



**Vermont Children's Justice Act Task Force
2020 Annual Reporting**

GRANT: Children's Bureau
Office on Child Abuse and Neglect
Children's Justice Act Grant FY 2020
childrensjusticeact@acf.hhs.gov

APPLICANT AGENCY: Vermont Department for Children and Families
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I. A. Task Force Membership

- Task Force membership: see attached list on pages 7 - 9

B. Function

- The purpose of the CJA Task Force is to oversee the appropriation of Vermont CJA funds to support the improvement and strengthening of the front end, intake and investigative piece of child welfare. This mission requires a spirit of collaboration and a positive working relationship between the Department for Children and Families and the Children's Justice Act Task Force. As such, each party in the collaboration has a specific role to play. The respective roles are:
 1. The role of The Department for Children and Families is to:
 - a. Administer the CJA Grant and assign the function of Grant Manager to a position within the Department for Children and Families.
 - b. Facilitate the appropriate business office process of grant funding allocation, based on recommendations it receives from the CJTF.
 2. The role of Task Force members:
 - a. Act with regard for the well-being and welfare of children and youth.
 - b. Contribute to the review of applications for funding.
 - c. Contribute to the Three-Year Assessment review and evaluation process in his/her specific area of expertise.
 - d. Adhere to state confidentiality requirements.
 - e. Regularly attend and fully participate in all scheduled meetings.
 - F. Meeting Facilitation: The Meeting Facilitator shall preside at the CJTF meetings and perform duties as appropriate to the mission of the CJTF. Each meeting agenda will contain a standing time to appoint a member for facilitation of the meeting. Members will volunteer to act as the facilitator and be noted in the meeting minutes.
 3. The role of the State Coordinator/Grant Manager:
 - a. Administer the CJA funds.
 - b. Serve as grant administrator on CJA funded projects.
 - c. Provide advice, guidance, technical assistance, and information regarding the expected role and function of the CJTF as mandated by the requirements of the CJA Program Instruction.
 - d. Attend all CJTF meetings.
 - e. Keep CJTF members apprised of the meeting schedules and distribute minutes and other pertinent mailings necessary for Task Force members to fulfill their responsibilities.
 - f. Act as liaison between CJTF and the Federal Administration for Children and Families to facilitate communication.
 - g. Act as liaison between CJTF and the Vermont Department for Children and Families to facilitate communication.
 - g. Present financial reports to task force members' status of CJA funds available for allocation to future projects.

C. Meetings

1. The Task Force voted to hold meetings on a quarterly time frame at the September 21, 2018 meeting. Meetings are scheduled for January, April, July and October going forward. Updated in 2019 to bi-monthly. Meetings scheduled for 2020:
 - June 19, 2020 – Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19 – 1:00 to 3:30
 - August 21, 2020 – Oak Conference Room – 1:00 to 3:30 pm
 - October 16, 2020 – Oak Conference Room – 1:00 to 3:30 pm
 - December 18, 2020 – Oak Conference Room – 1:00 to 3:30 pm
2. The State Coordinator/Grant Manager, in consultation with the Task Force, may schedule special meetings.
3. The Task Force sets the agenda for the regular and special meetings as a standing agenda item at each meeting.
4. The Grant Manager will document in minutes all regularly scheduled and special CJTF meetings, including any major decisions, action items, recommendations from the CJTF to The Department for Children and Families, and responses from the Department for Children and Families regarding recommendations previously submitted.
5. Upon their approval by a majority vote at the next scheduled CJTF meeting, the CJTF minutes will be made a permanent record and maintained by the State Coordinator/Grant Manager.

D. Voting

1. Each member of the CJTF shall have one vote.
2. Voting will take place in person at the meetings, phone in attendance, or electronic communication with a response time set by the coordinator.
3. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of one more than half of the current membership of the CJTF. The members in attendance at a meeting where a quorum is not present, may elect (by majority vote), to proceed with the business of the meeting subject to ratification when a quorum is present at the next meeting.
4. Any member who directly or individually may benefit from a grant application before the CJTF shall abstain from discussion and voting on the matter.
5. Any member with a conflict of interest in an issue being considered by the CJTF, shall make a declaration to that effect and abstain from further discussion and voting on that issue.

E. Recommendations for funding in the following areas to meet Federal Category requirements:

- 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 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. 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; and
- C. reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, including sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.

1. SANE Program

Maintain and further develop the Vermont Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program. Future development will include emphasis on the Pediatric SANE Program.

Area of Impact: A, B, C

2. Professional Training

Provide professional training on various aspects of child abuse and neglect to all who work with child abuse and neglect.

Area of Impact: A, C

3. Children's Advocacy Centers and Special Investigation Units

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Special Investigation Units (SIUs) will exist statewide and have the necessary training, investigative equipment and technological resources to function effectively.

Area of Impact: A, B, C

4. The Vermont Department for Children and Families

The Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) will strengthen procedures for reviewing reported abuse and neglect as well as examine treatment service access and delivery.

Area of Impact: C

5. The Vermont Children's Justice Act Task Force

The Vermont Children's Justice Act Task Force (VCJATF) will continue to meet regularly, assess the needs of the state and participate in relevant trainings and activities.

Area of Impact: A, B, C

6. The Vermont Guardian ad Litem Program

Vermont's Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program will be strengthened through regular training and increased outreach for active volunteers.

Area of Impact: A, C

7. Access to Equipment

Professionals working with child abuse and neglect cases should have access to necessary equipment and technology to enhance performance in investigation, prosecution and treatment.

Area of Impact: A, B

At the January 18, 2019 CJA Task Force Meeting eight members were present and seven absent. The eight members present voted unanimously to divide the total CJA Grant award between the following recommended areas:

- The Vermont SANE Program.
- Children's Advocacy Centers and Special Investigation Units
 - The Task Force voted to provide the CACs and the SIU equal portions of the total CJA award. Since these organizations are co-located and for financial management simplification, they agreed to have their individual amount combined as one sum and managed by the VT Children's Alliance.
- The Vermont Guardian ad Litem Program.
- The CJA Task Force: Annual Meeting attendance.
 - Since the January meeting, the Department Business Office has required the CJA Coordinator to report time worked in a new positive time reporting system. Per a phone conversation on April 9, 2019 and email correspondence, the Department can bill administrative fees for the CJA Coordinator's time. This will be calculated for the remainder of 2019 and going forward in 2020.

The new division of CJA Funds will be contracted with specific instructions that follow the CJA Program Instruction. All use of CJA Funding will continue to follow Federal Guidelines documented in the Program Instruction.

The incentive to change this funding process was to provide more time for a stronger focus by the Task Force on assessment of the system responses for identification, investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases.

**2020 Children's Justice Act
Task Force Membership Listing
State/Territory: Vermont**

Task Force Membership Designation	Name	Title	Organization	Relevant Background/Experience
Law Enforcement	Marc Metayer	SIU Board Manager	VT Special Investigation Unit Board	Retired VT State Police
Criminal Court Judge	The Hon. Thomas Devine	VT Court Judge	VT Court Administration	2004 to Present: VT Superior Court Judge serving on Criminal, Civil and Family divisions
Civil Court Judge	The Hon. Ben Joseph	Retired VT Court Judge	VT Court Administration	1998 to 2015: VT Superior Court Judge serving on Criminal, Civil and Family divisions. Current State Legislator
Prosecuting Attorney	Rose Kennedy	VT State's Attorney	VT State's Attorney General's Office	Rutland Co. State's Attorney for the past 3 years, Rutland Assistant Attorney General 1 year, Chittenden Co. States Attorney for 7 years.
Defense Attorney	Marshall Pahl	Chief Juvenile Defender	VT Defender General's Office	Former appellate and trial level criminal defense attorney.
Child Advocate Attorney	Laura Bierley	Attorney	Vermont Legal Aid	Staff attorney at VT Legal Aid for 13 years
Child Advocate for Children	Wendy Loomis Jennifer Hurlbut Poehlmann, Esq	Executive Director Public Policy/Legislative Liaison	Rutland Children's Advocacy Center & VT Children's Alliance State Chapter	Current Director of the Vermont Children's Alliance (CAC State Chapter) and the Executive Director of the Rutland CAC.
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)*	Robert Post	Programs Mgr. Court Improvement GAL Director	VT Court Administration	Has worked as the interim GAL Director, currently hired permanently as the Program Manager.
Health Professional	Tracy Wagner	SANE RN VT SANE Board Pediatric Medical Director	VT SANE Board	Peds nurse for > 30 years: acute inpatient care, high-tech home care, visiting nurse, and peds. offices as a Nurse Educator, to Assistant Nurse Mgr. Has MA in nursing & certified Peds. in 2005, became a Forensic Nurse in 2009 & obtained national certification as a SANE-P in 2013. Is the Ped. Clinical Coordinator for the VT SANE Program, Nurse Clinician with the Child Safe Program at UVM. Experienced foster/adoptive parent and parenting children with complex medical, emotional, and physical disabilities.

Task Force Membership Designation	Name	Title	Organization	Relevant Background/Experience
Mental Health Professional	Priscilla White	Child Victim Treatment Dir. Co-Director of VT Ctr. for Prevention & Treatment of Sexual Abuse	VT Dept. for Children & Families Agency of Human Services	20 yrs. experience in best practice, investigation, interventions & treatment for child victims of sexual abuse and children with sexually harmful behaviors
Mental Health Professional	Gary Marvel	Supervision & Re-Entry Coordinator Co-Director VT Center for Prevention & Treatment of Sexual Abuse	VT Dept of Corrections Agency of Human Services	LICSW, expertise in current best practice for supervision and treatment of adults with sexually harmful behaviors. Previous child welfare social worker.
Child Protective Services	Nancy Miller	Child Safety Director	VT DCF/Family Services	MSW, with 31 years of service in VT Family Services Division, Child Welfare
Individual Experienced in Working with Children with Disabilities	Actively under recruitment but not yet accepted request	Invitation to join April meeting and ongoing discussion with Pam McCarthy, M.Ed., CEO/President	VT Family Network	VT Family Network is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower and support families of children with special needs.
Parent/ Representative of Parent Group	Larry Crist	Executive Director	VT Parent Representation Center	Holds a law degree & MSW, 45 years of legal & social service in government & non-profit. Managed legal & mental health services in correctional, court & community-based settings at the city, county & state levels. First Director of VT Child, Foster & Adoption Care Licensing, Deputy-Comm. Dept. of Health, Comm. of the Dept. of Aging & Disabilities. Currently serving as Exec. Dir. of the VT Parent Representation Center..
Adult Former Victim of Child Abuse and Neglect	Kelli Gile	Family Services District Office Staff	VT DCF/Family Services	MSW, Kelli received her Bachelors of Social Work, with a minor in Child Development, from the University of Maine, Orono, in 2012 and her Masters of Social Work from the University of Vermont in 2015. Kelli is the recipient of the Title IVE traineeship provided through the State and currently works as an Investigative Social Worker. She has spent most of her social work career

				working with children and families in school, home, and community settings.
Individual Experienced in Working with Homeless Children and Youth	Mark Redmond	Executive Director	Spectrum	Mark has been Spectrum's Executive Director since 2003. He has worked with homeless and at-risk youth since 1981 – in New York City; Westchester, NY; and Stamford, CT. Before coming to Spectrum, Mark was the Associate Executive Director of the Domus Foundation and helped start the city's first charter school for low-income middle school children. He has a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Villanova University and a Masters in Public Administration from New York University.

II. Prior Year Performance Report May 2019 to May 2020

Guardian ad Litem Program

Activity: Vermont Guardian ad Litem Program/ Office of Court Improvement GAL Training

Evaluation Methods:

- Participant Evaluations for the October 25, 2019 training day

Outputs:

- 140 participants attended the training.

Outcomes:

- There are now 342 GALs in the State and every county has GALs.
- All 2019 child cases that required a GAL were provided services.
- Participants increased knowledge and understanding of the GAL process and best practice

SANE Program

Activity: VT SANE Program

Evaluation Methods:

- SANE Board review of the program
- Availability of SANE services throughout the state
- On going communication and feedback from existing SANE nurses around support needs, practice guidance and supervision by program staff.

Outputs:

- The SANE Program telemedicine project is now providing support and clinical technical assistance to new Pediatric SANEs during their first year of forensic exams. This initiative is aimed at allowing as many children and youth as possible to receive high-quality care in their local community hospital.
- SANE Education and SANE, combined A and P course was held in 2019 and one is planned for the fall of 2020.

Outcomes:

- The numbers of both SANE A and Pediatric SANE practitioners continues to grow in Vermont. There are currently 77 SANE A nurses, 20 of these are Pediatric SANEs.
- The training now combines SANE A and Pediatric. The new combined course brought 28 new nurses on board. We are working on completion of practical, hands on hours for certification. All 16 hospitals in Vermont now have at least one SANE employed.
- Re-credentialing – Program had 59 SANEs due for recredentialing last year, 19 have lapsed.
- Why are people not recredentialing? Vast majority came from places where they don't see a lot of cases. Also if the program is not well supported in a hospital, it can be hard for nurses to stay with it.

- The next combined course will be Fall 2020. Plans are being made to hold this training virtually as a backup plan due to COVID. If the State is still practicing social distancing and not gathering in large groups, the plan will allow the training to be conducted via telecommunication.
- The Clinical Directors are working with Grace Cottage Hospital in Springfield and Brattleboro Memorial hospital on a shared SANE nurse pool.
 - A challenge is that some hospitals want all nurses to be employees of the hospital if they are going to come in to provide care.
 - Another possible regionalization pool: Porter, Rutland and Southwest medical centers.

Activity: International Association of Forensic Nurses Conference

Evaluation Methods: Report out and educational sharing of by the nurses that attended.

Outputs: 4 SANEs attended the Conference this year

Outcomes: Information from the conference is shared with peers through SANE meetings. Participation by SANE nurses on the VT SANE Board and working subcommittees such as the Credentialing Subcommittee, SANE Kit subcommittee and the Hospital Outreach Subcommittee.

Children's Advocacy Centers and Special Investigation Units Professional Training Recommendation

Activity: Bennington SIU Extended Forensic Interviewing training in Burlington VT

Evaluation Methods:

- Report back from conference attendee
- Improvements to CAC/SIU practice & policy through knowledge gained at conference
- Demeanor of child victims during interview process
- CEU Certificate

Outputs:

- One law enforcement investigator attended the training
 - CEU Certificate

Outcomes:

- Child victims can be interviewed in multi-session settings that are less re-traumatizing
- Children with developmental delays or cognitive disabilities benefit from this type of interview
- Cultural considerations often are benefited by this type of interview
- Better interview relationships are built with the victim and
- More effective evidence is often a result

Activity: Bennington SIU States Attorney Conference

Evaluation Methods:

- Completed CLE certificate
- Comfort level of Deputy States Attorney in handling sexual assault cases
- Reviewing how relationships between States Attorney and victim benefit in effectiveness of case

Outputs:

- One Bennington States Attorney attended
- CEU credits for States Attorney

Outcomes:

- An additional State's Attorney is trained
- There are now 2 Attorney's with this increased knowledge
- Bennington is better prepared to properly and effectively prosecute sexual assault cases

Activity: Caledonia SIU iRecord Equipment

Evaluation Methods:

- Ease of use of equipment by investigators
- Ease and timeliness of exportation of interview to external media for use
- Quality of recordings
- Quality of forensic evidence

Outputs:

- Purchase, installation and training on use of an iRecord system at the CAC

Outcomes:

- Better quality of forensic evidence
- Dependability of equipment
- Reduction of multiple victim interviews
- Reduction in cost and time in processing cases

Activity: Lamoille SIU MDT SANE member attending New Orleans Conference

Evaluation Methods:

- Attendee reports knowledge gained
- Attendee assists in improvement of SIU/CAC practice and policy

Outputs: One SANE from the Lamoille SIU MDT attended the Forensic Nurse Conference

Outcomes:

- MDT SANE member increased knowledge and skills
- Continuing education received for certification by SANE Board
- Lamoille MDT has increased information reported by attendee to improve forensic examinations in sexual abuse/violence cases
- Forensic evidence quality increases
- Victims receive quality care

Department for Children and Families Practice Improvement

Activity: Participation in *Good Lives Model Training: Treatment for Adolescents who have sexually harmful behaviors.*

Evaluation Methods:

- Participant feedback & evaluations
- Number of Clinicians who now provide this treatment
- Direct feedback from Family Service Workers and Community Partners on their understanding of the model.
- Use of the model workbooks with youth with sexually harmful behaviors.

Outputs:

- In February 4 -7 2019, a 4-day training was provided through funding from the Department of Corrections (DOC).
- Clinicians, Family Services Workers and DOC personnel participated in this training together. Cross education provided rich discussion on the merits of the model, how each discipline could conduct wrap around services outside of the clinical setting based on the model and work collaboratively to achieve consistent behavioral responsibility of clients.
- September 6, 2019 – David Prescott presented the model with the Family Services Leadership Team to provide an overview of the model, use of the model with adolescents and ways that FSD Field workers can transfer the content of workbooks to their case management of youth with sexually harmful behaviors.

Outcomes:

- 62 Attendees at February 2019 training with David Prescott:
 - 5 Child Welfare/Family Services staff
 - 39 Clinicians
 - 5 Community Justice Center staff
 - 13 Department of Corrections staff
- 45 Family Services District Directors, Operations Managers and Field Supervisors attended working session on September 6, 2019 with David Prescott to discuss use of the model with adolescents.
- All 12 Family Services District Offices, Woodside Juvenile Center and Central Office received copies of the Good Lives, *Young Men, Young Women: Becoming Who I Want to Be* Work Books and Case Management Guide.
- DOC and Family Services continue to meet quarterly through the VT Center for Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Abuse and the Good Lives Model continues to be an agenda item.
- Vermont has recently passed “Raising the Age” legislation for juvenile offenders and with this model in place is ready to provide appropriate treatment to a larger population of youth.

The Vermont Children’s Justice Act Task Force

Activity: Ongoing administration of the Task Force meetings, grant process and Federal requirements.

Evaluation Methods: Annual Report and Federal Three-Year Assessment.

Outputs:

- Task members are engaged and supported in a process to seek improvement areas and collaboration across disciplines that respond to child abuse and neglect.

Outcomes:

- Task Force members regularly attend bi-monthly meetings.
- Vermont organizations involved in the identification, investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases get funding for their work.
- A review of the system response for investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases is undertaken by a diverse group of professionals.

Activity: Annual CJA Meeting in Washington DC

Evaluation Methods:

- Feed back from the attendees

Outputs:

- In 2020 one member, the medical representative (Pediatric SANE Clinical Director) of the Task Force and a member of the Department's Grants and Contract Unit who is the Contract Manager for CJA, attended the annual meeting.

Outcomes:

- Notes and recommendations for improving the Task Force from the two individuals who attended will be presented at the June Task Force meeting

Description of any activities undertaken in the last year to link/align the State's CJA work with work related to the State's Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) and/or Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP).

The DCF Policy and Planning Manager, who is responsible for the creation of Vermont's Annual Progress and Services Report and Child and Family Services Plan, attends the Children's Justice Act Task Force meetings twice a year or more as needed. She provides updates on these reports to the Task Force.

The Task Force receives copies of the APSR and the CFSP.

The Vermont APSR and CFSP are documents used in planning and research for our Three-Year Assessment.

Currently the CJA Coordinator and the Policy and Planning Manager are reviewing the 2019 CFSP, APSR 5-year reports, the Family Services Strategic Plan and the 2018-2021 Assessment for areas of overlap, opportunity to collaborate and areas of gaps. This review will result in a presentation to the CJA Task Force at the August 2019 meeting and potentially at other Departmental meetings and workgroups.

- December 20, 2019 Agenda: Family Services Quality Assurance Manager reviewed data points for the CFSP and APSR
 - Foster Care Re-Entry Data
 - FSD Worker child contact data
 - Investigation commencement/assessment/completion times data

- February 14, 2020 Agenda: CFSR & Program Improvement Plan presentation by the Policy and Planning Manager

Linkage to Human Trafficking Efforts in Vermont:

Vermont has a robust Human Trafficking State Level Task Force. The CJA Coordinator participates in these activities. The CJA Task Force requests informational presentations from the Human Trafficking work groups and leaders as ongoing agenda items. The Department for Children and Families participates in the following ways and reports to the CJA Task Force:

- State Human Trafficking Task Force representation:
 - CJA Coordinator – Family Services Child Victim Treatment Director
 - Family Services Division Deputy Comact Administrator IPC/ICJ
 - Family Services Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit Director
- Family Services Trafficking of Minors Workgroup
 - CJA Coordinator –Child Victim Treatment Director
 - Deputy Comact Administrator IPC/ICJ
 - Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit Director
 - Child Safety Manager
 - FSD Policy and Planning Advisor
 - FSD Staff Attorney
 - FSD Field Workers
 - FSD Operations Manager
 - Agency of Education
 - Community Mental Health
 - Community Advocacy Groups

Linkage to Court and Legal Representation Improvement Work:

- CJA Task Force Agenda, January 18, 2019: Justice for Children Task Force Update: CHINS cases
 - Discussion specific to parent legal representation
- April 19, 2019 CJA Agenda: *Bending the Curve Report*. This report was written and published by the VT Parent Representation Center and outlines recommendations for improvement in the DCF System.
- July 19, 2019 Agenda provided links to the
 - Legal Representation Memo from the CJA Program Instructions for Task Force to review prior to future discussions
 - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/im1702> Information Memorandum
 - VT CHINS report
 - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/CHINS-Reform-Wrkgrp-Report-12.11.18-Final.pdf>
 - Vermont Citizens Advisory Board Report

- <https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/Boards/VCAB2017-18.pdf>
- DCF Child Protection Report
<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/Protection/docs/2018-CP-Report.pdf>

Linkage to Court Improvement Program:

- The Programs Manager of the Court Administrators Office serves on the CJA Task Force.
- The Agenda included a report from the Program Manager on current court improvement projects, current data from the court system and connections that can be made between the Task Force work and the CIP.
- January 18, 2019: Justice for Children Task Force Update: CHINS cases

I. Prior Year Line Item Budget Expenditure \$72,605 G-1801VTCJA1

Note: Due to complications with our Business Office during the transition to a new block grant system \$21,224 was carried forward to VT FY 2020. The Task Force was not anticipating the delay and therefore had put voting on grant applications on hold waiting for the new system to begin. Vermont State Fiscal year is from June 30 through July 1.

Date	Grantee Organization	Project	Amount	Grant Number	Task Force Vote Date
Training Grants					
Jun-19	Bennington SIU	Extended Forensic Interview Training VT	\$1,743.00	Invoices	4/19/2019
Aug-19	Bennington SIU	States Attorney Conf	\$2,837.73	Invoices	4/19/2019
Sep-19	Lamoille SIU	SANE New Orleans Conf	\$1,800.00	Invoices	4/19/2019
Sep-19	Ctr. 4 Prevention & Treatment of SA	Good Lives Model Training w/FSD	\$1,713.58	Invoices	7/19/2019
Oct-20	Court Admin. Office	GAL Training Conf	\$10,088.09	03440-28386-MOU-CJA20	1/19/2020
Oct-19	VT Network	SANE IAFN	\$4,679.04	Off Contract	1/18/2020
Equipment Grants					
Jul-19	Caledonia SIU	iRecord Equip	\$7,500.00	Off Contract	7/19/2019
Task Force Expenses and CJA Annual Meeting					
Mar-20	Russo, Angela	Annual Meeting	\$2,085.00		
Mar-20	Wagner, Tracey	Annual Meeting	\$993.00		
	DCF 5% Amin		\$3,630.00		
TOTAL			\$37,069.44		

II. Application for Proposed Activities

Going forward the Task Force will allow the following organizations to manage the allotted block funding voted on at the January 18, 2019 meeting:

1. The VT SANE Program:

Proposed Sub-grantee: The VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Goals & Objectives: Maintain and further develop the Vermont Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program. Emphasis on the Pediatric SANE Program and having a Pedi-SANE in all Vermont hospitals.

Area of Impact: A, B, C

Contributes to reform/improvement: Provides support to the SANE Board which reviews legislation, policy and practice. Creates new SANE staff, supports the growing SANE Program in Vermont and provides medical support to the Children's Advocacy Centers in the state. Reduces the trauma experienced by child victims and mitigates re-traumatization by the system. Increases quality of forensic evidence.

Evaluation Methods: Data collection, surveys

Outputs: Increase the numbers of SANE nurses in the program and available training for current SANES.

Outcomes: Create greater awareness of the importance of trauma informed medical services. Improve the quality of forensic evidence in child cases. Increase collaboration between organizations/professions involved in child maltreatment cases. Increased funding for appropriate training for SANE nurses.

Proposed Sub-grantee: VT SANE Program under the VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

2. Children's Advocacy Centers and Special Investigation Units

Goals & Objectives: Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Special Investigation Units (SIUs) will exist statewide and have the necessary training, investigative equipment and technological resources to function effectively.

Area of Impact: A, B, C

Contributes to reform/improvement: Provides child victims and non-offending family members a trauma informed location for the reporting and investigation of alleged child sexual and physical abuse. Creates professional collaboration for effective, non-traumatizing responses to child abuse. Creates learning environments for professionals to increase knowledge, skills and attitudes within this difficult work. High skill levels increase the success in prosecution and holding abusers accountable.

Evaluation Methods: Client satisfaction surveys, professional pre and post surveys and self-assessments

Outputs: Numbers of child abuse cases that are investigated within the Child Advocacy Center vs not. Services provided to child victims and their families.

Outcomes: Increase in knowledge, skills and attitudes, high satisfaction reports and lower turnover of professionals. High satisfaction levels of child victim and family surveys. Quality forensic evidence collected.

Proposed Sub-grantees: Vermont Children's Alliance

3. **The Vermont Children's Alliance** currently has several projects in process but have not yet reimbursed any programs. The Alliance approved equipment funding in the amount of \$19,000 for Windham County SIU/CAC to acquire Cellebrite:

- **Description of Project:** Per Investigative Analyst, Morgan Wells, Hartford Police Department: The Cellebrite UFED 4PC Ultimate CLX package includes Cellebrite's Analytics software which will help to perform link analysis between suspects that could be linked to the same crimes across multiple devices. The advantage of the Cellebrite UFED 4PC CLX is that it includes the Cloud analyzer which helps to recover data that may have been deleted and/or saved in cloud storage by the owner of the mobile devices. In the age of everchanging technology, more and more cases of child abuse and maltreatment include elements of pictures, conversation threads (texts, instant messages, etc.) and social media applications that memorialize the commission and, sometimes even capture, the confession of criminal activity. Devices are not limited to just phones, but computers, tablets, gaming devices and others. Yet now, there is an increasing need to extract information from the cloud which is not available on all Cellebrite products. The Cellebrite Analytics software combined with Cellebrite's Cloud Analyzer allows an investigative operator to extract information from an electronic device and the cloud, including deleted activity

4. **The Vermont Department for Children and Families**

Goals & Objectives: The Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) will strengthen its procedures for reviewing reported abuse and neglect as well as examine treatment service access and delivery.

Area of Impact: C

Contributes to reform/improvement: The Vermont Department for Children and Families is the sole agency legislated as responsible for collecting reports of child abuse and neglect. The federal and state requirements for this Department create a system of ongoing review, assessment and reform of practice and policy to ensure the best outcomes for child victims. The Department provides administrative support through the CJA Coordinator.

Evaluation Methods: Fiscal reporting according to Federal CJA Program Instruction, CJA Application and 3 Year Assessment.

Outputs: CJA Coordinator time and responsibilities to facilitate, coordinate the work for the CJA Task Force

Outcomes: Functions of the CJA Task Force

Proposed Sub-grantees: Department for Children and Families

5. The Vermont Children's Justice Act Task Force

Goals & Objectives: The Vermont Children's Justice Act Task Force (VCJATF) will continue to meet regularly, assess the needs of the state and participate in relevant trainings and activities.

Area of Impact: A, B, C

Contributes to reform/improvement: The Task Force reviews and monitors the system response to child abuse and neglect, seeking gaps and areas of potential improvement. Because the representation of the Task Force is made up of the very professionals who actively make up the child abuse and neglect response system, we are in a unique position to conduct this work.

Evaluation Methods: Self assessments, yearly Application and Three-Year Assessment

Outputs: Task Force members are engaged, provide recommendations to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases, participate in the CJA Annual Application and Three-Year Assessment ensure that the CJA funds are awarded appropriately, and attend the Annual Grantees Meeting.

Outcomes: Increased knowledge, skills and awareness of issues across the system of response to child abuse and neglect cases in all disciplines involved in these cases. Review current data from agencies and departments involved in the identification, investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases to identify areas for improvement.

Proposed Sub-grantee: Vermont Children's Justice Act Task Force

6. The Vermont Guardian ad Litem Program

Goals & Objectives: Vermont's Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program will be strengthened through regular training and increased outreach for active volunteers.

Area of Impact: A, C

Contributes to reform/improvement: As Guardian ad Litem, these individuals are in unique positions to experience with child victims any gaps or areas where improvement can be made in the cases of child abuse and neglect. They give voice to the needs of individual children and areas of difficulty created by our system response.

Evaluation Methods: Self reports and self-assessments, victim surveys, organizational assessments.

Outputs: Numbers of trainings held, increases in numbers of GALs available and geographic access to them, lower turnover rates, increase satisfaction levels in self reports and client satisfaction surveys.

Outcomes: Increased knowledge, skills and awareness of issues across the system of response to child abuse and neglect cases for GALs. Increased awareness of the need for GAL services across the state.

Proposed Sub-grantee: Vermont Guardian ad Litem Program

III. Proposed Line Item Budget -\$72,286 G-1801VTCJA1

- Line item budget detailing proposed allocation of CJA funds for the next fiscal year October 2019-September 2023.
- The Vermont CJA Task Force and the Department Business Office work diligently to obligate and expend all CJA Funds within a one year period to avoid overlap in dual State Fiscal Years. The State FY is July to June. We have found this creates less confusion, more effective and clear liquidations of the funds.

At the January 18, 2019 CJA Task Force Meeting eight members were present and seven absent. The eight members present voted unanimously to divide the total CJA Grant award between the following recommended areas:

- The Vermont SANE Program
- Children's Advocacy Centers and Special Investigation Units
- The Task Force voted to provide the CACs and the SIU equal portions of the total CJA award. Since these organizations are co-located and for financial management simplification, they agreed to have their individual amount combined as one sum and managed by the VT Children's Alliance.
- The Vermont Guardian ad Litem Program
- The CJA Task Force: Annual Meeting attendance
- Since the January meeting, the Department Business Office has required the CJA Coordinator to report time worked in a new positive time reporting system. Per a phone conversation on April 9, 2019 and email correspondence, the Department can bill administrative fees for the CJA Coordinator's time. This will be calculated for the remainder of 2019 and going forward in 2020.

The new division of CJA Funds will be contracted with specific instructions that follow the CJA Program Instruction. All use of CJA Funding will continue to follow Federal Guidelines documented in the Program Instruction.

- Due to complications with our Business Office during the transition to a new block grant system \$21,224 was carried forward to VT FY 2020. The Task Force was not anticipating the delay and therefore had put voting on grant applications on hold waiting for the new system to begin.

Grantee	Amount	Grant Number	Task Force Vote Date
Vermont Children's Alliance: CACs & SIUs			
		03440-28384-VT-CA_CJA-FY20	
FY 2019	\$5,306.00		1/18/2019
FY 2020	\$15,918.00		1/18/2019
VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Abuse SANE Program			
		03440-28383- VNADSV-CJA-FY20	
FY 2019	\$5,306.00		1/18/2019
FY 2020	\$15,918.00		1/18/2019
Court Administration VT Guardian ad Litum Program			
		03440-28386-MOU-GAL-CJA-FY20	
FY 2019	\$5,306.00		1/18/2019
FY 2020	\$15,918.00		1/18/2019
VT Department for Children and Families			
CJA Annual Meeting	\$5,000.00		1/18/2019
DCF 5% Amin	\$3,614.00		1/18/2019
Total	\$72,286.00		

Please Note: \$21,224 carried forward from FY 2019

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IV. Governor's Letter- *pending as of 5/29/2020*

V. Certification Regarding Lobbying

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

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 Christine Johnson

Title Deputy Commissioner

Organization Vermont Department for Children & Families

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