

# PERFORMANCE NOTE: AGENCY FORM

# S.B. 155

## SHORT TITLE: CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTERS AMENDMENTS

Joint Rule 4-2-404 requires a Performance Review Note anytime the legislature significantly increases

funding for:  New agency  New services or benefits  Serving a new or larger population

### DUE TO THE FISCAL ANALYSIS

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### HOW WILL THE PUBLIC BENEFIT?

**1 What is the purpose and the duties of the new program, agency, services, or population served?** JR4-2-404(4)(c)(i)

Children's Justice Centers provide a safe and welcoming environment for child abuse victims and their families. They minimize the impact of trauma, emphasize the use of objective, forensically sound interviewing techniques, provide vital victim services, and facilitate the prosecution of perpetrators through coordination of services and implementation of a collaborative approach. Families are not forced to go to multiple agencies for the investigation, victim services, medical services, etc--the CJC brings all of the agencies/services together for the family in one child-focused setting. A national cost-benefit analysis showed that CJC-collaborative investigations cost 36% less than non-CJC. The Attorney General's Office is statutorily charged with administering the Utah Children's Justice Center Program and establishing CJCs throughout the state to provide services as outlined in 67-5b-102. In its 22 years of operation, the Program has established and now maintains 20 locations. The program's expansion into Beaver and Kane will ensure that the residents of those counties will have reasonable access to said services through the two newly established satellite locations.

**2 What services are provided by the funding increase?** JR4-2-404(4)(c)(ii)

The funding increase will enable the Program to establish satellites in Beaver and Kane, with services to be funded including: 1) a child-focused setting to make children feel safe while they are being interviewed; 2) recorded interviews to ensure accuracy, objectivity, and transparency; 3) support services to inform families about the investigative process and connect them with resources; 4) coordination of the multidisciplinary team to facilitate effective case review, reduce duplicative efforts, and support the state's mandated joint response to child abuse; 5) coordination of forensic medical exams and treatment; 6) evidence-based training to ensure sound investigations and compassionate treatment of victims; 7) education to enhance the community's understanding of child abuse, the judicial process, and available resources.

**3 What are the expected outcomes of the new or expanded program and how will the public benefit?** JR4-2-404(4)(c)(iii)

The centers will promote a joint response to reported cases of alleged child abuse in Kane and Beaver counties and will coordinate said response with partner agencies. Children will be interviewed at centers using forensically sound techniques and will receive medical exams by trained professionals (provided through a partnership with Primary Children's Medical Center). The use of evidence based interviewing techniques will protect both the interests of the alleged victim and suspect by emphasizing the interview as a neutral, objective, fact finding tool. Families will receive information and referrals regarding victim assistance, and services will be coordinated as needed. Each county's multidisciplinary team will conduct regular case reviews to facilitate the case's progress through the judicial process. Public benefits: CJCs have been proven to minimize trauma, reduce duplication of efforts, promote objectivity and transparency in the interview process, and facilitate better case resolution. Families report more satisfaction with the investigative process in a CJC setting vs. non-CJC.

**4 How will the bill be implemented and what resources are available to achieve the expected outcomes?** JR4-2-404(4)(c)(iv)

CJC Program administrators, in coordination with the Iron County CJC (the host CJC that will help operate the satellites through an expanded contract), have been working closely with local officials to prepare facilities that were donated by the community to house the satellites, with said preparations being funded with county, municipal, and private dollars. They are also working with state and local partner agencies (DCFS, law enforcement, county attorneys) to coordinate the multidisciplinary teams and prepare them to provide services to families. The Iron County CJC received a federal grant to help cover start up costs for the satellites between now and July, 2015, pending the outcome of the legislative session. Counties will contribute personnel and other resources to maintain the facilities and to provide services to families. The Utah CJC Program will administer funding and provide ongoing training, technical assistance and other support to the satellites, just as they do with the other CJC locations.

**5 How will the proposed agency activities cause the expected outcomes and public benefit in 3?**

By promoting a joint response and the multidisciplinary team approach, the centers will reduce duplication of efforts, as agencies will coordinate on interviews and collaborate on cases. Regular case review will allow the tracking of cases through the judicial process. CJC personnel and other professionals will coordinate the interview and related services (including medical exams, treatment referrals, etc). They will inform families about the investigative process and as the case progresses, and provide support and assistance as needed. They will also enhance community awareness of child abuse and of CJC services by providing education and resource information to residents in the newly served areas.

## 2. PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

What measures will managers and policymakers use to know if the new or expanded program is providing the expected outcomes and public benefits? Provide one, two, and three year goals or targets, actual results and measures if available to serve as a baseline, and outcomes.

**Goal (public benefit):** The center and its multidisciplinary approach will result in more collaborative and efficient case investigations

**Measure Title:**

**Description:**

The satellites will rely on evidence-based practices and operating protocols to promote a joint response to child abuse cases, with a goal being to facilitate better investigations through effective fact finding and strong case development. The program will assess the benefits of the multidisciplinary approach as reported by partner agencies responsible for handling cases.

Fiscal Year:	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Target or Benchmark:				85%	90%
Baseline:				NA	NA

**How will program managers collect this performance information and ensure its reliability?**

Data will be collected from multidisciplinary partners using an outcome measurement system developed by the University of Texas at Austin specifically for use in Children's Justice Centers. The survey tools used by the system have been tested for both validity and reliability, and there are protocols for their administration.

**Goal (public benefit):** The center facilitates healing for the child and family.

**Measure Title:**

**Description:**

The satellites will rely on evidence practices and operating protocols to minimize re-victimization of child victims and their families throughout the investigative and prosecutorial stages of their cases.

Fiscal Year:	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Target or Benchmark:				85%	90%
Baseline:				NA	NA

**How will program managers collect this performance information and ensure its reliability?**

Data will be collected from clients using an outcome measurement system developed by the University of Texas at Austin specifically for use in Children's Justice Centers. The survey tools used by the system have been tested for both validity and reliability, and there are protocols for their administration.

**Goal (public benefit):** The center enhances community awareness of child abuse and provides information regarding resources.

**Measure Title:**

**Description:**

The satellites will provide community education and respond to requests for information to increase awareness of child abuse and available resources.

Fiscal Year:	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Target or Benchmark:					
Baseline:				NA	NA

**How will program managers collect this performance information and ensure its reliability?**

In addition to the outcome measurement system, centers utilize a case management system to track cases, people served, professionals trained/educated. Actual numbers regarding the extent of community education and outreach are available through the system, which is maintained by the Utah CJC Program.