

CJA Task Force Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, November 17, 2025 noon-2 pm

Summary Statement: The CJA Task Force is a federally mandated, multidisciplinary advisory board that reviews and evaluates statewide front-end child welfare policies and practices and makes recommendations to DHS and others for systemic, equitable improvements to promote children's justice and well-being.

Attendance:

Role (42 U.S.C. §5106c (c)(1)) (voting members)	Name	Present	Absent	Notes
1. Law enforcement	Barrett Chrissis			
2. Law enforcement	Wade Rasch	x		
3. Civil court judge	Judge Anderson	x		
4. Civil court judge	Judge Doll			
5. Prosecuting attorney	Adam Hinz			
6. Defense attorney	Emmalie Brudzinski			
7. Defense attorney	Thomas Godfrey	x		
8. Attorney for children	Anne Gueinzus	x		
9. Guardian ad litem	Erika Randall	x		
10. Guardian ad litem	Sheri Johnson			
11. Health professional	Dr. Mark Hudson	x		
12. Mental health professional	Saprina Matheny			
13. Mental health professional	Anna Clavin			
14. Child protection services	Kari Hohn	x		
15. Child protection services	Jessica Iwen	x		
16. Parent representative	Joanne Hodgeman	x		
17. Parent representative	Tatiana Bergum	x		
18. Foster care survivor	Dawn Hyland	x		
19. Foster care survivor	Marlena Jasch	x		
20. Individual experienced working with children with disabilities	Kate Rickord	x		
21. Individual experienced working with children with disabilities	Tascha Just	x		
22. Individual experienced working with homeless children/youth	Dr. Mara Borges-Gatewood	x		

23. Individual experienced working with homeless children/youth	Lolita Davis-Carter			
24. Survivor of child abuse or neglect	Brent Genereux			
25. Survivor of child abuse or neglect	DeClara Tripp	x		
Role (non-voting members)	Name	Present	Absent	Notes
Ad hoc – Corner House CAC	Jane Straub (CAC)	x		
Ad hoc -Minnesota Children’s Alliance	Marcia Milliken (CAC)	x		
Ad hoc -First Witness CAC	Tracie Clanaugh (CAC)	x		
Ad hoc -Ombudsperson	Jill Esch (OAIF)			
Ad hoc -CJI Representative	Judy Peterson (Courts CJI)	x		Becca Vanden Hanen
Ad hoc-Ombudsperson	Muriel Gubasta (OBFF)	x		
Ad hoc-Ombudsperson	Misty Coonce	x		
Ad hoc-Ombudsperson	Manuel Zuniga (OBFF)			
Ad hoc-Ombudsperson	Ann Hill (OBFF)			
CYF American Indian Well-Being Unit CSP Division	Crystal Hedemann			Nigel Perrote
Ad hoc-DV Expert	Scott Miller			
Ad hoc-Lived experience/subject matter expert	Marvalyne Tripp			
Ad hoc-Lived experience/subject matter expert	Mel Alvar (PAVSA-Safe Harbor)	x		
Ad hoc-Subject matter expert	Katie Erickson	x		
DCYF CJA Task Force Coordinator	Laura Gapske	x		
DCYF CS&P Dept. Manager	Rebecca Wilcox			
DCYF CS&P Family Supp & Place Svcs Attorney/ CJI	Baudry, Jennifer L	x		

I. Welcome

- Poll to move January meeting from MLK Jr. Day to Monday, January 26, 2026 noon-2 pm

II. Task force member updates or announcements

III. Congrats to Jill Esch on National Ombudsperson Award!

IV. Action item: Vote on appointment of Arianna Whitney, prosecutor

- Motion by Kate Rickord, Second by Tasha Just. Approved with 19 votes

V. Update on interview of health professional coming up to fill Janaye's spot (resignation)

- Two applications submitted. Interviews conducted this month. January will bring forth recommendation for vote by members.

VI. Update on RFP for FI scholarships

VII. Update on MDT in-person sessions in Staples, Mankato, and Bemidji, MN

VIII. Presentation with Jeanette Boerner-Director from Hennepin County Adult Representation Services on the State Parent Rep Appeals Office and parent rep training in process

- Resources:
 - [Office of Appellate Counsel and Training FY 2026-27 Summary of Agencies, Programs and Activities](#)
 - [Sec. 260C.419 MN Statutes](#)

IX. Presentation: *MAAFPCWDA, Oh My!* with Naomi Thyden, DCYF Research and Evaluation Division

X. Comments from the public-None.

XI. Break out time for workgroups

XII. Next meeting: January 19, 2025; noon-2 pm

- AGENDA: Annual Report to Children's Bureau
- Link: [CJA task force meeting \(full team, bi-monthly\) | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)