

**a) Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Service Description**

The State of Missouri currently conducts a number of activities targeted toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Since implementing our multi-response system to address reports of child abuse and neglect, Missouri continues to maintain a high standard of practice. Child safety is the paramount concern and Missouri's practice ensures child safety through a child focused family-centered approach. Missouri's practice is culturally sensitive, strengths-oriented and employs the community child protection philosophy. Current and future initiatives are designed around strengthening and ensuring quality improvement of our statewide practice.

**b) Update of program areas selected for improvement from one or more of the 14 program areas set forth in Section 106(a) of CAPTA.**

The following activities are in fulfillment of CAPTA for the application and grant in accordance with the ACYF-CB-PI-03-08, and pursuant to compliance with part B of title IV of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 620 et seq. and 42 U.S.C. 5106a of the CAPTA law], numbers (1), (2), (3), (4), (6), and (12):

1. The intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of abuse and neglect as they relate to the Missouri's Child Welfare Practice and Family-Centered Services;
2. (A) Creating and improving the use of multi-disciplinary and interagency protocols to enhance investigations as it relates to quality Child Welfare Practice and Family-Centered Services; and  
(B) Improving legal preparation and representation, including (i) Procedures for appealing and responding to appeals of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect; and (ii) Provisions for the appointment of an individual appointed to represent a child in judicial proceedings;
3. Case management, including ongoing case monitoring and delivery of services and treatment provided to children and their families as it relates to the CPS Redesign, Family-Centered Services, the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse and delivery of services through the Child Advocacy Centers statewide;
4. Enhancing the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing risk and safety assessment tools and protocols, as it relates to the Family-Centered Services, including National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Children's Research Center's Structured Decision Making practice model;
6. Developing, strengthening, and facilitating training including:  
(A) Research based strategies to promote collaboration with the families;  
(B) Legal duties of such individuals; (C) Emergency Protective Custody and (D) personal safety training for case managers;
12. Developing and enhancing the capacity of community-based programs to integrate shared leadership strategies between parents and professionals to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect at the neighborhood level, as it relates to the Child Advocacy Centers and the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse.

Missouri's Child Protection System (CPS) continues to seek to be state of the art in its use of multi-disciplinary and interagency protocols to enhance the intake, screening, investigation, and assessment of reports of child abuse and neglect. Since initial implementation in 1995, Missouri's alternative response/dual track system continues to be considered best practice within Missouri and looked upon by other states as exceptional. Our design improved past methods by creating various responses to reports, while maintaining safety of children.

Through the creation of community partnerships, families receive faster and more comprehensive service delivery. The division continues to enhance the general CPS system by fine tuning the safety and risk assessment tools and protocols. A holistic Family Assessment is completed at the time a family initially experiences a hotline report, if the report is screened as a Family Assessment. Missouri's practice in Family Assessment performance continues to be evaluated by the Institute of Applied Research. Reference IAR website at [www.iarstl.org/papers](http://www.iarstl.org/papers).

Missouri continue efforts to meet the new CAPTA eligibility requirements by implementing the triage procedures for the appropriate referral of a child not at risk of imminent harm to a community organization or voluntary preventive services through a collaborative pilot project with the FSD, Temporary Assistance Self Sufficiency Case managers in the Jackson, Clay and Platte counties. The Self-Sufficiency Case Managers responded to non-ca/n referrals with families who had open cases with the CD. The implementation of this pilot project began in July 2004. However, due to a reduction in the TANF Self-Sufficiency Case Managers, the pilot was discontinued in the fall of 2005.

A separate CAPTA requirement to train the child's legal representative in judicial proceedings, is continuing within the Missouri Bar Association who provides extensive training for all newly appointed Guardian ad Litem and CASA representative to be educated on the following: basic child abuse and neglect and the needs of the child; exercise independent judgment on behalf of the child in all matters; meet with the child in the child's placement as often as necessary to ensure the child is safe and to ascertain and represent the child's best interest; review progress of the case and advocate for timely hearings; participate in development or matters affecting the best interest of the child and monitor implementation of court-ordered services to determine whether services are being timely provided.

Lastly, in response to the CAPTA requirement to have provisions and procedures for referral of a child under the age of three who is involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect to early intervention services funded under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Missouri CD is collaborating with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The CD has collaborated with DESE and established policy that requires CD staff to make a referral to DESE First Steps Program when they have found a child under three to be a substantiated victim of child abuse/neglect.

### **c) Activities Missouri intends to implement with CAPTA State grant funds**

In addition to Family-Centered Services training described in the next section, the following activities continue to be practiced throughout the state: (1) Bring other providers to the table (e.g., Temporary Assistance, Department of Corrections, Department of Mental Health, Child Support Enforcement Staff) as identified, in the process of providing direct technical assistance in Family-Centered Services assessment and service delivery.

(2) Provide clinical consultation services for CD in-house Intensive in Home (formerly Family Preservation) Services (IIS) staff. Such services would be focused on assisting IIS specialists in strategizing the assessment, treatment planning, goal setting, service delivery, termination, and the development of IIS follow-up service planning. (3) Develop new ways consultation can be provided as an education component within communities on family-centered, strengths-based practice.

The total funding necessary for Family-Centered Services, for each federal fiscal year FFY-06 and FFY-07 is \$150,000.

The division will also purchase resource/training material for central office and field staff to equip them to remain current on new and emerging trends in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Pamphlets and related material will be purchased for mandated reporters and others to provide information on child abuse and neglect. We also have printed copies of the state child abuse/neglect law booklets and mandated reporter pamphlets, "Guidelines for CA/N Report" for school personnel. The total funding necessary for resource/training materials, for each federal fiscal year FFY-06 and FFY07 is \$80,000.

The CD will send representatives to the required National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) State Liaison meetings. Representatives of the CD presented at the National CA/N Conference, April 18, 2007, in Portland, OR, on Missouri's Alternative Response System. Additionally, Division representatives will be attending the ACF Conference on Methamphetamine and Child Welfare Impact & Response on May 8-9, 2006, along with a community partner in pursuit of enhancing Missouri's statewide policy and practice related to responding to ca/n incidents involving drug-exposure. A CD representative will attend the States and Tribes Conference in Arlington, VA, June 20th -22nd, 2006.

The total funding necessary for such Out-of-State trainings/meeting, for each federal fiscal year, FFY-06 and FFY07 is \$10,000.

The division is a member of the Missouri Chapter-National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse (NCPCA), Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA), Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), and National Data Analysis System (NDAS). The Division is committed to the support of each of these organizations and their efforts to prevent child abuse. The yearly dues as a member agency have been paid from this grant in the past.

The total funding necessary for NCPCA/MJJA/CWLA/NDAS yearly dues, for

each federal fiscal year FFY-06 and FFY07 is \$12,000.

During 2005 legislative session, the CAC budgets were cut from the Division's budgeted amount from \$1.8 million to \$800,000. CAPTA funds are supporting the services these centers provide. These centers provide vital forensic interviews and sexual abuse examinations that assist in the successful prosecution of abuse and neglect. CAC settings are established to be neutral and in a "child friendly" atmosphere in order to:

- (1) Reduce the emotional trauma of the investigation to the child and the non-offending family members;
- (2) Improve the ability of the Child Abuse Investigators to reach an appropriate finding; and
- (3) Improve the multi-disciplinary collaboration at the community level. These centers are regionally located to meet the needs of our children and families statewide.

The total funding necessary for the CAC for FFY-06 and FFY07 is \$268,093.

The State of Missouri is committed to providing a comprehensive array of services through public agencies and community action, which will prevent and treat child abuse and neglect in Missouri. The initiatives identified above will allow us to strengthen our programs and services in this area to develop or to enhance Missouri's process of intake, investigation, assessment, case management and service delivery, as well as, enhance the capacity of community based programs.

The total funding requested, which include funding for all the above CD initiatives and activities, for federal fiscal year FFY-06 and FFY07 is \$520,093.

**d) Service and Training being provided under CAPTA State grant as required by Section 106(b)(2)(C) of CAPTA**

Missouri continues to develop, strengthen, and facilitate training opportunities and requirements for individuals overseeing and providing Family-Centered Services to children and their families through the child protection system. These training approaches are primarily provided at the local level, are designed to improve overall case management and service delivery provided to children and their families. These efforts include:

- Consultation/training for staff in the county offices to assist them with developing service strategies with multi-problem families and family-based applications. FCS contracted consultants (family-based practitioners skilled in family-centered practice) help staff explore options and approaches to presenting problems with families, role model the staffing process, and reinforce the skills of a family-centered approach.
- Training for contracted consultants and Children's Services Specialist's on utilization of Family Conferencing Techniques, as well as Community Partnering for the Protection of Children philosophy for intact families. FCS consultants and Children's Services Specialist's will be able to model this technique for CD staff for use in family service delivery.
- Training provided for FCS staff by CD staff trainers or contracted trainers (i.e., Intensive In-home Services trainers), to assist them in improving their skills in providing family-centered services, e.g., interviewing skills. This training is usually

provided within the context of completing and understanding the tools within the CD-14, Family Assessment Packet.

Other training that can be accessed at the local or community level according to identified training needs, and Area training plans.

- The provision of specific one-on-one training with staff and families by modeling a family-centered assessment in the field with staff and selected family, carrying the process to conclusion and critiquing the process for best practice.
- Training is being provided to CD staff, JO, attorneys, GALs, and CASA on improved timeliness of hearings, concurrent planning, provisions of protective custody (including imminent danger definition and guidelines on standards of removal). These trainings are being provided by and in collaboration with Office of State Court Administrators and CD. The grant assists in funding these videoconferences and in-person trainings.

The division supports Prevent Child Abuse Missouri's Training Institute for Home-based Service Providers. This includes 180 training hours through 19 two-day training sessions. Training locations have included St. Louis, Columbia, Independence, St. Joseph and Joplin. An average of 32 visitation workers per session have reported their knowledge and skill are enhanced by these advanced training sessions. Training topics include professional development, domestic violence, sexual abuse, high-risk families, working with fathers, legal issues, child development, child growth, supervisor training, teenage parents, child health, and family health.

*The total funding necessary to support the Home Based Services Training Institute for each federal fiscal year FFY-06 and FFY07 is \$50,000 (out of another funding source).*

**e) Describe substantive changes, if any, in State law that could affect eligibility.**

There are no substantive changes in Missouri State law affecting eligibility.

**f) Citizen Review Panels annual report & state's response to the panel**

Missouri Citizens Review Panels

***Task Force on Children's Justice (CJA) Recommendations during 2006:***

**Recommendation #1:** CD to achieve National Accreditation

The CD's achievement of Accreditation continues to be a top priority of the Task Force. The recommendation was made to include in this year's annual report/ grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that the Task Force recommends the Department aggressively pursue funding from the Legislature in 2007 to complete accreditation.

*The Department of Social Services budget request for 2007 does include additional funding support for accreditation efforts. The budget is pending approval by the Legislature. The FFY07 grant request/three year report will include this recommendation.*

*The CD continues to make successful progress towards achieving accreditation.*

**Recommendation #2:** Educate key legislative decision makers on positive outcomes of CPS.

and

**Recommendation #3:** Make presentations to develop ongoing dialogue with the legislature and budget committees on need for adequate funding of core services.

*A request was made by the Governor for the Task Force to review progress made on HB1453 requirements, with recommendations due by September 2007. This will require an additional time commitment beyond the quarterly meetings. The Task Force is currently in the early planning stages of this project. This task will be the priority focus for the Task Force for most of 2007.*

*The Task Force is currently developing a plan with the University of Missouri School of Journalism on developing ongoing dialogue strategies with key stakeholders, including Legislators.*

**Recommendation #4:** Develop collaboration with higher education institutions for innovative projects and funding.

and

**Recommendation #5:** Develop public relations strategy (in partner with universities, public, corporations to create media campaign).

and

**Recommendation #6:** Establish relationships and increase understanding and cooperation with media to disseminate positive outcomes.

*A University of Missouri School of Journalism student class has accepted the Task Force for a Jan-May 2007 project called the "Capstone Campaign" to research, create and recommend a public relations strategy to the Task Force. A new Task Force slogan and logo will be created. Research of the student class with recommendations will be presented to the Task Force in May 07.*

*Local media activities occur regularly for community awareness of CD efforts. Examples are coverage or announcements regarding child abuse prevention month activities and promotion of adoption fairs (reference division web page at <http://www.dss.mo.gov/cd/canprevent.htm> .)*

**Recommendation #7:** Establish a procedure for communicating information on positive CPS outcomes including Task Force vision/priorities on an ongoing basis.

*The University of Missouri School of Journalism is currently assisting with the development of a public affairs strategy for communicating positive outcomes to key stakeholders, including Legislators and the general public.*

*Press releases were issued after accreditation was achieved at the Hotline and Central Office. On-going press releases are available as progress continues to be made.*

*Appointment of new Task Force members was announced with a media release.*

*Governor's request for Task Force to review progress made on HB1453 policy and practice was announced with a media release.*

*An Accreditation newsletter was created and is available on the CD Intranet.*

*Task Force (CJA) on Children's Justice website is routinely updated.*

**Recommendation #8:** Recommend CD to educate the Task Force on CD budget and sources with recommendations on increased and flexible funding.

*Budget updates were provided at quarterly Task Force meetings.  
CD budget recommended pay step increase for supervisors, currently in Legislation.*

**Recommendation #9:** Review the outcomes of CD's quality assurance program and make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of services.

*CD QA presentation - Task Force members were invited to participate.*

*Aug2005 CD Signs of Progress report provided to Task Force members.*

*Contracted Case Management presentation was provided during a Task Force meeting.  
Child Welfare measure website provided (CFSR and pip progress) to the Task Force members.*

*Governor's Quarterly Goals Report for CD – handout provided.*

*Discussion of necessity of referrals with request made for Task Force review and recommendations.*

*CD policies are now on internet for public review.*

*Other presentations were provided at quarterly meetings, including:*

- Accreditation*
- State Auditor reports*
- CFR Review and Findings*
- PIP proposed recommendations*
- CD and HB1453*

### ***State Child Fatality Review Panel Recommendations during 2006:***

The Panel continues to recommend prevention efforts related to child deaths due to co-sleeping and rollovers, and suicide prevention.

*The CD continues to promote safe-sleep with the use of brochures.*

Additionally, Pursuant to 210.195, RSMo., the State Child Fatality Review Panel reviewed SIDS related child deaths, as reported by local fatality panels, throughout the state. It has come to the State Panel's attention that Jackson County reported 21 SIDS related deaths, which is significantly higher than other metropolitan areas, such as St. Louis County reporting two (2) and St. Louis City reporting one (1).

It is the recommendation of the State Child Fatality Review Panel to have STAT conduct a thorough case review of these deaths which were deemed to be SIDS related in the Jackson County area. Additionally, the State Panel would like to encourage STAT to send letter to all Medical Examiners and Coroners recommending they follow the Center for Disease Control "Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation (SUIDI)" guidelines for conducting such investigations.

*The CD Practice Development Unit is in the process of meeting with the State Technical Assistance Team to develop prevention strategies based on these recommendations.*

### ***Child Abuse/Neglect Review Board Recommendations during 2006:***

It is the ongoing recommendation of the Board that CD staff should continue to improve their investigative/documentation skills to meet POE (Preponderance of the Evidence) criteria.

*CD is continuing to develop a training curriculum with the assistance of Division of Legal Services on this issue.*

Missouri has utilized the Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force in an advisory capacity to the Division on issues relating to child abuse prevention and treatment. The CJA Task Force is comprised of representatives across the state from the areas of law enforcement, health, mental health, judiciary, education, community services, child advocacy, child welfare, residential services, and the state legislature. The CJA Task Force assisted the Division in establishing three Citizen Review Panels across Missouri. In an effort to avoid creating unnecessary duplication but to have broad involvement of community members, who represent a variety of disciplines as well as geographic communities, three existing panels are utilized: CJA Task Force, Child Fatality Review Panel, and CA/N Review Boards. Each panel meets at least quarterly and develops annual reports, which are made available to the public. The panels provide feedback and recommendations to the Division on their assessment of the status of children and families. These panels have expressed satisfaction with the Division's response to their recommendations.



**g) Describe the provisions and procedures for criminal background checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents and other adult relatives and non-relatives in the household.**

The following steps are completed for every applicant and adult household member (age 17 and older).

1. The Child Abuse/Neglect background screening is conducted by the local CD.
2. Each household member 17 years of age and older must register with the Family Care Safety Registry (FCSR). The registry is maintained by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). It will search the following systems:
  - CA/N records (findings of "Preponderance of Evidence" court adjudicated", or prior to August 28, 2004, "Probable Cause" findings),
  - Employee Disqualification List, maintained by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS),
  - Child-care facility licensing records maintained by DHSS,
  - Residential living facility and nursing home records, maintained by DHSS,
  - Employee Disqualification Registry maintained by Department of Mental Health;
  - Foster parent licensing records, maintained by the CD; and
  - Sex Offender Registry information maintained by Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP).

State and national criminal record checks will be completed for each household member age 17 or older, or any person under the age of 17 who has been certified as an adult. Fingerprints are now required. The MSHP will complete a state criminal record check and then electronically send the fingerprint images to the FBI for a national search of criminal records.

The criminal record check may reveal open and closed record information on individuals consisting of arrests, prosecutor and court actions, correctional supervision, and release. All felony and serious misdemeanor arrests including sexual offender registration information as defined under 589.400, RSMo. All alcohol and drug related traffic offenses are considered reportable criminal offenses.

The CD BSIU will maintain a log of all criminal background checks completed on alternative care providers and applicants.

The Division is now utilizing the electronic scan service for the collection of fingerprints. The service is called Missouri Applicant Processing Services, or MOAPS. After the FBI has completed its search, any results will be forwarded to the MSHP, who will then forward the results to BSIU.

Examine Case net, the Missouri State Courts Automated Case Management System, for any reference to Orders of Protection filed, either for a child or adult. There are limits to the use of Case.net. Case.net is not yet statewide so will not include all county circuit courts.