

State of Tennessee Children's Justice Act (CJA) Annual Report and Grant Application

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Overview of the Children's Justice Task Force

In 1985, the Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation that brought together professionals from social work, law enforcement, the criminal justice system and mental health fields to combat the problem of child sexual abuse. This comprehensive law also called for the creation of a Child Sexual Abuse Task Force to assist with the implementation of Public Chapter 478, evaluate the results of this implementation, and produce a State Plan that encompasses detection, intervention, prevention and the treatment of child sexual abuse.

In 1993, the mission of the Task Force was expanded to include developing policy and training recommendations in each of the three Children's Justice Act (CJA) grant categories described in Section 109 (e) of the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA), and the new name of Joint Task Force (JTF) on Children's Justice and Child Sexual Abuse was adopted. To accomplish the expanded mission, membership was extended to individuals with experience in civil court, defense of the accused, parent groups and other professionals that work closely with children. The role of the JTF was expanded to review the civil and criminal justice systems' handling of child abuse and neglect cases and cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities. *Please see Appendix A for the Children's Justice Joint Task Force Membership List.*

The JTF is governed by policies and procedures adopted in 2016, which can be located at <https://children.sworpswebapp.sworps.utk.edu/jtf/policiesprocedures/>. In accordance with the policies and procedures, the JTF meets at least quarterly and additional meetings are held as needed to support the work of the task force. In Tennessee, the Commissioner of the Department of Children's Services (DCS) appoints individuals to the JTF, and members in good standing may continue to serve on the task force until they voluntarily resign. The JTF is also committed to coordinating efforts with other initiatives and many of the members participate on committees or groups that assist in developing similar recommendations such as the Child and Family Service Plan, Program Improvement Plan and the Second Look Commission. The alignment of tasks and goals allows for a more comprehensive and strategic impact. The Second Look Commission Annual Report 2019 can be found at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/slc/slc-areport19.pdf>.

Please see Appendix B for the Children's Justice Task Force Quarterly Meeting Minutes.

There is an Executive Committee for the JTF, which is comprised of two (2) officers (President and Vice President) and four (4) committee chairs, all of whom are elected by a majority of members. The four (4) committees are: Child Protective Investigation Team (CPIT), Court

Improvement, Outreach and Awareness, and Treatment. The election of the Executive Committee for the 2019-2021 period was completed in December 2019.

Joint Task Force Calendar Year 2019/2020 Goals

Goal 1: Continue to improve the coordination and response to child sexual abuse and severe child abuse.

Goal 2: Address Children with Sexual Behavior Problems (CSBP) by developing a DCS document that establishes appropriate language (labels), types of assessment, and treatment.

Goal 3: Explore current practice for therapeutic interventions for youth who have been sex trafficked.

Goal 4: Educate and inform the general public, childcare providers, schools, child welfare professional groups, including community/faith-based organizations and colleges/universities, about resources and trainings related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), child safety, mandated reporting, signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect, and other related child welfare topics.

Goal 5: Improve the effectiveness of child welfare-related proceedings.

Goal 6: Address secondary trauma and self-care for judges, staff, attorneys, and child advocates for the purpose of increasing resilience and decreasing turnover.

Program Performance Report May 2019-May 2020

Tennessee continues to value the multidisciplinary approach to address the needs of families and child victims while striving to be trauma informed in practice, training and staff retention. The activities represented in the program performance report also align with the goals outlined by the JTF and the DCS Strategic Plan 2020-2023. DCS works closely with the JTF to promote these efforts and focused attention on the following CJA grant activities:

1. Task Force Facilitation and Support

- **Activity:** Coordinated JTF quarterly meetings, provided technical assistance to the membership and committees, as well as ensured workflow was coordinated with the recommendations outlined in the JTF State Plan and with the Three-Year Assessment.

2. Strengthen Communication and Relationships Between DCS and Community Partners

- **Activity 1:** Provided collaborative opportunities with medical professionals to establish a protocol for CPIT teams statewide.
 - **Activity 2:** Establishing best practice guidelines for children involved in human trafficking.
 - **Activity 3:** Creating a book for children involved in juvenile court dependency/neglect cases.
- 3. Training and Consultation Services**
- **Activity 1:** Collaborated with partners to deliver community training for human trafficking, mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect, Stewards of Children Training and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).
 - **Activity 2:** Collaborated with partners to deliver child sexual abuse training to CPIT partners that include frontline CPS staff, law enforcement, district attorneys and child advocates.
 - **Activity 3:** Delivered child welfare podcases to stakeholders and community partners to promote resilient communities with a focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and domestic violence.
- 4. Travel and Administrative Costs**
- **Activity:** CJA funds were used for a representative from DCS to attend the annual CJA grantee conference. Due to COVID19 concerns, the JTF Coordinator and the JTF President were unable to attend.

Output, Outcomes, and Evaluation Work of CJA Activities

1. Task Force Facilitation and Support

Activity: Coordinated JTF quarterly meetings, provided technical assistance to the membership and committees, as well as ensuring workflow was coordinated with the recommendations outlined in the JTF State Plan and with the Three-Year Assessment.

- **Output:** DCS partners with the University of Tennessee College of Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (UTSWORPS) to coordinate and facilitate JTF quarterly meetings and to support the subcommittees. The coordinator also ensures the goals and action steps of the JTF are aligned with the Three-Year Assessment (2018) and the 2019 Tennessee Joint Task Force on Children's Justice/Child Sexual Abuse State Plan, which is located at

<https://children.sworpswebapp.sworps.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2019/01/Joint-Task-Force-2019-State-Plan-final.pdf>

- **Outcome:** The JTF meets quarterly with agenda items created by the Executive Committee, as well as items submitted by DCS and JTF membership. The meetings are informational and DCS provides regular updates and shares relevant information to the task force. This platform provides opportunities for partnership and encourages input from a variety of agencies and various areas of expertise. Subcommittees drive the activities of the JTF and are responsible for prioritizing tasks and ensuring completion. Recommendations and action items from other groups such as the Second Look Commission, the DCS Strategic Plan or Child Family Service Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP) are reviewed and considered when activities are defined to ensure priorities are aligned from the JTF with other initiatives. The Joint Task Force State Plan is legislatively mandated and is submitted every two (2) years to the legislature, which last occurred in 2019. The JTF will work on the next plan during the upcoming months.
- **Evaluation Work:** The JTF will initiate surveys and review the results from past surveys to evaluate the priorities or issues that are being addressed by the task force membership. In anticipation of the upcoming Three-Year Assessment (2021), the Executive Committee of the JTF has scheduled discussions with DCS in June 2020 to begin the process and outline activities, action steps and timeframes.

2. Strengthen Communication and Relationships Between DCS and Community Partners

Activity 1: Providing collaborative opportunities with medical professionals to establish a protocol for CPIT teams statewide. This activity addresses the JTF Goals 1 and 2.

- **Output 1:** the CPIT Committee is creating a medical/pediatric protocol for CPIT teams to address the need for a more standardized guide when obtaining medical evaluations.
- **Outcome 1:** A subcommittee has been established with the inclusion of three (3) child abuse certified pediatricians, as well as representatives from the DCS Office of Child Safety and the Child Advocacy Centers.
- **Evaluation Work 1:** The guidelines, when finalized, will be disseminated statewide to CPIT teams and incorporated into DCS training modules delivered

through the CPS Training Academy and other statewide venues such as CAC and CPIT trainings.

Activity 2: Establishing best practice guidelines for children involved in human trafficking. This activity addresses the JTF Goal 3 and recommendations from the Justice Task Force 2019 Tennessee Child Abuse State Plan.

- **Output 2:** The development of a best practice guide for children involved in sex trafficking is underway by members of the JTF Treatment Committee.
- **Outcome 2:** The committee members have reviewed articles on this subject, created a strong network of partnerships with providers who serve this population, and conducted interviews with providers to determine what is effective and what is not having the desired impact. The compilation of information collected from the committee members will be developed into a guide for practitioners to assist in more consistent and trauma informed decision making as well as identifying statewide resources.
- **Evaluation Work 2:** The guide will be completed and shared statewide with public and private agencies that collaborate to investigate, provide treatment, and promote safety and recovery for victims of human trafficking.

Activity 3: Creating a book for children involved in juvenile court dependency/neglect cases, which addresses the JTF Goal 5 and recommendations from the Justice Task Force 2019 Tennessee Child Abuse State Plan.

- **Output 3:** The Court Improvement Committee determined the need for a way to communicate expectations and information to children involved in the juvenile court system. This committee collaborated with professionals and experts in several arenas to develop a tool that will assist when educating children and adults about the juvenile court process.
- **Outcome 3:** The book will cover topics such as 1.) Why Am I Here; 2.) Why Are All the People in Court; 3.) How Should I Act in Court; 4.) What is Dependency and Neglect; 5.) What Happens in Court. 6.) What is a Witness; 7.) What Do I Do as a Witness; 8.) When Will I know What is Going to Happen to Me; 9.) What Do I Do as a Witness; 10.) When Can I Go Home; 11.) Permanency Plans; 12.) How Does the Judge Decide; 13). What is CASA; and a Glossary.
- **Evaluation Work 3:** The completion of this book is anticipated in the near future. It will be distributed to child welfare professionals and court staff to use in a variety of ways to further inform children, youth, and families.

3. Training and Consultation Services

Activity 1: Collaborated with partners to increase awareness and deliver community training for human trafficking, mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect, Stewards of Children Training and ACES. This activity addresses JTF Goals 3 and 4 and recommendations from the Justice Task Force 2019 Tennessee Child Abuse State Plan.

- **Output 1:** Members of the JTF increased community awareness and training for professionals involved in the investigation or treatment of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors (CSEM) cases.
- **Outcome 1:** Presentations were provided on this topic at the 2019 Connecting for Children's Justice Conference. The conference brochure can be found at [http://www.tnccconference.org/getattachment/2018-Recap/CCJ-at-a-Glance-2019-\(1\).pdf?lang=en-US](http://www.tnccconference.org/getattachment/2018-Recap/CCJ-at-a-Glance-2019-(1).pdf?lang=en-US). Additionally, over 700 law enforcement personnel and 852 non-law enforcement personnel received training on "Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking in Tennessee."
- **Evaluation Work 1:** An increase in community awareness and in participants for this training will provide a more comprehensive approach and stronger collaboration across the statewide system.
- **Output 2:** The JTF Outreach and Awareness Committee reviewed and provided feedback to DCS for the updates to the mandated reporting training offered online, which addresses JTF Goal 4.
- **Outcome 2:** This training is currently being converted into an interactive format and available online through the DCS website.
- **Evaluation Work 2:** Monitor the users to the website and update online training as appropriate.
- **Output 3:** The JTF Outreach and Awareness Committee wanted to increase awareness for child sexual abuse so in collaboration with DCS, the JTF participated in an event hosted by the Shelby County School System (Memphis).
- **Outcome 3:** 300 participants representing teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and representatives from local colleges and universities attended this event.
- **Evaluation Work 3:** Increased awareness for child abuse and increased reporting to the DCS Child Abuse Hotline.

- **Output 4:** The JTF Outreach and Awareness Committee, DCS and the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) partnered to deliver trainings across the state to community stakeholders and DCS staff.
- **Outcome 4:** Monthly trainings were provided to colleges and universities on topics such as mandated reporting and Building Strong Brains. Additionally, there were 544 trainings statewide for Stewards of Children with 9,177 adult participants and 3,474 DCS staff in attendance. ACES training was conducted via a webinar to over 1,000 people including child welfare professionals, foster parents, private providers and out of state participants.
- **Evaluation Work 4:** DCS has integrated ACES into the pre-Service curriculum for newly hired case managers. Due to the demand since 2016, over 1100 trainers total (175 in 2019) have been prepared to deliver this training, which has now been presented to over 61,000 people statewide.

Activity 2: Collaborated with partners to deliver child sexual abuse training to CPIT partners that include frontline CPS staff, law enforcement, district attorneys and child advocates, which addresses the JTF Goals 1 and 2 and recommendations from the Justice Task Force 2019 Tennessee Child Abuse State Plan.

- **Output:** A comprehensive training was delivered from June 2019-November 2019 that included three (3) levels as follows:
 - Level 1: Sex Abuse 101** Learning Objectives include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Participants will develop an in depth understanding of identifying and defining sexual abuse.
 - Participants will gain an understanding of the intensive services that exist to provide treatment to sexual abuse survivors.
 - Participants will further their understanding of forensic interviews and children's disclosures.
 - Participants will be able to understand the impact of trauma in child sexual abuse cases and identify the unique needs of the survivor, non-offending caregiver, and other impacted family members.
 - Level 2: Sex Abuse 201** Learning Objectives include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Participants will learn about children with sexual behaviors problems and the unique considerations in these cases.
 - Participants will develop an understanding around the dynamics of sexual abuse between sibling and the impact on the family.

- Participants will review the impact of trauma that can occur for staff investigating sex abuse cases.

Level 3: Sex Abuse 301 Learning Objectives include, but are not limited to the following:

- Participants will learn advanced techniques that will aid in their investigations of sexual abuse.
- Participants will review sexual abuse from a cultural context, including how to engage families with language barriers.
- **Outcome:** Team building was enhanced, and skill development was increased by the participants, which included 88 DCS staff and 43 partners.
- **Evaluation Work:** Evaluations were distributed, and feedback reviewed and incorporated into future training opportunities.

Activity 3: Delivered child welfare podcasts to stakeholders and community partners to promote resilient communities with a focus on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and domestic violence, which addresses the JTF Goals 4 and 6 and recommendations from the Justice Task Force 2019 Tennessee Child Abuse State Plan.

- **Output:** Collaborated with subject matter experts to create training opportunities for two (2) key topic areas that provided critical information to a large population.
- **Outcome:** To minimize trauma and increase awareness, Building Strong Brains Tennessee (ACES Initiative) shared information to improve outcomes with community partners. Domestic Violence in Child Welfare and the Safe and Together model was delivered to professionals to educate on keeping children safe and together with non-offending parents.
- **Evaluation Work:** Evaluations were distributed, and feedback reviewed and incorporated into future training opportunities. DCS policies are being revised to incorporate the recognition and assessment of domestic violence and to further assist the Child Abuse Hotline staff in critical screening decisions.

4. Travel and Administrative Costs:

Activity: CJA funds were used for a representative from DCS to attend the annual CJA grantee conference. Due to COVID19 concerns, the JTF Coordinator and the JTF President were unable to attend.

- **Output:** The Executive Director for the Office of Child Safety attended the annual grantee meeting.
- **Outcome:** Information was shared with colleagues from other states related to JTF Task Force activities, preparation for Family First Prevention Services Act and initiatives launched over the past two years in Tennessee. The information provided during the meeting was shared with the JTF coordinator and will be useful in the planning process for the upcoming 2021 Three Year Assessment.
- **Evaluation Work:** CJA funds will continue to be utilized to support the travel costs for sending representatives to grantee meetings to participate in the discussions and collaborate with other states on issues related to child abuse and neglect.

Project Impact Related to Categories in CJA Legislation

Activities to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect:

- In September 2019, DCS announced a framework for redesign and reorganization that merges CPS investigations and assessments under one division, the Office of Child Safety. It created specialized teams such as Rapid Response, Triage and Child Protection and Preservation teams, in addition to expanding the drug teams. Shelby County, the largest urban single county in Tennessee was the pilot in January 2020. The primary objectives for the CPS Redesign are to create a more comprehensive and responsive approach to child protection and prevention; and to lay the groundwork for the Families First Prevention Services Act. During the roll-out for the pilot site in Shelby County, DCS delivered numerous presentations about the redesign to community partners such as hospitals, schools, juvenile court staff, social work students at the University of Memphis, Shelby County Citizen Review Panel, and the JTF. In January 2020, a presentation was provided to the legislative representatives from Shelby County. *Please see Appendix C for the Shelby County Legislator power point presentation.* The second phase of the CPS redesign is the implementation of this model into a multi-county region, which is set to be completed in the Upper Cumberland Region in June 2020. This region serves 14 counties and has five (5) judicial districts. *Please see Appendix D for the*

Upper Cumberland CPS Redesign power point and Appendix E for the Upper Cumberland Redesign document.

- The JTF Treatment Committee continues to explore best practices for children involved in human trafficking. Action steps completed by the committee include reviewing articles about the subject matter, building a network of partnerships with providers who are serving this population, and conducting interviews with providers about what has or has not been successful. The Committee will incorporate this information into a guide for best practices.
- In October 2019, JTF Treatment Committee members, Drs. William Murphy and Jacque Page of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, delivered a training titled "What Treatment Looks Like for Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behavior." The primary target audience for the training was DCS caseworkers. The workshop examined the treatment needs of adolescents and how to safely treat adolescents in the community through outpatient treatment options. Additionally, DCS caseworkers enhanced their skills and understanding related to treatment and provider resources.
- In August 2019, 30 DCS staff attended the **Crimes against Children Conference** held in Dallas, TX. Some of the popular and beneficial workshops attended by staff included the importance of collecting and documenting evidence related to grooming behaviors, corroborating the child's disclosure, addressing child sex abuse victims' needs, access to services, and supporting spirituality for the victim after experiencing abuse. The information has been shared with the CPITs across the state.
- Members of the JTF continue to work closely with DCS, law enforcement and non-government agencies to increase community awareness and training for professionals working with Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors (CSEM) cases. For example, JTF member Jason Wilkerson of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), gave two presentations on this topic at the 2019 Connecting for Children's Justice Conference. Also, in partnership with DCS, the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking of Tennessee, offered free webinars on "Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking in Tennessee." There were 708 law enforcement and 852 non-law enforcement personnel (which included DCS and other child welfare agencies) that received the in-person training.
- DCS continues to provide trainings to staff and other child welfare professionals across the state on opioids and addiction to address the issue of substance abuse by parents and caregivers. Additionally, DCS continues to create plans of safe care for those children that meet the criteria for the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act.

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 for 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:

- The JTF Court Improvement Committee continues to partner with the Executive Committee of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges as it relates to efforts for improving the child protection system. For example, the Committee recommends training topics to offer judicial officers, court staff, and the various agencies involved in court activities serving children and families across the state.
- The JTF Court Improvement Committee will soon finalize a book for children who have experienced abuse and neglect called **“What Happens in Dependency Abuse and Neglect Cases in Juvenile Court?”** The book will cover the following topics: 1.) Why Am I Here; 2.) Why Are All the People in Court; 3.) How Should I Act in Court; 4.) What is Dependency and Neglect; 5.) What Happens in Court; 6.) What is a Witness; 7.) What Do I Do as a Witness; 8.) When Will I Know What is Going to Happen to Me; 9.) What do I do as a Witness; 10.) When Can I Go Home; 11.) Permanency Plan; 12.) How Does the Judge Decide; 13.) What is CASA; and includes a glossary.
- In 2019, five additional Safe Baby Courts were established to address the unique mental health and child development needs for infants, toddlers, and their families with court involvement. With the 5 new sites, this increases the statewide total of Safe Baby Courts to 12, located in Anderson, Coffee, Davidson, Dickson, Grundy, Henry, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Madison, Rutherford, and Stewart counties. The Safe Baby Court 2019 Annual Report can be found at <https://www.tn.gov/dcs/program-areas/qi/policies-reports-manuals/safe-baby-court-annual-report.html>
- Staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), JTF and DCS continue to collaborate to provide trainings for Foster Care Review Boards (FCRBs) regarding ACEs, Creating Normalcy through Prudent Parenting, Independent Living and Transition Planning, and Preparing Youth in DCS Custody for Transition to Adulthood.
- The “Jurist in Residence Program,” established in 2018 between DCS and the Casey Family Foundation, is now being led by retired Chancellor Daryl Fansler of Knoxville. DCS held the initial contract in 2018 and focused on establishing/enhancing positive relationships between the Department and the Court. In December 2019, the contract

transitioned to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) with Chancellor Fansler focusing efforts on assisting DCS and the courts regarding the challenges of developing the Safe Baby Courts.

- The domestic violence liaison program was implemented by the Office of Child Safety in December 2018 and piloted in Madison county with WRAP. The program saw further progress in 2019, by adding two new sites: the YWCA Knoxville (serving the rural counties of Anderson, Loudon, and Roane) and Partnership, which serves Hamilton county. The program will see further advancement in 2020 (pending funding approval) through the addition of three new shelters serving various areas. The new proposed shelters for 2020 are: YWCA Memphis (Shelby county), Women are Safe (Hickman, Perry, Lewis), and Domestic Violence Program (Rutherford County). The YWCA Knoxville is set to expand their current program in 2020 to serve the Knoxville area.
- The Office of Child Safety is enhancing policy with more clarity on the allegation of domestic violence. This will provide further guidance to the Child Abuse Hotline when screening a report with potential domestic violence concerns. To accompany this enhancement, a work aid is being developed for CPS staff to utilize when working a case with domestic violence dynamics. The topics that will be discussed include engaging the non-offending caregiver, documenting the behavioral indicators of domestic violence, and identifying impacts on the children.

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:

- The JTF Outreach and Awareness Committee invited Connie Casha of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) to the September 2019 meeting to share information with the group about the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) innovation grant MTSU received from DCS. MTSU used the funds through the Building Strong Brains (BSB) Tennessee grant to develop an early childhood education ACEs Toolkit. The purpose of this toolkit is to provide a resource for faculty to integrate current information about ACEs into their curriculum. The intent is for students to be equipped with information on ACEs so that they can mitigate and prevent the effects of ACEs in their future professions as they interact with children and families. Additionally, the toolkit provides faculty with recommended resources, lesson plan outlines, in-class and out-of-class assignment suggestions, and visual aids to use in their classrooms.

- The JTF continues to monitor legislative activities. In 2019, state legislation was passed requiring Tennessee higher education institutions, including community colleges, to designate a staff member to serve as a homeless student liaison. The bill defines homeless students as those under 25 years of age who have been verified as homeless under the federal **McKinney-Vento Assistance Act** prior to enrolling in the university/college or during their stay. Students experiencing homelessness will be given priority in housing placements.
- In January 2020, the JTF Executive Committee met with legislators to discuss the JTF recommendations from the State Plan 2019, which includes the request to increase funding for the Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and to expand the number of forensic interviewers statewide.

Application for Proposed Activities (September 2020-September 2021)

Alignment of activities and initiatives were carefully considered when the following activities were identified. The DCS Strategic Plan 2020-2023 specifies relationships as one of the four (4) values of the department. It further outlines the importance of collaborative relationships with partners to provide intervention to vulnerable populations. Additionally, these activities support the expectations and strategies outlined in the Child and Family Service Plan 2020-2024 and weave in opportunities for promoting that collaboration with partners, improving assessments for children and families, and enhancing relationships with community stakeholders.

1. Joint Task Force Facilitation

Goal: Continue to support the JTF.

Approach: Continue the contract with UTSWORPS for assistance and technical support to the JTF.

Evaluation effort related to activity:

- Monitor the completion of the goals and recommendations identified by the JTF and provide the support and assistance as needed.

- Support the work activities of the JTF subcommittees and assist in the development and dissemination of the medical/pediatric protocol, the best practice guide for victims of human trafficking and the book for children involved in dependency and neglect cases in the juvenile court system.
- Attend quarterly JTF meetings, retreats and ensure representatives from the Department participate and contribute to subcommittee activities.
- Completion of the Three-Year Assessment due in May 2021.
- Monitor the contractual agreement with UTSWORPS.

How activity contributes to reform of state systems:

Aids the JTF in order to accomplish action steps and fulfill the goals and recommendations as outlined in the 2019 Tennessee Joint Task Force on Children's Justice Child Sexual Abuse State Plan and the Three-Year Assessment (2018). It provides guidance to collaborate and align priorities from the Department's Strategic Plan, CFSR PIP, and the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). Through the creation and completion of the Three-Year Assessment, priorities can be outlined with the assistance and expertise of stakeholders and community partners.

These activities align with the JTF Goals 1-6, CFSR PIP and the DCS Strategic Plan.

2. Strengthen Communication and Relationships between DCS and Community Partners

Goal: Continue to improve multi-disciplinary investigations by strengthening partnerships and areas for collaboration.

Approach: Support to the CAC's and CPIT partners by:

- Support co-location efforts between DCS, CAC's and CPIT members through contractual agreements and Memorandums of Understanding.
- Sponsor the Annual CCJ Conference unless the COVID19 Pandemic impacts the ability to convene in October 2020. If so, partner with the TN Chapter of CAC's to explore opportunities to strengthen teams and develop skillsets through alternative methods of training, networking and collaboration.
- Partner with the TN Chapter of CAC's to explore options for increasing capacity for forensic interviewers and support legislative requests if appropriate.

- Partner with the TN Chapter of CAC's and CPIT members to address issues related to COVID19 and the impact on child safety and conducting multi-disciplinary investigations.
- Support the efforts and action steps from the JTF subcommittees by ensuring DCS staff participate in meetings, review recommendations and support collaboration to align strategies and initiatives.
- Support the process to plan and facilitate activities related to the creation and completion of the Three-year Assessment (2021).

Evaluation effort related to activity:

- Monitor the co-location contracts and data to identify trends, issues or support areas of promising practices.
- Monitor conference evaluations from the annual CCJ Conference and other training opportunities delivered to CPIT partners.
- Monitor JTF subcommittee activities and outcomes for achievement of goals and outcomes.

How activity contributes to reform of state systems:

- Supports multi-disciplinary collaboration statewide.
- Promotes input and collaboration among stakeholders and partners in the assessment and long-term planning of the JTF through the process of developing the Three-Year Assessment.
- Promotes a more efficient and strategic approach to systemic improvements and initiatives by aligning priorities and activities among various agencies and stakeholders.

These activities align with the Justice Task Force 2019 Tennessee Child Abuse State Plan, JTF Goals 1-6, CFSR PIP and the DCS Strategic Plan.

3. Training and Consultation Services

Goal: Provide opportunities to collaborate with stakeholders for improving multi-disciplinary investigations, improving skillsets and strengthening relationships.

Approach: Continue to support collaborative partnerships in delivering training at the CPS Academy, Simulation Labs (SIM), and pre-service trainings for CPS staff and to explore alternative opportunities to deliver training post COVID19.

- Support the JTF CPIT subcommittee in the role of advisory board to the CPIT's across the state by providing guidance, sharing information and resource development.
- Continue to participate in the Court Improvement subcommittee and support efforts outlined related to Juvenile Courts, Safe Baby Courts and Foster Care Review Boards.
- Monitor subcommittee activities and outcomes.

Evaluation Effort related to activity: Completion of activities such as the guidebook for families involved in Juvenile Court, medical protocols and other best practices guides currently being developed.

How activity contributes to reform of state systems: Provides opportunities for collaboration, strengthening relationships, and enhancing communication to stakeholders and families.

These activities align with the JTF Goals 1,4,5, and 6; DCS Strategic Plan Goals 3 and 4, and CFSR PIP.

4. Travel and Administrative Costs:

Goal: Representatives from Tennessee will attend the grantee meetings.

Approach: Identify the representatives from DCS and the JTF.

Evaluation effort related to activity: Representatives share information with respective agencies and JTF members.

How activity contributes to reform of state systems: Ideas and information is incorporated in statewide planning, policy, or training leading to systemic improvements.

These activities align with the Justice Task Force 2019 Tennessee Child Abuse State Plan, JTF Goals 1-6 and the DCS Strategic Plan.

Connections of Proposed Activities to Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP) and Program

Improvement Plan: This report was written in coordination with goals and activities in the CFSR PIP and the upcoming CFSP to ensure project goals are aligned with overall strategies that focus on the importance of being a trauma informed agency with strong community parentships, expanded resources and a well-trained and resilient workforce.

Linkage to Anti-Trafficking Efforts: DCS continues to focus on collaborative partnerships to provide identification, treatment, placement and safety planning for victims of Human Trafficking.

Linkage to Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act: DCS continues to partner closely with the medical and substance abuse treatment community to provide trainings and consultation for infants impacted by substance abuse. The specialization and expansion of drug teams and Safe Baby Courts underscore the importance placed upon the early childhood development, mental health, and safety of this vulnerable population. It also brings together multiple agencies for opportunities to collaborate on improving resources, service delivery, tracking and monitoring cases involving drug exposed infants and children.

Estimated Budget Activity Table for Federal Fiscal Year 2020

Following is a table showing an estimated budget breakdown for each activity:

Activity	Amount
Joint Task Force Facilitation	\$64,500
Support to the Tennessee Chapter of Children’s Advocacy Centers	\$ 80,816
Training and Consultation Services	\$ 187,274
Travel and Administrative Costs	\$6,000
TOTAL Estimated Expenditures	\$338,590

