care more accessible and affordable.

**V. Prior Year Line-Item Budget Expenditure**

**FY2023 Budget**

Planning and Administration – 15%

Personnel, Travel, (will permit the CJA Coordinator and CJA Chair to attend the CJA Annual Grantee’s Meeting), CJA Meetings \$ 73,349.75

Program Contracts and Sub-Awards

Activities to Improve Investigative, Administrative, and Judicial Handling of Cases \$ 417,857.45

Steps to Establish Experimental, Model, or Demonstration Programs \$ 0.00

Activities to Reform State Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Procedures, or Protocols \$ 0.00

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**Total** \$ 491,597.00

Children’s Justice Act funds supported the following activities:

- Implementation of awarded grant applications that met the criteria underlined in the three categories from Section 107(e) (1) (A) (B), and (C) of the Act
- Full-time Children’s Justice Act Planner (Coordinator)

## **VI. Application for Proposed Activities**

### ***Changes Impacting the GCC Funding Cycle***

The State of North Carolina experienced two major changes that impacted the application cycle for FY2024 funding:

1. The North Carolina Accounting System (NCAS), the primary financial accounting system for most state agencies, was retired approximately October 1, 2023. This is the system through which grant payments are processed. The transition to the North Carolina Financial System (NCFS), the new state government financial system began at that time and required state agencies have computer systems with the ability to integrate and communicate with the system.
2. The Grant Enterprise Management System (GEMS) did not have the capacity to work with the new state financial system. This required that the GCC transition to a new grant management system, Enterprise Business Services (EBS), for all grant and payment activities. EBS is used by several state granting agencies and therefore has planned integration with NCFS.

Due to the transition between systems and the predicted glitches that arise with a new system, the GCC was unable to accept subrecipient applications for FY2024 funds, typically occurring from November 1 to January 31 of each year. The GCC supports projects that are not only aligned with the goals and recommendations of the CJA Task Force, but also critical to the state of child welfare in North Carolina.

As a result of the suspension of our grant application cycle resulting from the inability to accept applications in the new grant management system, the Child Abuse Resource Program was unable to apply for renewed funding, and the current project has an end date of 9/30/2024. There are currently two other CJA projects open, and neither project experience hardship due to this unique circumstance. Additionally, the new GCC grant management system and processes provide the ability to support projects from multiple federal grant funds as appropriate.

### **Additional Recommendations**

The GCC proposes extending the current Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor project for an additional year from FY2024 CJA funds in the amount of \$104,265, or half of the expiring grant award. The CARP assesses training needs related to investigating and prosecuting child abuse/neglect and developing and implementing training to address those needs. The program serves as a resource to prosecutors across the state and also assists other allied professionals, such as law enforcement, child protective services workers, and medical providers regarding the evaluation and investigation of child abuse and neglect.

Extension of this subrecipient project from FY2024 CJA funds will enable the State of North Carolina to continue supporting critical improvements and resources without interruption to the recommendations set for by the State Task Force. Further, it is recommended that FY2024 (and FY2025) CJA funds be applied to approved projects accepted in the upcoming application cycle.

## ***FY2024 CJA Funding Recommendation***

**Recipient:** NC Department of Public Safety

**Grant Name:** 2024 Children's Justice Act Administrative Funds

**Anticipated Children's Justice Act Funding:** \$74,352.60

**Proposed Start Date:** 10/01/2023

**Proposed End Date:** 09/30/2027

### **CJA Required Category**

Administrative funds allocated for this project support the State Task Force's alignment with all topical areas found at CAPTA Section 107 (e)(1)(A), (B), and (C).

### **Current Task Force Recommendations/Goals Proposed:**

The project supports all Task Force Recommendations.

### **Project Role in Reform of State Systems:**

The project supports the work of the Children's Justice Act Task Force.

### **Project Summary:**

This project funds the administration of North Carolina's Children Justice Act allocation, including salary and other costs incurred in outreach and the maintenance of North Carolina's Children's Justice Task Force. Administrative funding is calculated as 15% of North Carolina's anticipated FY 2024 allocation.

Administrative funding will continue to support a full-time CJA for the State of North Carolina to allow for improved collaboration with children maltreatment-related groups, including child welfare service providers, legal and law enforcement representatives, clinical and mental health service providers, and other stakeholders. The CJA Coordinator will continue to work with diverse governmental and nongovernmental agencies on improvements to the state's response to child maltreatment. As appropriate, the Coordinator will participate in the development of needed policies and programs.

Additionally, funds will allow the CJA Coordinator and Task Force Chair (or designee) to attend meetings, trainings, and conferences, including the Annual CJA Grantee Meeting. Attendance at such events will improve both knowledge of abuse/neglect and coordination with other stakeholders. Funding may be used for expenses incidental to Task Force meetings, including mileage reimbursement for attendees, and will not include funding for unallowable expenses at the meetings, such as food or beverages.

### **Project Goals:**

- Improved coordination of stakeholders through the ongoing support of the Children's

#### Justice Task Force

- Improved grant-funded activities of the North Carolina Children's Justice Act Task Force through greater coordination with stakeholders
- Increased knowledge of Children's Justice work done in other states
- Increased monitoring of projects funded under the Children's Justice Act

#### **Project Objectives:**

- Maintenance of CJA Task Force membership
- Monitoring CJA-funded projects for fiscal and programmatic compliance, through a combination of on-site and desk monitoring
- Increased knowledge of best practices in systems change as related to child maltreatment response

## VII. Proposed Line-Item Budget

### FY2024 Budget

#### Planning and Administration – 15%

Personnel, Travel, (will permit the CJA Coordinator and CJA Chair to attend the CJA Annual Grantees Meeting), CJA Meetings	\$ 74,352.60
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#### Program Contracts and Sub-Awards

Activities to Improve Investigative, Administrative, and Judicial Handling of Cases	\$ 421,331.40
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Steps to Establish Experimental, Model, or Demonstration Programs	\$ 0.00
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Activities to Reform State Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Procedures, or Protocols	\$ 0.00
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 495,684.00</b>
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Children’s Justice Act funds will support the following activities:

- Attendance at the 2024 CJA Annual Grantees Meeting
- Implementation of awarded grant applications that meet the criteria underlined in the three categories from Section 107(e) (1) (A) (B), and (C) of the Act.
- Continued provision of a full-time employee serving as Children’s Justice Act Planner (Coordinator)



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

May 20, 2024

Rebecca Jones Gaston, Commissioner  
Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF)  
Office on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Children's Bureau/ACYF/ACF/HHS  
330 C St., SW #3420C  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Commissioner Gaston:

As part of North Carolina's application for the FY 2024 Children's Justice Act (CJA) Grant, I certify the following:

- North Carolina received the FY 2023 CAPTA State Grant and continues to comply with the requirements stipulated in Section 106(b) of the Act; or the State has received a recently rendered Federal decision attesting to the State's current compliance with the requirements for the CAPTA State Grant under Section 106(b); and
- North Carolina has maintained a State multidisciplinary task force on children's justice; and
- North Carolina has adopted or continues to progress in adopting recommendations of the State Task Force or a comparable alternative to such recommendations; and
- North Carolina will make such reports to the Secretary as may reasonably be required, including an annual report on how assistance received under this program was expended throughout the State, with particular attention to the areas described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of Section 107(a); and
- North Carolina will maintain and provide access to records relating to activities under CJA; and

May 20, 2024

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- North Carolina will participate in at least one Federally initiated CJA meeting each year that the grant is in effect and is authorized to use grant funds to cover travel and per diem expenses for two CJA representatives (CJA Coordinator and Task Force Chairperson) to attend the meeting when held in person.

North Carolina will continue to use financial assistance from the Children's Bureau in ways that benefit the children of the state.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "C".

Roy Cooper

RAC/swh



# CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Listen

## Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, ``Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

## Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, ``Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a

prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Signature

Digitally signed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Cal F.", is written over a horizontal line.

F2176AA81E0546F...

Title

Executive Director

Organization

NC Governor's Crime Commission

## **X. Three-Year Assessment Report**

North Carolina is required to submit its Three-Year Assessment (3YA) with its 2024 application for Children’s Justice Act funding. Pursuant to Section 107(d), the Assessment must include documentation that the State Task Force has comprehensively:

- a. reviewed and evaluated State investigative, administrative and both civil and criminal judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal; and
- b. made policy and training recommendations in each of the categories described in Section 107(e) of the Act. The task force may make such other comments and recommendations as are considered relevant and useful.

Development of the 2024 Three-Year Assessment combined the efforts of the State Task Force with support from the Juvenile Justice Planning Team of the North Carolina Governor’s Crime Commission (GCC), state office designated by Governor Roy Cooper to apply for the Children’s Justice Act (CJA) grant.

### ***Systems improvements made to address FY21 Task Force goals/recommendations***

The FY21 goals and recommendations of the Task Force were met and supported by subrecipient programming that overlapped the categories defined at Section 107(e) of the Act.

The 2021 – 2024 funding priorities included:

- A. Activities to Improve Investigative, Administrative, and Judicial Handling of Cases**
  1. Transform the way children and families who enter the court system are treated, by creating a “trauma-informed” courthouse
  2. Support efforts to reduce trauma to children appearing in court proceedings
  3. Support improved integration and collaboration between Child Fatality Review Teams, Local Child Fatality Prevention Teams and Community Child Protection Teams, the State Child Fatality Prevention Team, and the Child Fatality Task Force.
  4. Support efforts to create a culturally responsive court
  5. Support involvement of law schools and other graduate programs in the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases
  6. Identify, support and promote agencies who provide training and classes on recognizing, responding to and reporting child abuse and neglect
  7. Support statewide efforts of Child Advocacy Centers
  8. Support the efforts of the multidisciplinary workgroup to standardize forensic

interviews of children who have been abused or neglected through: 1) Implementation of Forensic Interviewing Standards; 2) Implementation of Statewide Training and Peer Review System; and 3) Growth and Enhancement of CACs and Local Child Welfare Capacity.

**B. Steps to Establish Experimental, Model, or Demonstration Programs**

1. Support the efforts of the Conference of District Attorneys to provide dedicated staff, training and resources for child abuse and neglect cases
2. Support efforts to expand the multidisciplinary approach to parent representation in civil abuse, neglect and dependency cases including the use of social workers and parent peer partners as part of the parent attorney's resources.
3. Increase the use of data to improve judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases.
4. Increase the use of technology to increase efficiencies in child abuse and neglect cases

**C. Activities to Reform State Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Procedures, or Protocols**

1. Support the creation of a state-wide hotline to report possible child abuse, neglect, or trafficking.
2. Continue to support procedures and protocols, to include local administrative orders, which allow the sharing of information between agencies:
3. Support legislation to mandate the use of the child advocacy centers for sexual abuse and physical abuse investigations when available.
4. Support legislation, policies or protocols that address the responsibilities of and participation in court cases involving child abuse and neglect by regional LME/MCOs
5. Support the implementation of a uniform training curriculum for School Resource Officers
6. Support legislation and policies that increase the use of permanency mediation and other dispute resolution techniques in abuse, neglect, and dependency cases.
7. Support legislation and other efforts to address NC Tribes' concerns in abuse and neglect cases.

Projects supported by 2021 – 2024 CJA funds and the goals met include:

- Building Trauma-Informed Courts, UNC Chapel Hill (A1, A2, A4, A6, A8)
- Safe and Secure Schools (SASS), Disability Rights North Carolina (A4, A6, C5)
- NCCDA Child Abuse Resource Prosecutor, NC Administrative Office of the Courts (A1, A2, A6, B1)
- Expansion and CQI of Forensic Services to Child Abuse Victims, Child Advocacy Centers of North Carolina (A6, A7, C5)

While many factors caused delays with the project start, we anticipate the following goals to be

met by the Trauma Informed Enhancements for Abused and Neglected Children Victims, NC Administrative Office of the Courts: A1, A2, A6, A7, B4, C5.

Outcomes and accomplishments on individual subrecipient projects can be found in the Prior Year Performance Reports.

***Process used to complete the 2024 3YA***

CJA Task Force membership was divided, by discipline, into four workgroups: (a) Clinical Services, (b) Child Welfare, (c) Prosecution and Law Enforcement, and (d) Racial Equity. Each workgroup reviewed and evaluated the established goals of the Task Force, explored new or existing challenges in child welfare, and provided recommendations for future priorities with the support of designated workgroup leaders. Additionally, the Task Force requested insight from the GCC's Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) Subcommittee, which operates under the Juvenile Justice Planning Committee and State Advisory Group to develop strategies to reduce minority overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system. Finally, the GCC's Juvenile Justice team supported the development of the 3YA through the facilitation of ongoing training related to the requirements, coordinating workgroup designations alongside the Task Force Chair, defining the framework for accomplishing the assessment, and supporting Task Force and workgroup meetings, both scheduled and special called meetings.

Each workgroup worked collaboratively independent of GCC staff unless support was requested with providing either in-person or virtual space for meeting. Workgroups utilized two tools developed by staff (*State Activities Linked or Aligned with CJA/Other Children's Bureau Programming Questionnaire* and *CJA Current Priorities Worksheet*), designed to identify the State's needs and establish a connection between ongoing and proposed initiatives. In addition to regular quarterly meetings and independent workgroup meetings where requested, GCC staff supported two brainstorming sessions, as well as a special meeting called to finalize recommendations for future CJA programming in the State. During these sessions, the workgroups discussed future funding priorities, performance measurement criteria, and potential additional recommendations.

The below meetings were devoted to the development of the 2024 3YA:

Chair Meeting, January 9, 2024

CJA Task Force Meeting, January 11, 2024

Brainstorming Session, March 12, 2024

Brainstorming Session, March 26, 2024

CJA Task Force Meeting, April 11, 2024

CJA Task Force Meeting – Special Session, May 7, 2024

Chair Meeting, May 14, 2024

## ***2024 Policy and Training Recommendations***

The CJA Task Force identified the following ongoing challenges and unmet needs in the child welfare system:

- Accessing mental health assessments and services remains arduous for children, parents, and caregivers, particularly in specific regions. Compounding this issue is the scarcity of trauma-sensitive providers.
- Identifying and providing trauma-specific care for victims of trafficking is hindered by inconsistent reporting, especially among African American and Latino cases across the state.
- Racial disparities compound ongoing challenges. Children of color are overrepresented in child welfare systems and facing prolonged-stays, higher rates of parental termination, and unequal access to care facilities. Initiatives to rectify these disparities, such as culturally sensitive training for social workers, are lacking.
- Agencies and services providers are often understaffed with strained resources and increased stress levels, which may hinder effective care delivery. Virtual services, while valuable, often lack the individualization to address the diverse needs of children and families.
- Gaps persist in evaluating and treating problematic sexual behaviors among children and adolescents, as well as providing trauma assessments and services in Spanish, particularly for trafficking survivors.
- Systemic challenges faced by low-income families, including healthcare inequity and mental health disparities, exacerbate racial inequalities within the child welfare system.

The CJA Task Force identified multiple policy and training recommendations from each required topical area identified at Section 107 (e)(1)(A), (B), and (C) of CAPTA:

*Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as 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 the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family, and which also ensures procedural fairness to the accused.*

- **Targeted Training.** Comprehensive training programs covering all identified areas, ensuring that professionals are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to handle cases of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and maltreatment effectively.
- **Self-Assessment Initiatives.** Implementation of self-assessment tools for service providers to increase awareness of areas needing improvement and enable them to address these issues. This requires buy-in from all agencies involved, and prioritizing and allocating sufficient time and resources for the self- assessment process.

- **Statewide Trainings and Symposia.** Organizing trainings and symposia at the state level, with a focus on engaging communities and fostering collaboration among stakeholders to enhance response efforts.
- **Project-Specific Metrics.** Tailored performance metrics aligned with the objectives and outcomes of each funded project, ensuring accountability and effectiveness.
- **Pre-Surveys.** Utilizing pre-surveys, where feasible, to establish baseline data and gauge the impact of interventions over time.
- **Personalized Contact with Agencies.** Maintaining personal contact with agencies involved in a more intimate manner than statewide efforts, allowing for ongoing assessment of progress and addressing challenges in real-time.

*Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation cases, including the enhancement of performance of court-appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem for children, and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused.*

- **Supporting GAL Attorneys.** Providing support for Guardian ad Litem (GAL) attorneys who propose projects to enhance their representation of children in court proceedings. This may include initiatives aimed at improving advocacy, case management, or legal representation techniques.
- **Assistance Animals in Court.** Funding programs that allow for the presence of assistance animals to accompany children in court, offering comfort and support during challenging and traumatic circumstances, thereby enhancing their ability to participate effectively in legal proceedings.
- **Project-Specific Metrics.** Developing performance metrics aligned with the goals and objectives of each funded project, ensuring that outcomes are measured effectively.
- **Qualitative Assessment.** Conducting qualitative assessments to evaluate the impact of assistance animals in court and the effectiveness of GAL attorneys' representation. This may include feedback from children, families, and legal professionals involved in the proceedings.
- **Outcome Evaluation.** Assessing the outcomes of the initiatives, such as improvements in legal representation quality, children's well-being, and court proceedings' effectiveness.

*Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children, which may include those children involved in reports of child abuse or neglect with a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, from child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.*

- **Supporting Legislation and Policies.** Funding initiatives aimed at supporting legislation, policies, and protocols that address the responsibilities of and participation in court cases involving child abuse and neglect. This includes efforts to increase access to culturally responsive, community-based mental health, and trauma-responsive services, particularly by regional Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs).
- **Addressing Consent Process for Sexual Assault Examinations.** Addressing gaps in state law concerning the consent process for individuals under 18 undergoing sexual assault examinations and evidence collection for forensic purposes, particularly in North Carolina.
- **State Performance Assessment of LME/MCOs.** Including relevant measures in the State Performance Assessment of LME/MCOs to assess access to effective and accessible community-based services, ensuring that mental health and trauma-responsive services are available and culturally responsive.
- **Project-Specific Metrics.** Developing performance metrics tailored to each project's specifics, which may include measures of legislative and policy changes, improvements in access to services, and the effectiveness of trauma-responsive interventions.

***Description of Task Force plans to incorporate new recommendations into the work of CJA***

The CJA Task Force plans to incorporate recommendations into the work of CJA through inclusion of the Task Force goals in the funding priority areas, definition of applicant agencies encouraged to apply for funding, development of outcome/evaluation measures, and supporting initiatives that promote racial equity in child welfare. Other recommendations were made in consideration of the administration and management of grant funds, including extending the periods of performance to up to three years for funded projects. Finally, while applications for funding will be accepted annually for each of the three federally-required focus areas, emphasis will be placed on one priority area per funding cycle based on current or ongoing needs. The Task Force will continue to review funding priorities annually and update where necessary.

CJA Funding Priorities for 2024 – 2026 include:

*CJA Priority Area A.*

*Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as 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 the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family, and which also ensures procedural fairness to the accused.*



**Task Force Goal:** Transform the way children and families who enter the court system are treated and supported through efforts that reduce systematic trauma, are culturally responsive and through services that are trauma informed.

**Objectives:**

- Comprehensive training programs covering all identified areas, ensuring that professionals are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to handle cases of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and maltreatment effectively.
- Work to fund implementation of self-assessment tools for service providers to increase awareness of underserved areas or areas needing improvement enabling them to address issues. This requires an MOU from all agencies involved, and prioritizing and allocating sufficient time and resources for the self- assessment process.
- Work to fund trauma informed care models reducing its impact, including the impact of systematic trauma for child sexual abuse, exploitation, and maltreatment victims.

**Eligible applicants may include:**

GAL, Child Advocacy Centers of North Carolina, Administrative Offices of the Court, Trauma Informed Care to include therapy animals, Disability Rights, Racial Equity

*CJA Priority Area B*

*Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation cases, including the enhancement of performance of court-appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem for children, and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused.*

**Task Force Goal:** Support efforts to enhance or expand the judicial handling, multidisciplinary approach, and/or the use of technology in child abuse, neglect, and dependency cases.

**Objectives:**

- Work to fund projects that enhance representation of children and non-offending caregivers/parents in court proceedings. This may include initiatives aimed at improving advocacy, case management, or legal representation techniques.
- Work to fund projects that enhance or expand the handling of cases by electronic means to include: participation at proceeding via the internet, e-filing of child welfare cases, service by publication via the internet.
- Work to fund projects that utilize data to evaluate the impact of programs and enhance services for child maltreatment victims.

**Eligible Applicants May Include:**

Administrative Offices of the Court, Higher Education Institutions, Law Enforcement Agencies, GAL, CAC, Racial Equity, Disability Rights

*CJA Priority Area C*

*Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children, which may include those children involved in reports of child abuse or neglect with a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, from child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.*

**Task Force Goal:** Support legislation, policies or protocols that address the responsibilities of and participation in the handling of cases involving child abuse and neglect.

**Objectives:**

- Work to fund initiatives aimed at supporting legislation, policies, and protocols that address the responsibilities of and participation in court cases involving child abuse and neglect. This may include efforts to centralize reporting and service provision, address consent by individuals under 18 for medical care regarding their abuse, and provide technology for data integration/file sharing between investigative agencies and partners.
- Work to support the implementation of uniform training curricula for professionals working with children. This could include: Mandatory reporting, child abuse signs and symptoms, special populations, racial equity with regard to child maltreatment.
- Work to support relevant measures in the State Performance Assessment of LME/MCOs to assess access to effective and accessible community-based services, ensuring that mental health and trauma-responsive services are available and culturally responsive.

**Eligible Applicants May Include:** NC Tribal Nations, NC Commission on Indian Affairs, LME/MCOs, Administrative Offices of the Court