

Clara Long

Cheryl Hodges

Georgia Miller

Kristine Hightower

MARK SOPAUCH

PROTECT MONTANA KIDS COMMISSION

Date: _____ Speed Chart: _____

Name	Program/Area	Phone	Email: (Please Print)
1. <i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>			
2. Georgia Miller			
3. Kandi Matthew-Jenkins		406-721-4342	
4. MARK SUPAWICZ	Helena	2532561632	marksupawicz@yahoo.com
5. ERIC BROSTEN		202 615 4614	
7. John W. [Handwritten]	Gr Falls	727 2417	
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Families Demand Federal Investigation of Montana Family Services



Virginia Syring Billings, MT

as of 12/2/2015 - 189 supporters

The Citizens/Families and lawmakers of the State of Montana are demanding the Federal Department of Health and Human Services Region 8 in Denver Colorado to launch a Federal Audit and Investigation into the practices of the State of Montana DPHHS/CSFD Division, based upon numerous complaints of corruption, fraud, threats, extracting children for monetary gain, unreasonable delays and child trafficking.

A recent (Partial) internal State Audit revealed that in over 300 cases randomly chosen and investigated, 78 Percent were found to be lacking the proper investigations, documentation or necessary paperwork to justify the extractions of Montana children statewide. Only a mere 7 Percent were deemed (Substantiated,) yet testimony by the public at this Hearing on November 4, 2015, showed that this 7 percent is, "Highly questionable," and likely much lower to meet the criteria for removal of children.

The (Mission Goal of Reunification, or Kinship placement by (CFSD,) in Montana is rarely achieved by the Montana CFSD. Laws which govern the time allotted for Temporary Investigative Authority are ignored, often exceeding a year, often more. Meanwhile, the children are being forced to live in Foster Care homes where even more abuse occurs than would have with the biological parents, or relatives. Montana currently has over 2,700 children in Foster Care with only 1,023,579 residents, which far exceeds National Statistics. Montana currently has .27 Percent of it's population, (Children,) extracted by CFSD and is making an abnormally high profit in doing such. In fact, each Child extraction yields \$7,000 from Washington D.C, for just the (Current Extractions.) This doesn't include the (3 dollars for every 1 dollar) CFSD gets from Washington D.C. by keeping children separated from their loved ones for unhealthy, often abusive and corrupt decisions by CFSD.

The CFSD furthermore(Refuses) to talk to, or allow, (ANY) previous Licensed Providers (ANY input) in its investigations and is using an (Approved Providers List,) exclusively. Even some of the approved providers, who take a stand against a bad CFSD decision are threatened with removal of their State License to practice, unless they do what CFSD tells them to do. Additionally, CFSD's refusal to adherence of Federal Law governing the Native American Tribes, (ICWA,) is equally as staggering. Tribes are not being notified in a timely manner, or not

at all, when children are extracted, then they are placed in non-native Foster Care homes off the Reservations. Meanwhile CFSD is raking in the Profits, thus keeping the monies due to the Tribes as well as refusing to return their children.

We The People, of the State of Montana firmly attest, that the situation is, (Out of Control,) and that the CFSD is using our young as (Cash for Profit,) trafficking and threatening any family who takes a stand against them. Numerous News Articles and Television Media Reports are documenting these alarming reports of misconduct by the Montana DPHHS/CFSD. We Need Your Help to STOP this before one more child dies under CFSD. There's been plenty.

We are beseeching the Federal DPHHS Region 8, and, the Federal DPHHS of Washington D.C to launch a full scale Investigation into Montana DPHHS/CFSD.

This Petition WILL be sent to the following recipients:

Laurie Konsella OASH Regional Director Fed. DPHHS Region 8 Denver, Co. 1961 Stout St. 08-148 Denver, Co. 80294 (303) 844-

Marilyn Kennerson ACF Administration Fed. DPHHS (Child/Family Services). Phone# (303) 844-1163 (Direct Line)

Tim Kohen Fed. DPHHS (Children Services/ Denver Region 8 (303) 844-1209

Federal Department of Public Health and Human Services Washington D.C. 200 Independence Ave. South West Washington, D.C. 20201 (877) 896-6775

Petition update

Email From Governor Bullock
Virginia Syring Billings, MT

- Dec 2, 2015 — I thought you'd all like to see what Governor Bullock sent in reply to receiving our Petition and my reply to him. It is quite evident that the attacks have begun against myself and family (Even though the State swears they don't retaliate). DFS has taken [REDACTED] for no reason, (They were spreading the Petition around) and now they are questioning [REDACTED] school for no reason at all. Below is the bull from Bullock:

Dear Virginia:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your concerns about the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD). As the father of three young children, I understand your concerns and appreciate your correspondence. Nothing is more important than protecting Montana's most vulnerable children. That is why I created the Protect Montana Kids Initiative.

The Protect Montana Kids Initiative will make several immediate improvements

to better serve the children and families of Montana. These improvements will include:

- -Increasing capacity and skills of frontline workers by hiring 33 additional frontline staff, continuous evaluations and improvements of training, and building a new electronic system to improve case management;
 - - Bolstering supervision and oversight of frontline workers by alleviating caseloads for supervisors, thus freeing them up to prioritize oversight responsibilities, and development of a formalized process for monitoring compliance with statutory and regulatory timelines; and
- Using evidence-based practices to provide statewide consistency in investigations, assessments, and family involvement and supports.

I also signed an executive order to create the Protect Montana Kids Commission, whose purpose will be to give recommendations on aligning the Montana child protection system with national standards and best practices in the field of child welfare. I encourage you to follow the commission by signing up for email updates at <http://dphhs.mt.gov/ProtectMontanaKids>.

Protecting the health and safety of Montana's children is very important to me, and my office will continue working to ensure that CFSD has adequate resources to continue to improve. Thanks again for taking the time to write to me, and please do not hesitate to do so again with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

My Reply:

To Bullock, Governor
Nov 25 at 8:17 PM

Governor, with all do respect, I appreciate that you think you are doing things to help protect our children, but let's be honest, you are playing politics period. You have 3 children who you will never have to worry about DFS/CPS ever trying to mess with them or you because they know that would be suicidal on their part, in fact when if ever have any political people, reps., congressmen, senators, governor etc., ever had their children taken by DFS/CPS, so to all of you, this is not that major of an issue, but to the citizens of Montana, this is a HUGE issue. Keep IGNORING the citizens of Montana and I can assure you that you will be out of a job. We the people will NO longer tolerate being ignored, OUR CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN are worth us fighting for them and we will keep bothering every politician in this state until there is major changes made with DFS/CPS. As for the committee you formed for the protection of Montana children, if you really are trying to help the children then add some Montana citizens to this committee instead of having only state employees on it.

FEDERAL LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST MONTANA CPS AND BUTTE POLICE DEPT.

Dec 3, 2015 — There is a Federal Lawsuit filed against Montana CPS and the Butte Police Dept. The Lawsuit is for Violation of the 4th and 14 Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The Plaintiff(s) had to flee this state for their own protection to file the suit. Below is an email from the Petitioner(s) and the Federal Case case number:

In my eyes they are the abusers. They abuse the people in which they protect as well as the hand that feeds them. Those who are employed by (DFS) have a duty to do their job correctly. DFS seems to have loopholes that make them able to enter ones home w/o good cause based on calls and reports from police and people in the community. Which many have been found unfounded. I know from my own experience that in my case that 3 so-called child specialists (lol) have quit and went to different jobs. They think that by moving to different jobs makes it to where they cannot comment on past cases is wrong. We are working hard to get things corrected also. We have a federal civil suit against the sheriff as well as the captain of the police department in Butte. Also, the case manager and the current child service worker as well as the previous child service worker that can be seen on the internet for the federal court system here in Nebraska. The case is Christian Valdez and Kaleb Valdez against Ed Lester (Sheriff) , Jerome Mccarthy (Captain) , Shelly Emerson (DFS) Sara Crowson (DFS) Kara Richardson (DFS) Brandon Dellesara (AWARE). I am willing to share the evidence that I had given the police. It is disturbing. The guys who broke into my home spoke off and on for 35 minutes. They said some things in reference to making it hard for him to see his family. My guess is they were talking about [REDACTED]. One of the officers who I made a complaint against - [REDACTED] works for (DFS). Go figure. Her name is [REDACTED]. The audio evidence says a lot more than that. It is very disturbing. It's not the first time I have complained. I have went to the FBI as well as the Helena DOJ and spoke with [REDACTED] the head of the DCI division of the attorney generals office. DFS continues to lie to cover themselves for what they did. The truth will come out.

Valdez et al v. Lester et al

Defendant: Sarah Crowson, Brandon Dellasara, Shelly Emerson, Ed Lester, Jerome McCarthy and Kara Richardson

Plaintiff: Christian Valdez and Kaleb Valdez

Case Number: 8:2015cv00391

Filed: October 30, 2015

Court: Nebraska District Court

Office: 8 Omaha Office

Presiding Judge: Laurie Smith Camp

Referring Judge: Pro Se Docket

Nature of Suit: Civil Rights: Other

Cause of Action: 28:1331 Fed. Question

Jury Demanded By: Plaintiff

<https://dockets.justia.com/docket/nebraska/nedce/8:2015cv00391/70907>

11/3/2014

From the desk of Children's Rights Montana, Billings Montana

Dear Protect Montana Kids Commission,

Six years ago this coming April, I launched a website against DPHHS/CFSD exposing corruption. They took [REDACTED] 24 hours later and [REDACTED] lost 14 months of our life until the State lost miserably in Court. Even the judge threw the book at them.

Since that time, we've handled over 400 family and children cases that CFSD has taken actions against. The alarming statistics are that as a rule of thumb, CPS (may) get 1 out of 12 cases right.

Equally as alarming, is that the majority of these cases are taken against low income families who haven't the funds to fight back, or the Department refusing to place kids with clean family members who are waiting for temporary, or permanent placement. Instead, these kids are shuffled into Foster Care homes and most are diagnosed with SAD, (Separation Anxiety Disorder,) and are ultimately drugged by CFSD hired guns (Preferred Providers List.) Even if that particular child has been in active therapy for years, CFSD ignores and quashes any information from the child(s) previous provider(s). CFSD (TELLS) their providers what, when and where to say what they want in order to keep the child in the system. Meanwhile, the parents are told to complete a myriad of tasks, classes etc., yet when they have completed all that's asked, they are told to do more into a point of abuse by the CFSD and exhaustion of the families. We have seen a staggering increase of Native American kids being snagged by CFSD, on and off the Reservations. CFSD has basically thrown out Federal Law governing the tribes and refuses to contact the tribes in a timely manner after removal, or worse yet, return the child to the Reservation, in direct violation of Law.

The CFSD (Mission Goal) according to they themselves, is Reunification of these families, yet I can ASSURE you that is Not the Case. The longer CFSD retains the child, the more monies they receive from Washington D.C. The Public can only be aware of this (If You Let Them.)

This (Umbrella Law of Confidentiality MUST end) and all DN cases be made open to the public Courts and media. Without redaction, or worse yet, hiding facts due to corruption. This old worn out cliche' that investigations are always confidential and the people have no right to review errors by the Department is hogwash. The vast majority of redaction is to cover up the errors and possible illegal actions taken by CFSD. CFSD is protecting themselves, not the families they are sworn to protect.

All the while, CFSD keeps crying for more money to handle their case loads? Have you ever considered the case load is too big because they are out of control and taking kids that don't need to be taken? According to Nationwide statistics, Montana should have less than 200 kids in Foster care right now!!! We all pray that Montana will follow suit as Arizona did, firing the entire Division and begin anew.

Open these Hearings of the DN cases and educate the people who voted our politicians into office to prevent such an organization from running rampant and start holding workers that willfully violate families rights, or laws, accountable as any of us would be, by bringing charges against them.

Sincerely,

Gregg Wilkinson (Owner)

5/18/2015

Small children's reactions to danger are blatantly innocent and honest.

My [REDACTED] did not have anything to do with [REDACTED] through her pregnancy or the first year and a half of his life. When [REDACTED] started to have to go for visits with [REDACTED] little life changed for the worse. The agency that should have helped [REDACTED] receive support from [REDACTED] turned a blind eye to the maltreatment of [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] and criminalized [REDACTED] for NOT allowing the abuse to continue. [REDACTED] was not punished with jail time. [REDACTED] punishment for not allowing the abuse by [REDACTED] is to have [REDACTED] taken away from [REDACTED] and to know that [REDACTED] child is sad, scared, and not being loved as he was [REDACTED]

Sunday, April 12th, [REDACTED] tried to deliver [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] father at the exchange required by Child Protective Service (CPS.) [REDACTED] refused to go with [REDACTED] screamed and cried and begged to not go with [REDACTED]. This was not a tantrum of a 5 year old. It was fear and dread of [REDACTED]. When [REDACTED] did not force [REDACTED] to go with [REDACTED] the man who [REDACTED] did horrible, sexual things to him along with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said he would call CPS.

Please note [REDACTED] cries were not because [REDACTED] was afraid to leave [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has spent time with other family members & friends, at pre-school, and speech therapy without [REDACTED] and was perfectly comfortable. [REDACTED] fear was of spending alone time with [REDACTED]. At that time, CPS approved of these unsupervised visits even though they were told of the accusations by [REDACTED] of the sexual abuse by [REDACTED]. They were also told of the recreational drug use by [REDACTED]. No investigation or testing was done before [REDACTED] was allowed to take [REDACTED] for unsupervised visits.

Wednesday, April 15th, the manager of the [REDACTED] CPS office came to our home and wanted to take [REDACTED] into their custody. When asked why they needed to take [REDACTED] His response was that he wanted to straighten out this situation. I told him that he did not need to remove [REDACTED] to straighten out an issue that is with [REDACTED]. The CPS manager left without [REDACTED]

The next day, April 16th, I participated in an awareness rally held at the Helena Capital. A photo of me from the back wearing a t-shirt with a critical statement about CPS and [REDACTED] dangerous situation appeared in the Great Falls Tribune's story covering the rally. It may have been coincidence but it is uncanny how fast CPS reacted and was able to acquire a court order to remove [REDACTED]

The following weekend, April 18th, my father passed away. His funeral vigil was Tuesday, April 21st, in Havre. Our extended family was all together at the hotel swimming pool that evening ... sharing, healing, laughing, and loving each other through our loss. At about 9:30pm, two police

officers, a female CPS employee, and the manager of the Havre CPS office came in to the pool area [REDACTED] was so afraid that [REDACTED] ran for [REDACTED]. As they removed [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] arms, [REDACTED] gave them [REDACTED] underwear as [REDACTED] was only wearing [REDACTED] swimsuit. They left the hotel with [REDACTED] and took [REDACTED] to Great Falls that night. The next day, instead of [REDACTED] getting to attend [REDACTED] great grandfather's funeral, CPS took [REDACTED] to a doctor in Great Falls for a physical and then transported [REDACTED] to Bozeman to a therapeutic foster home. This would have been a VERY traumatic experience for anyone but imagine the trauma this caused to a [REDACTED] who just lost [REDACTED] great grandfather. [REDACTED] great grandfather was not a "distant relative." [REDACTED] visited [REDACTED] great grandfather regularly at the nursing home. They knew each other well and loved each other very much. The medical physical without a parent present should have been illegal. This medical physical was also very scary for [REDACTED]. But if CPS wants it to happen, it happens.

Now that [REDACTED] is living in the therapeutic foster home in Bozeman, [REDACTED] no longer attends preschool nor speech therapy. [REDACTED] has developed asthma. [REDACTED] is being punished for something because [REDACTED] is not able to come home. At this time only [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are allowed to visit [REDACTED]. Thankfully these are supervised visits so I hope [REDACTED] is not being physically molested by [REDACTED] at these visits.

It makes no sense that the only solution to [REDACTED] being forced to support [REDACTED] is to either allow [REDACTED] to abuse [REDACTED] or to take [REDACTED] away from both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There is no common sense to this bureaucracy. This agency is allowed to bully families with no oversight. Because a CPS manager or employee has their authority questioned, a family loses a child and more importantly, a child loses a family!

Please ask, beg, demand your representatives to rein in Department of Family Services and Child Protective Services with strict oversight. The last oversight that was developed was watered down to the point that Department of Family Services was in charge of the watch dog that was supposed to be watching them. The prosecution portion of the oversight was removed and they were left with just a reporting authority. To whom do they report? To Department of Family Services! Wow ☹

12/2/2015 update to the story - Currently [REDACTED] is living with [REDACTED] in Bozeman. [REDACTED] is an emotional wreck. I have not been allowed to see [REDACTED] since he was removed even though he and his mother lived with me since birth until he was taken. [REDACTED] saw [REDACTED] last week and [REDACTED] was distraught!

Scott Dion

Heather Stringer

406-858-0463

Protect Montana Kids Commission:

My story is one of CPS failure. I feel people need to hear this story because it is one of a estranged mother and [REDACTED] who has been lost in the CPS system for 12 years.

In 2004, my parental rights were terminated [REDACTED]. At the time of this incident I was involved in a abusive marriage to [REDACTED] and drugs were involved. CPS did not try to help me properly. Instead, they made excuses, lied to me and as a result, my now [REDACTED] has been placed in a group home because the "kinship placement" was abusive [REDACTED].

Recently, CPS has decided to contact me in regards [REDACTED] and promised that they will call back in a week. This is very familiar to me as it has been told to me for years. No one ever calls back. Since he was taken, I have turned my life around, got a bachelors degree in Human Service Management, and I am working on a Masters degree from George Washington University.

CPS also testified on my behalf in regards to [REDACTED] a few years ago but they still deny me contact with [REDACTED] who is forever lost in the foster care system. While I am appreciative of their help with [REDACTED] I think the question remaining is this. What is it that will happen to [REDACTED] next? Children are being lost in the system, and the workers involved have no empathy and seem very cold and detached. I thought the whole purpose of working for an organization like CPS was to have empathy and help people. That seems to be failing here is they do not document, they lie, and do basically whatever they want simply because no one is making them accountable for their actions. Once again, the question here is... what is it that happens to [REDACTED] now? Thank you for listening.

Heather Stringer

I am an old Platoon Sgt, from the 1960's. We saw bad things happen to kids and it still bothers us to see kids mistreated.

In September 2012, [REDACTED] called me from the hospital with a stab wound. This was the 18th domestic violence [REDACTED] in two months. The Police Chief said they have a policy with the County Atty, "The police catch the bad guys and the County Atty releases them." My [REDACTED] would take [REDACTED] sibling outside and hide in the bushes when the violence occurred. I called the County Atty and Child Protective Services many times.

I went to pick up [REDACTED] [REDACTED] objected. I broke my cane and [REDACTED] called the cops. The police came and told me to take [REDACTED] and get a [REDACTED] This began my nightmare with Child Protective Services.

Four [REDACTED] kids we all the sudden had, so I called CPS for help while searching everywhere for assistance. I found a licensed Counselor for the kids. It took 3 months for CPS to provide any help. There was no financial assistance because they said we had to take training to get a Foster Care License. CPS then tried to have that Counselors License Revoked.

The Foster training was good, but we had to buy all new clothes, beds and bedding ourselves for the kids. Everything had to be replaced because of the Methamphetamine contamination.

It's been a very rocky relationship with CPS supervisors, like [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I don't lie and I hate being lied to, or about.

[REDACTED] told me that [REDACTED] classmate, 11 year old girl, said, "Don't let them (CPS) place you with XXXX, because he (JP) molested me!"

I immediately took [REDACTED] to the Counselor. Sure enough, I found that [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] of the molester, [REDACTED] had a copy of CPS's Investigative Report about this, (Molestation) which also included 3 years of domestic violence. This Report is VERY Explicit. The child's allegations of being molested was Substantiated by CPS worker [REDACTED] following interviews that concluded the child was sexually abused. This child DID NOT make this up and it still bothers [REDACTED] 7 years later. [REDACTED] swore [REDACTED] to secrecy, but [REDACTED] was worried so much that [REDACTED] told me.

This CPS Report is VERY DISTURBING, because CPS placed [REDACTED] back with this MONSTER, "knowingly."

CPS was more excited about me having a Copy of their Report than about what it contained. [REDACTED] explained, "Pee was coming out of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to wash it off." The Report gets even worse. The Report references interviews by CPS workers at the jail with [REDACTED] where [REDACTED] made a deal. [REDACTED] said, "I'll give up my rights to [REDACTED] and never see [REDACTED] again if that's what it takes." The deal was made, so we saved that one, but what about the next child? The Report was signed by [REDACTED] of the Department of Family Services.

CPS then told me to stop raising hell, or they would take [REDACTED] from us. I didn't stop, so they honored their threat and took [REDACTED] went to school on the bus and never came home. The "CPS worker was [REDACTED] I did everything CPS told me for over a month. [REDACTED] came back home very disturbed again. I managed to convince CPS to send [REDACTED] who is trained to work with disturbed kids and [REDACTED] works for the State where [REDACTED] lives. [REDACTED] is now doing great, but misses [REDACTED] siblings.

On November 5, 2014, [REDACTED] didn't come home on the bus. I called CPS. They had placed [REDACTED] I objected and on December 2, 2014, [REDACTED] got on the school bus and [REDACTED] never came home either. Then

CPS Filed a Restraining Order [redacted] [redacted] said I had threatened them? They alleged that they were afraid of [redacted] and rattled something off about a 4 wheeler? During a supervised visit with [redacted] was told that he went riding a 4 wheeler with no helmet. I gave CPS a fifty dollar bill to go buy [redacted] a helmet.

CPS then asked the District Court Judge [redacted] for a "Blanket Restraining Order," to include ALL CPS workers and to bar [redacted] from telling others about the CPS Report on [redacted]. The Judge mentioned the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. I explained that I'm aware of these and my ancestors' heritage and I took the oath to serve my Country on May 11, 1964. I too have sworn to protect these rights against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

The Judge Ordered that I have no contact with [redacted] who made this false allegation upon me.) I then took copies of the [redacted] Report to Legislative Committees and a copy the national news.

I was forced before the same Judge, same threats, but this time by [redacted]. There was issued a Warrant for my arrest? I glanced behind me and saw the Asst. County Attorney [redacted] with the CPS supervisor [redacted] and a Deputy Sheriff. The Judge said that if I protest the Restraining Order that I would be going to jail. He then said, "Do you still want to protest the Restraining Order?" I replied, "Your Honor, hell yes!"

[redacted] even accused me of poisoning [redacted] dog? I questioned [redacted] allegation. I even presented [redacted] with a Copy of the CPS Investigative Report by CPS. [redacted] explained that is the item he referred to in [redacted] complaint. I also handed the Judge another copy of the Report and asked it to be entered as Evidence for [redacted]. The Judge smiled and handed it to his Clerk.

[redacted] attorney then stood up and read a letter from the CPS's own lawyer, [redacted] which stated that CPS had (Re investigated their own Report Conclusions from previous,) and promptly changed their Report to "Unsubstantiated." [redacted] after I showed their original findings to everyone I could.

As the Sheriff led me away, I asked the Judge, "Since the [redacted] Report is now no good, why am I still going to jail?" I was finger printed, booked and put into the custody of the V.A? As I was being booked, another person was too for [redacted]. So, here I was being booked for saving [redacted] while another was booked for beating one?

A few days later, we received our Renewed Foster Care License from the State.

Since then, I got a phone call from CPS attorney [redacted] saying, "You old folks [redacted] keep calling asking questions and you need to STOP. "

[redacted] have been separated from their siblings. One [redacted] is living with a cousin [redacted] and the [redacted] grew up in a polygamist home. [redacted] desperately wants to be with [redacted] who is living with [redacted]. No one in our family has heard from [redacted] who was placed with [redacted]. [redacted] should have the right to continue to have a relationship with [redacted] siblings.

John Walton
Great Falls, Montana

Note: CFS Records, 3 pages, not posted.

mail sent October 5th 2015]

Senator Webb, (Also, sent to Rep. Alan Doane and corrected typos)

Please let me introduce myself, I am Kandi Matthew-Jenkins, I live in Missoula. I spent from March 2002 till July 2007 testifying at the legislature for unjustly accused families within CPS and for indigent families' due process rights before DPHHS/CPS and the Law and Justice Committee on the public defenders system after the ACLU lawsuit was filed. I was talking to Jay Walton from Great Falls and he said he thought you were the 'real deal' so I said I would share the experiences we had "fighting the department." I also participated, with one of the mom's I advocate for, in the Missoula protest.

You should be able to find my testimony among others starting in March 2002 before the DPHHS and Law and Justice Committee meetings in those sessions and interims to my last testimony in July 2007 before the Law and Justice Interim Committee chaired by Senator Dan McGee.

I first want to qualify my own family situation. I came into knowledge about the existence of CPS through an incident in involving [REDACTED] and then again when [REDACTED] was threatened with removal in retaliation for my advocating and intervention for abused families and their children now 12 almost 13 years ago. I am still advocating having to go "underground" due to the threats made against me and my future grandchildren (7 at last count) and retaliation against the families I was working with at the time. I just wanted this clear on the onset. I have not backed down nor would I ever until CPS is extinct!!

I became aware of the newest efforts to expose CPS when I responded to letter in the Missoulian written by Cheryl Hodges about the death of her grandson and step-granddaughter at the hands of their mother. I did the research on her allegations and became convinced they were true...knew about "these miscreant caseworkers" and their "modus operandi" through the past 13 years of research and involvement in more than several court cases.

During the time of my involvement, past Rep. Ron Stoker said we filed about 2' of documents along with "Petitions for Redress of Grievances", releases of information and one special 10 minute presentation to the DPHHS Committee by me...after all those years of protest...typical way the public actually gets treated when fighting their government I've come to find out over time. I am also very active with Missoula city government and can be found in their records also. I was a candidate with the Constitution Party of Montana in several election cycles last being lost to Sen. Cliff Larsen. I ran Republican once, city council in 1998 and mayor of Missoula against Mike Kadas in 2001. I was director for Birthright of Missoula (First Way now) for 3/12 years, Vice Chair for Montanans for Better Government for 2 years and Vice Chair for the Constitution Party for 2 years. I am the mother of 6 children and Christian Constitutionalist. An avid patriot...

I hope I have given you some hint of where I am coming from because this not about me ...it's about the reality of what these families have been trying to tell since 1995 when the first meetings about CPS began originating with a group called "Families for Families" was started in Missoula by Ken Haugan who was working with Senator Jim Burnett at the time, there is testimony in the records of their protest involving Hank Hudson and in the Missoula city council records...I have been attendance at some of those testimonies although not totally knowledgeable of their plight at the time...(except for time spent testifying in Helena, I have been attending Missoula city council since 1988...)

While running for representative in 2000 I came face to face with Chuck Hunter for the first time, he was 'running' CPS. There was a forum at the U of M...at that time I told him (because the incident with [REDACTED] I would go through the 'department with a 'fine tooth comb' little did I know I would be doing that very thing only 2 years later when I accompanied 30 parents/grandparents to Helena March 14th 2002...armed for 'bear' with approximately 70 stories of 'unjust or blatantly illegal 'child confiscations that are going until this very day. In 2002 'special session' Chuck Hunter was removed from CPS BECAUSE of several open communications (I believe with me) that got him in some kind of trouble and was put in charge of some kind of finance department which is another story I can relate and replaced with Shirley K. Brown. I won't go into everything that happened under her watch...let's just say she was finally replaced and that is readily researched in the states records on CPS and Law and Justice Committee records both session and interim records...

What these grandparents protesting are saying has not changed since 1995 and the truth/facts in this has remained the same in this matter AND ALL OF IT IS TRUE and DESTRUCTIVE to the most 'fundamental unit of ALL SOCIETIES' the "FAMILY".

I can name names of lots of people involved with these atrocities...prosecutors, judges. Caseworkers, the so-called stakeholders (non-profits, etc.) social security (IV B) fraud, social security card fraud, foster-care fraud and rapes in foster-care, fraud and abuse at Pine Hills on...on also, one suicide among reasons for a whole lot more...Shodair...false and malicious persecutions like those that are so abundant in Missoula and Ravalli counties...rubber-stamping judges down to parental visitation supervisors...CASA...fines against the state...on and on.

You can contact legislators past and some present; Jerry O'Neil, Ron Stoker, Joe Baiyeat, Dan McGee, Duane Grimes, Jim Shockley, Diane Rice, Mike Wheat, Ken Miller, Brad Molner, Gail Grey, DPHHS, John Chappius, DPHHS, Carla Gray (past supreme court chief justice) Mike McGrath (present chief justice/AG) Bob Keenan, Trudi Schmit, John Cobb, Aubyn Curtiss, Jeff Essmann, Gary L. Perry, Dan Weinberg, Micheal Lange, Norma Bixby Mary Caferro, Ed Butcher, George Everett, Ray Hawk, Verdell Jackson, Bob Lake, Gary Maclaren, Rick Maedje, Tom McGillvary, Scott Mendenhall, John W. Parker, Holley Rasar, Dan Roberts, Scott Sales, Jon Sinrud, Jon Sonju, Pat Wagman, John Bolinger, John Esp (first to try for another ombudsman), Jeff Mangan (he tried to stop us from testifying...friend of John Parker GF...he ran a youth home), Jeff Laszloffy, Edith J. Clark, Dick Haines (got my first CPS manual through Dick), Bob Lawson, Penny Morgan, Jeff Pattison, Sylvia Bookout-Reincke, Mark Blasdel, Betsy Hands, Gordon Hendrick, Pat Ingraham, Rick Jore, Roger Koopman, Gail Gutsche, Greg Hinkle, Carol Juneau, Arlene Becker, Joel Boniek, Teresa Henry, Bob Wagner, Cliff Larsen, Dave Lewis, Champ Edmunds, Clayton Fiscus, Steve Gibson, Ellie Boldman-Hill, Keith Regier, Cynthia Wolken. These along with Brian Schweitzer and Judy Martz received total knowledge about the systemic abuses of CPS and the courts BUT did nothing about it until this day...and won't because CPS is a 'cash-cow'! And the breeding ground for "liberal progressivism" along with our institutions of education!

Only de-funding and a return to their "executive" department status/services will change what is going on. As long as they have any 'color of law' privilege held in "Star Chamber" courts with no oversight it will not stop.

Child abuse is a crime and should be returned to the judicial branch for criminal investigation by professionals.

Parental terminations should be tried with full due process trials with juries and open courts...Jerry O'Neil for years tried to fight to get that passed!

I am willing to point you to the real perpetrators of these crimes against the families and children of Montana!

Please be assured that I realize abuse is real, the pivotal point is who is doing the abuse, why and for what reason?

In these past 13 years I have lost my business (in 2002 I had the building I was in with my business, the Montana Craft Connection, literally taken away for becoming involved in mayor's race and testifying against CPS) spent thousands of dollars helping families in need, putting our whole family's needs last. I guess you'd say for the greater good of stopping the theft our children that are being literally 'sold' to the highest bidders!

We counted between 11/12 government paychecks per child feeds this system plus whatever extras from the federal side.

How much are you willing to give to end these tragedies? It is possible!

At your service...

Kandi Matthew-Jenkins
1211 Cooper Street
Missoula Montana [59802]

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"Parental substance abuse and addiction is the chief culprit in at least 70 %—and perhaps 90%—of all child welfare spending" (CASA, 1998).

Governor Bullock has created a commission to protect Montana's kids in response to recent controversy surrounding the professionalism and effectiveness of the Child and Family Services Division in the state of Montana.

Child abuse numbers have not changed significantly since the last statistical release of information and neither have the numbers of deaths attributable to child abuse. The last known time that the child protection system in Montana was overwhelmed (by rising numbers of children entering the system) was when methamphetamine came to Montana in early 2000. In testimony to the U.S. Congress on the costs of methamphetamine for child welfare, a regional administrator for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services reported that more than 65 percent of all foster-care placements in Montana are directly attributable to drug use and that, among those, meth is a primary factor 57% of the time (Frank, 2006).

While the taxpayers of Montana have funded excellent, evidence-based treatment centers for methamphetamine addiction, Child and Family Services actively flounders in caring for the children who are casualties of addiction. They have taken a punitive rather than a professionally effective stance. The numbers currently reported to be overwhelming Montana's Child Protection system are the numbers of children in out of home placements.

"The number of Montana children in foster care hit a record high this past year with 2,400 children, according to CFSD. That's an increase of 20 percent over the past two years and a 60 percent increase since 2008, according to Sarah Corbally, division administrator in Helena."

The legislative audit committee in 2014 remarked that CPS workers were not documenting the reasoning behind their placement decisions. But a policy of routinely determining placements for children based on other than professional reasons is perhaps not appropriately documentable. Cases of drug endangered children are routinely handled as if they are soap operas with the CPS workers starring as central characters. CPS workers are behaving as if they believe they are the police or even junior members of the FBI; thus acting completely outside of their scope and professional capacity. In the world of drug endangered children the focus should be on the safety of the children. Drugs or illegal behavior are matters easily referred to law enforcement.

CPS workers across the state are becoming well-known for their vindictive gossip and immature, retaliatory behavior in working with families. They appear to operate with a total lack of supervision or fear of any liability to their agency; misusing the power granted to them by breaking state and federal laws; namely Indian Child Welfare Laws, HIPAA healthcare confidentiality laws and 4th Amendment search and seizure laws. Often workers will openly admit their ignorance of those same laws while violating them.

When one observes the current qualifications required for being a child protection specialist in the state of Montana, it reads in part: ***The ability to engage and work with angry and violent individuals.*** One wonders if those are the individual members of the public who are trying to make formal complaints when there is no avenue for making complaints and no policy for addressing complaints. Child Protection's stated mission is to be working with children and families. The police are to be working with angry and violent individuals. It's a caution to the rest of us to find that CPS has completely lost sight of their mission to protect children. Due to their own policies, ineptness and self-protective defensiveness they have, quite naturally, created a climate of hostility and mistrust with the public and they seem to revel in it.

When Sarah Corbally, Administrator of the Child and Family Services Division expects there will be increased transparency ***once a child fatality review team is put into place*** what is she actually saying? That a group of people needs to investigate the death of a child in order for CPS to become open and honest and accountable to the people of Montana? The Montana Fetal, Infant and Child Mortality Review commission already reports to the legislature. Sadly they found at least 65 of the deaths that they reviewed were of children with a background that included past reports of abuse and neglect.

Average citizens can usually determine if a child is being neglected. That's why there are child abuse reporting hotlines ***across the world.*** Neglect is the most common cause of child fatality attributed to child abuse. To sum it up for the possible child

abuse reporter: two of the most serious indicators for possible abuse of children are domestic violence and/or addiction in the home.

If you, the reader, go so far as to make a report of possible abuse to Child Protective Services it is instructive to know that your report may not be investigated. Or it may take time to be investigated. That's why it's good right now to be one of many callers. If your complaint is investigated in the state of Montana, the likelihood that the CPS worker will tell the alleged abuser that you made the report is high. This is routinely unprofessional behavior that raises the stakes for all reporters but most importantly raises the level of crisis for children who cannot afford additional crisis in their lives.

The most recent nationwide statistics show that the response time, in hours, for a report of child abuse to be investigated in the state of Montana was 195.3 hours (or about eight days). Seventy percent of states have a median response time of less than 48 hours. *(Median response time in hours is computed from the NCANDS Child File records).

Yet, Governor Bullock states, in forming his commission that he wants to be advised on National Best Practices in the Child Welfare field. The state just complete a three-day training *as they do every year* (Child Abuse Prevention month in April) for education on best practices in the child welfare field

In Ireland they have very direct website detailing National Standards for the Protection and Welfare of Children (by the Health Information and Quality Authority) and it includes, in part their protocol for responding to reports of possible abuse/neglect:

2.2.2 Preliminary enquiries are carried out to clarify the nature of the concern and all relevant information is documented.

2.2.3 Defined thresholds of significant harm or neglect guide social workers on the assessment of risk of abuse/neglect and on the appropriate course of action to take.

2.2.4 Immediate action is taken, where appropriate, to ensure no child is exposed to continued risk of harm or neglect.

2.2.5 Where there is a suspected case of physical or sexual abuse and/or willful neglect, the service shares the information with An Garda Síochána in order to protect the child and/or other children from significant harm.

2.2.6 The child is referred to the appropriate service based on preliminary enquiries and the level of risk to his/her safety and welfare.

2.2.7 A social worker uses all relevant information including the age and vulnerability of the child, defined thresholds of significant harm or neglect and his/her professional judgment to decide on the most appropriate course of action, in the best interests of the child.

2.2.8 All relevant information regarding the child is documented, including the rationale for all decisions made.

2.2.9 Appropriate feedback is provided to the person who made the referral, within the confines of confidentiality and in line with Children First.

Despite the much touted complexity of the Child Protection issues in the state of Montana it boils down to this; the Director of DPHHS is responsible for the addressing behaviors of his employees that are discourteous, unprofessional or criminal. The most highly complex task that the child protection agency in Montana is currently performing is that of attempting to evade accountability for actions performed unnecessarily and unwisely during the course of their jobs.

Alexis MacDiarmid, SA, LAC

(Mother, Grandmother) Helena, Montana

by Edward Keyes 11/2/2015

Over the course of the last year my family has been subject to numerous abuses by the Department of Family Services in Billings, MT. On October 21st of last year there was a report filed with the department and an investigation started concerning allegations concerning my family. The caseworker involved refused to speak with or return the calls of myself or my wife until after being contacted by my lawyer and then when she did agree to meet with us showed no concern about any information or facts that we would be able to provide and instead told us that she was unaware of the findings or the information in the accusation except that she was informed by her supervisor that the expectation in this case was that affidavits against myself and my wife were going to be filed and we were going to lose our children. The caseworker informed us that there was no reason for her not to believe the claims and that she had no intention of returning our children to us at all. This is not the first time this same case worker has made this exact same statement to me. Two years ago I had an argument with my ex wife and my youngest son was hospitalized for two days with bruising all over his chest and body. The case worker investigating the abuse called me and informed me that my ex wife claimed that I had beat my son and there was no reason for her not to believe the claim and I would be losing my parental rights. I went to court and showed with evidence that I was not even in the state of Montana when the abuse occurred and when I inquired later with the department about the open case on my son and if they were going to do anything about my ex wife I was informed that the case had been closed and they had found no fault. A nine month old boy hospitalized with fist marks all over his body and it was no bodies fault. During the course of the current investigation when we were having a visit with our children at the department my wife and I were served with the affidavits against us. When my wife and I questioned the case worker about the claims and asked why she had added allegations to the affidavits that had not occurred she responded that at this point what she wrote did not have to be true it just had to be said. We have received copies of the recordings of all our visits with the children except the video pertaining to the day when that statement was made to us. Failure to produce evidence when required is against the law. My wife and I have family available for placement for our children and even though all members of our family have been able to pass background checks and have stable home environments for the children to be placed with relatives none of them where at any point considered as placement options as none of them agree with the accusations that were made and do not support the claims. Not only have all options of family placement been dismissed but when [REDACTED] continued to defend our family and deny the claims against us [REDACTED] was told by the case worker that she either get in line or be sent away. [REDACTED] was subsequently removed from [REDACTED] foster placement and placed in a group home without contact with any family for six months until [REDACTED] finally changed [REDACTED] statements and supported the claims made. During this same time [REDACTED] had been coming occasionally to visits and at one pint had brought a notebook in order to take notes and document as is the legal right for her or anyone else involved to be able to do and she was informed by the caseworker that the notebook was not allowed and that [REDACTED] would not be having any further contact with the children. The caseworker in question was recently promoted to supervisor and now oversees other caseloads and families involved in the system. Her negative, vengeful and illegal activities have instead of causing her to be reviewed and disciplined have instead afforded her the opportunity for advancement and ability to have a wider affect on causing more hurt and destruction within the system. At no point in time have myself or anyone in my family done anything to abuse or neglect any child and understand the seriousness of the accusations made. Investigation into the claims was understandable and not opposed. However the treatment and abuse of authority and abuse and neglect of our rights and the rights of our children and family that has occurred in the ongoing process is unacceptable and even up to this point has been widely overlooked and disregarded by anyone within the Department.

12/3/2015

I was a foster parent for severely emotionally disturbed children. The child that I had was named [REDACTED] was also in foster care. [REDACTED] severe fetal alcohol syndrome and [REDACTED] severely disturbed because of the brutal abuse [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was their worst case. These children were also severely abused by CPS as to the point of driving [REDACTED] to a nervous breakdown and they would not let me take [REDACTED] to the Doctor and they canceled the Doctors appointment.

They also told me that if I took [REDACTED] to the Doctor that they would take [REDACTED] away from me. The reason for that was that they did not want anybody else involved and to witness of what was going on by CPS. It was Hideous what they did [REDACTED] was so upset at the things that they put [REDACTED] through that [REDACTED] would come home from seeing [REDACTED] mother and vomit and wet [REDACTED] pants. This was continual. The mother [REDACTED] became pregnant at that time and [REDACTED] CASA worker was [REDACTED] a public defender attorney. She was not supposed to be able to be a CASA worker as she was a public defender. But she was. She recommended that [REDACTED] go back to [REDACTED] Mom. CPS gave [REDACTED] kids back to [REDACTED] in exchange for [REDACTED] and sold [REDACTED] in adoption. Even though she was not fit to have her kids back. [REDACTED] then left the public defender's office and was working for CPS in illegally adopting out these kids. I was aware of what their operations within CPS and the illegal things that they were doing and I would stick up for the kids so they retaliated against me, ruined my reputation and stalked me. I have [REDACTED] that was so severely abused by [REDACTED] that I got guardianship of [REDACTED] through the court system. [REDACTED] was so sick from the abuse of [REDACTED] mom and boyfriends I had to have [REDACTED] hospitalized in a children's psychiatric hospital for 6 months. [REDACTED] is so sick from the abuse and has post traumatic syndrome, depression, anxiety and to the point that [REDACTED] would tear at [REDACTED] arms till they would bleed. [REDACTED] will suffer with this for the rest of [REDACTED] life and is now on SSI disability from the abuse. [REDACTED] Mom has 2 children on SSI disability because of her life style- that is how bad it is. In retaliation on me CPS illegally kidnapped [REDACTED] from me and barred me from [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] was hospitalized. They were illegally getting the information from [REDACTED] records and barring me from knowing anything about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] condition. It was terrifying. I didn't even know if [REDACTED] was really still in the hospital. So CPS then goes to the county attorney and tries to get her to prosecute [REDACTED] for abuse and she would not as there was not abuse on the father's part. The county attorney also told them that they were to get out of it as it was not a CPS case and that it was between the families. CPS did not obey the county attorney and continued to harass me and had their attorney [REDACTED] go to court and get [REDACTED] back to [REDACTED] Mom in the abusive situation. What kind of evil people would do that to a child? When [REDACTED] was well taken care of by [REDACTED] who loved [REDACTED] very much and took such good care of [REDACTED]. The Mom and the mom's boyfriends were the cause of [REDACTED] illness and they fight to get [REDACTED] back into a hideous situation like that. How sick are these people. So [REDACTED] is in Minnesota with [REDACTED] mom and [REDACTED] abusive boyfriend. [REDACTED] Mom went to the courts and lied to them and told them that I was harassing her and her family so I couldn't find out what she is doing [REDACTED]. She got a restraining order on me so I can't find out what she is doing [REDACTED] because she knows that I will report her to the police. So I have no contact with [REDACTED] and I am worried sick. So that is another child's life that CPS has destroyed. This is criminal activity that is going on in CPS, kidnapping, child endangerment, trafficking of children for money and child abuse. This is organized crime. They need to be prosecuted not just terminated from their positions. If anybody else committed these crimes they would go to prison and so should they. Even the ones that have left CPS are still responsible for these crimes that they committed and should also be punished. Why are you putting criminals on these boards and, why are they keeping criminals working in CPS? Especially the ones that have been there for a long time.

They are the head of this evil work and they need to go. Instead of putting them in higher positions. The FBI and the legal system need to get involved in this. This is a criminal matter. Please do this for the sake of these innocent helpless children.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Sandi Grob

79 Parklane Drive Kalispell, Montana 59901 Phone (406)755-2709 E-mail sandiweigumgrob@gmail.com

On June 29th, 2012 [REDACTED] were taken into custody by DFS because [REDACTED] told them [REDACTED] was choked and beat by [REDACTED]. What really happened was; on June 28th, 2012 [REDACTED] refused [REDACTED] dinner and yelled out that [REDACTED] hated living with [REDACTED] then went in [REDACTED] room and slammed the door shut. [REDACTED] went in afterwards to talk to [REDACTED] but instead grabbed [REDACTED] by the side of [REDACTED] neck and shoulder and put [REDACTED] in his arms and took [REDACTED] to the ground. [REDACTED] came running out crying and yelling that [REDACTED] was a jerk because [REDACTED] hit [REDACTED] head and scratched [REDACTED] neck. I asked [REDACTED] what happen and [REDACTED] said that when [REDACTED] went in to talk to [REDACTED] had a smirk on [REDACTED] face and that's when [REDACTED] just snapped and grabbed [REDACTED] intentions were not to hurt [REDACTED] but to put a end to [REDACTED] bad attitude towards us. [REDACTED] attitude has been an on going issue for some time thus the reasoning why [REDACTED] was going to counseling. [REDACTED] has seen my son before when he was 9 because of his behavior about [REDACTED] and I splitting up. I was very open to [REDACTED] about what had happen that the red mark on [REDACTED] neck was where [REDACTED] grabbed [REDACTED] and the scratch was from [REDACTED] watch.

Public Health and Human Services came to my house and threaten my husband and I with charges of Felony and failure to protect. [REDACTED] have never been abused in their life time. Nor is there any history of violence from my husband and I. This was an accident and we were treated like criminals. It took a month for anything to happen as far as me seeing [REDACTED] and what was going to happen with them. From the day they were taken until April 2nd, 2013 promises were made a few matters were taken care of and the case was dropped. I had to call every day to get the ball rolling, left several messages and none were returned. It was only when I went to DFS did I get to talk to anyone about my case. I lost almost a year with my kids because of a false accusation and no investigation was ever done. Even the detective said we weren't in the wrong.

It is very scary to know that [REDACTED] can be taken away and your rights gone over someone saying something happened and no investigation is done. [REDACTED] now thinks [REDACTED] has the right to talk back and we can't do anything about it because [REDACTED] knows what could happen. [REDACTED] is not the only kid that has threatened their parent/s if they touch them in any way they can call the police and we the parents can get into trouble. Abuse is wrong but correcting your child's behavior should not be a crime. I hope changes can be made in the way DFS handles their cases to protect children not harm them by taking them away from their home.

Jennifer Besel