

Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Friday, March 7th, 2014, 11 a.m.
Michigan Hall of Justice
925 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48915
Main Conference Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Kenneth Tacoma, Director Maura Corrigan, by her designee, Carol Hackett Garagiola, Shannon Lowder, Lori Budnik, Lani Forbes, Betsy Boggs, Gary Anderson, Susan Hull, Larry Watkins. DHS: Stacie Bladen, Colin Parks, Paul Gehm, Rebekah Visconti, Herman McCall, Jenifer Vorce, Kelcy Ensign.

Members Absent: Jenifer Pintar, Robin Eagleson, Robert Sykes, Julie Nakfoor Pratt, Fredrick Gruber, Terrance Gilseman.

1. Welcome

Judge Tacoma welcomed the members and DHS representatives to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. New Governor's Task Force member Larry Watkins was introduced by Judge Tacoma. Larry Watkins provided a brief background of his experience and what he brings to the Task Force.

2. Consideration of the Minutes

Motion by Linda Hallmark for Task Force to approve minutes from GTF meeting on 12/06/2013

Motion 2nd by Lani Forbes. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

3. Financial Report

J. Vorce gave the financial report. Copies of the current budget were provided to all Task Force members. The budget remains in good shape, and the task force has \$28,823 to spend before September 30, 2014.

Motion by Linda Hallmark to accept the budget report as received and filed.

Motion 2nd by Lori Budnik. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

4. DHS Update

Stacie Bladen and Colin Parks reported for DHS. There have been recent organizational changes within DHS. Suzanne Stiles Burke, Director of the Bureau of Child Welfare, has retired. Stacie Bladen is now the Acting Director. The Bureau of Child Welfare has been renamed the Office of Child Welfare Policy and Programs. Protect MiFamily has moved to Office of Child Welfare Policy and Programs. Mary Chaliman is Manager of Health Unit and Protect MiFamily. Herman McCall has taken over as director of Juvenile Programs for Teri Gilbert. The Child Care Fund has moved to the federal compliance unit, which is run by Jennifer Petibone.

S. Bladen reported that Department of Human Services business service centers have been implemented across the state, beginning in 2013. Currently, the state is split into 5 business service centers that are currently in full operation status, and align with the Governor's Prosperity Regions, which seek to help clients achieve independence. The purpose of these business service centers is to handle administrative duties so these tasks are not the responsibility of the local offices, which in turn frees local office up for direct client service. Overall, this has been positive benefit to local offices thus far.

S. Bladen reported that Director Corrigan has set priorities for DHS for 2014. These priorities include safety, predictive analysis, and suicide prevention. The Signs of Safety Model is a strength-based approach to safety planning with families. It makes safety planning more deliberate and focuses on strengths and keeping families in home. This model piloted in Calhoun, Wayne, and Saginaw counties. Predictive Analysis is an approach to prevent severe maltreatment and child abuse fatalities by using data and known risk factors to identify cases and apply additional oversight. This is based on model being used in Florida. This will be piloted in Ingham County. In terms of suicide prevention, there has been a 30% increase in youth and adult suicides in Michigan since 2010. Judge Tacoma inquired about specific numbers of suicides; however, this information was not readily available. S. Bladen indicated that she would obtain this information and would provide it to the Task Force.

S. Bladen reported that a recent issue in the media has been that of Performance Based Funding. A report on this was submitted to the Legislature on 3/1/14. Before Performance Based Funding is implemented, an evaluator, actuary, project director and project team need to be identified and secured. Additional precursors include legislative changes, implementation of MiSACWIS, and other logistics and activities. The plan would be for this to begin in one county and to learn from that pilot how to improve the model before including other counties in the roll-out. Performance Based Funding supports accountability for performance in public and private agencies, and aims to incentivize and achieve better outcomes for children and families.

S. Bladen provided updates, indicating that initial implementation of the MiTeam Model in Champion Counties begins April 2014. Peer Coaches, training, and support will be implemented. The practice model is inclusive of teaming, engagement, assessment, and mentoring. The Champion Counties are Kalamazoo, Lenawee, and Mecosta/Osceola. Full implementation in the Champion Counties is expected by Spring of 2015.

S. Bladen reported that MiSACWIS is the new system being implemented statewide to ensure that DHS is in compliance with the federal lawsuit. This system is nearly ready and is anticipated to roll out in late Spring 2014. Judge Tacoma inquired as to what the delay has been in rolling this system out. C.Parks reported that DHS has been in communication with federal monitors regarding the delays and have been advised that 4 to 6 delays in rolling out SACWIS is not uncommon. This is a vendor contracted program and SACWIS is live in other states currently.

Colin Parks provided updates on safe sleep legislation, HB 4962. This bill has been passed by the House, and has been referred to the Committee on Health as of 2/19/2014. If passed, this bill would require hospital staff to provide safe sleep materials to parents after giving birth. Materials will be provided to the hospitals by DHS and the Department of Community Health. C. Parks reported that in looking at the data, 2012 has been the first year in which the number of un-safe sleep related deaths in Michigan has been reduced. The average un-safe sleep related deaths per year in Michigan is near 140. In 2012, that number was reduced to 134 un-safe sleep related deaths per year.

C. Parks also reported that HB 4893 will amend Central Registry to include automatic expunction of individuals from the registry after 10 years. This will include anyone already on Central Registry, unless they've committed an egregious crime against a child as defined by the Child Protection Law. Individuals may request expunction from Central Registry, and after a local office case read, will be removed if their offense is 10 years old and does not meet CPL standards of an egregious act. HB 4893 will also allow courts to have access to Central Registry for purposes of legal guardianships. C. Parks explained there is also an issue with the sheer volume of the list; there are currently upwards of 278,000 individuals on Central Registry. DHS is working with the Department of Community Health to remove all deceased persons from Central Registry. Shannon Lowder asked if this bill, when passed, would impact grandparents' ability to obtain placement of their grandchildren if their placement on Central Registry is 10 or more years old, and C. Parks advised that the grandparent would need to request expunction through the local office and would then be removed from Central Registry and able to obtain placement. C. Parks reported that it is expected that Governor Snyder will sign this bill into law on 3/12/2014.

C. Parks also provided updates regarding Mandated Reporter training. He reported that the intent is to have an online training made available for all Mandated Reporters, and they will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training. This will cost roughly \$10,000. This is in the early planning stages at this time.

5. Committee Reports

Citizen Review Panel – Lani Forbes

The CRP project's first forum occurred on December 10th, 2013. The CRP met in Grand Rapids to discuss the issue of trauma (primary and secondary) in the child welfare system. The CRP invited MYOI representatives, DHS staff, Dr. Simms, and a representative from the Kent county CASA. Parent representatives, foster parents, and law enforcement representatives were also present. Lani Forbes reported that this event was a huge success and there was a great turnout. Betsy Boggs reported that this event is a great way for foster and adoptive parents to give feedback.

There are 2 additional forums being scheduled. The first is scheduled for 5/8/14 at the United Way in Flint. The second will be held in Alpena the first week of June 2014. Exact date and location are pending at this time. Lani Forbes encouraged all Task Force members to attend if possible, and to invite anyone they think may benefit from this event. On behalf of the CRP committee, Lani Forbes requested that lunch be provided at both upcoming events. Judge Tacoma reported that lunch could be provided with the funds previously allocated to this project from the Task Force.

Summit Committee – Judge Hallmark

Judge Hallmark reported the dates for the GTF Summit will be May 22-23, 2014 and will be at the Grand Travers Resort in Traverse City. The GTF meeting will be held on the evening of May 21st, at approximately 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at one of the resorts restaurants. Judge Hallmark encouraged Task Force members to invite anyone they think would be interested in the topic of medication for children in care. She reminded Task Force members that the target audience is judges, lawyers, legislators, and policy makers. There is no charge to attend the Summit, however, attendees will need to pay for their own travel and lodging expenses. Judge Hallmark reported that the GTF Summit will begin on May 22 at 11:30am to allow for travel time. She reported that

while Director Corrigan is unable to speak at the Summit due to other commitments, she may be able to stop in and say hello as she will be in the area for another event.

Legislative Committee – Paul Gehm

Judge Sykes could not attend today's GTF meeting due to emergency circumstances. Paul Gehm reported that there is currently legislation regarding adoption in the House. It is not necessary or appropriate for the Task Force to take a position on this because it is not related to child abuse or neglect. There has been no request for GTF action.

Training Committee –

Judge Tacoma asked and Task Force members agreed to accept as part of the minutes the report written by Julie Nakfoor Pratt on behalf of the Training Committee. This report was provided to all Task Force members with the agenda earlier this week. Judge Tacoma reported that the Medical Child Abuse and Model Protocols are now available in hard copy as well as electronically on the GTF website, and will be distributed to all DHS offices. Task Force members were given copies of the letter that will accompany the protocol distribution, as well as a thank you letter that will be sent by Judge Tacoma to previous Task Force members who worked on each of these protocols.

Noah Bradow of SCAO provided a written proposal to the Task Force to consider extending the DHS–SCAO inter-agency agreement from 1 year to 3 years. He explained that the uncertainties and delays inherent in the 1-year interagency agreement process made it difficult to secure the Kellogg Center for the 10th Annual 2-day SCAO/Task Force Conference. He reported that this conference will cost \$75,000, most of which includes facility costs. He asked Task Force members whether they would support reducing future SCAO/Task Force Annual Conferences from 2 days to 1 day, which would result in significant savings. Judge Tacoma asked whether the Task Force earmarks SCAO funds, and Noah Bradow reported that the funds are not earmarked. Judge Tacoma said that because the decision whether to hold a 1 or 2 day conference is not determined by the terms of the interagency agreement, Task Force members will provide input to SCAO regarding preference for a 1 day conference or a 2 day conference before SCAO makes a decision about the conference. Lani Forbes stated that the 2-day conference has great value, and suggested looking at venues other than the Kellogg Center for the SCAO conference to reduce facility costs.

Noah Bradow also explained that extending the DHS-SCAO interagency agreement from 1 year to 3 years would improve the quality of trainings, and would allow Michigan to adopt a core curriculum training model that other states are using. Carol Hackett Garagiola stated that she would support the extension of the interagency agreement to 3 years if this would better support a core curriculum training model, and provide workers, attorneys, judges and other child welfare system stakeholders with coordinated, consistent cross-disciplinary expertise. Judge Tacoma noted that 2/3 of the Task Force budget goes to SCAO for training purposes, and requested input from Task Force members on the proposal to extend the SCAO interagency agreement to 3 years. Judge Hallmark stated that the Task Force has supported SCAO for more than 10 years and should continue to support SCAO in all training endeavors because the Task Force has a mission to provide training to child welfare professionals. Noah Bradow said that if the interagency agreement was extended to 3 years, the agreement would provide that SCAO funding would be conditioned on the Task Force receiving sufficient funding to support the agreement. Shannon Lowder suggested considering a hybrid approach, to allow for extension of the interagency agreement to 3 years, but not for the full amount requested by SCAO. Gary Anderson suggested that the Task Force

take more time to consider the proposal, and review the documents provided by Noah Bradow, before making a decision.

Motion by Gary Anderson to table discussion regarding extension from 1 to 3 year SCAO and DHS inter-agency agreement.

Motion 2nd by Lani Forbes. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

Judge Tacoma requested that the Training Committee develop a recommendation regarding the proposal for the 3 year interagency agreement and the core curriculum, and provide this to the Task Force 1 week in advance of the next full Task Force meeting. If any Task Force members have questions, submit them to Noah Bradow via coordinator Kelcy Ensign.

Mental Health Committee – Dr. Shannon Lowder

The Mental Health Standards committee had a great discussion today during its meeting. Shannon Lowder reported that one of the issues the committee is working on is qualifications for therapists contracting with DHS. Currently, DHS requirements for qualifications for these therapists are minimal. The Mental Health Standards Committee also wants to coordinate with the Training Committee to discuss development of training for therapists who receive DHS contracts to work with children and families in the child welfare system. The Mental Health Standards Committee hopes that trainings can include web-based formats, and that certification of completion of required training would be provided. Specific areas of training would include, for example, trauma and sexual abuse. The Committee will connect with Gary Anderson to discuss best practice models for web-based training.

Another issue the Committee is tackling is the lack of standards for psychological evaluations provided in child welfare cases, including lack of standards for circumstances under which psychological evaluations should be provided, lack of standards for administration and reports regarding psychological evaluations, and lack of standards for qualifications of providers of psychological evaluations. Shannon Lowder said that the Committee would like to ensure that providers of psychological evaluations used by DHS in child welfare cases have contracts with DHS, which currently is not the standard or practice.

Carol Hackett Garagiola reported that the Committee is looking to national child advocacy resources to determine whether there are models or recommended best or promising practices regarding the issues the Committee is addressing.

Child Protection, Well Being and Permanency committee – Lori Budnik

This committee's plan continues to be to work on opening the communication lines and information sharing between DHS, schools, the juvenile justice system and agencies providing services to children who are homeless, to create better outcomes for children. The Committee has had two teleconferences since the last full Task Force meeting. Members of the committee have been sharing forms to determine if there is duplication or lack of information being shared between systems (JJ, DHS, Court, and School). The committee plans to develop a survey to send to counties to get input about overcoming barriers and they hope to be able to recommend policy changes that will influence outcomes for children in the system. The committee would like to assist statewide initiatives such as the school 2 prison and pathways to potential pilots. Noah Bradow noted that there is the Uninterrupted Scholars Act which allows for open communication between workers involved with Dual Wards.

Adoption Committee – Betsy Boggs

The committee continues to attempt to identify data sources about distressed and dissolved adoptions. Judge Tacoma sent out a survey to Michigan Probate Judges and good feedback was provided. It appears that while there are not many distressed and dissolved adoptions, the ones that do occur are very serious and difficult cases. Cathy Hoover at DHS is helping to obtain additional data on disrupted adoptions; Why are they disrupted and could anything have been done to prevent the disruption? Information has been received regarding families utilizing the post-adoption resource center. Currently 500 families are utilizing this support. A survey will be sent out on why these families are seeking the support and this can be tracked over time. The committee also plans to check with other states on how data is collected regarding distressed and dissolved adoptions.

Protocol Implementation Work Group – Carol Hackett Garagiola

Carol Hackett Garagiola reported that the executive order requires that there be a comprehensive plan for getting protocols out statewide and ensuring that the most updated protocols are being utilized. She reported that the work group has met and developed a plan to accomplish this charge and will be bringing the plan to the full task force for approval. Ensuring that the Human Trafficking Protocol, although this is not a GTF protocol, is disseminated statewide was discussed. Rebekah Visconti stated that the Human Trafficking protocol is an extension of GTF created protocols and would like this protocol to be disseminated statewide.

Motion by Linda Hallmark to disseminate the Human Trafficking Protocol with GTF protocols.

Motion 2nd by Shannon Lowder. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

6. New Business

Status of New Term Appointments to GTF

Carol Hackett Garagiola reported that Larry Watkins has filled the vacancy on the Task Force created by the retirement of Dan Adams. She noted that he is an educator, as the Task Force had requested. He comes to GTF highly recommended by professionals involved in Pathways to Potential. One vacancy remains in the area of child welfare expertise. The recommendations for this appointment have been submitted to the Governor's office. An announcement with the new appointee is anticipated to be forthcoming.

Consideration of Funding Request – Children's Summit 2014 – Lisa Wenger

Lisa Wenger provided documents to the Task Force with the agenda that was disseminated several days prior to the meeting. As a member of the planning committee for the Children's Summit, Lisa Wenger is requesting \$6,000 of GTF funds to assist in facilitating this training. In past years DHS has utilized discretionary funds to fund this training, however, those funds are not available this year. The training is for parents in need and is prevention based. It is free to participants. The training is in Wayne County, however, anyone around the state who might benefit from this training could attend; it is not exclusive to one county or area of the state, though most trainees will be coming from the Wayne, Washtenaw, Oakland, Macomb area. Lani Forbes asked about maybe contributing \$1,000 instead of the \$6,000 requested to ensure that GTF

fund are being split equally across the state. Gary Anderson requested that a budget be prepared for the Task Force to review before making a decision as this cost seems high for a half day training conference. Lisa Wenger gave a verbal report of the budget which includes \$4,000 for the key note speaker, \$1,000 for materials, \$2,200 for food, and \$400 for publicity. Shannon Lowder suggested that if anyone can attend, she has some in mind that might consider attending and she was encouraged to give them the registration information once available. Besty Boggs suggested requesting funds from Great Start and Lisa Wenger reported that Great Start is contributing in-kind contributions for publicity for the event, and also helping with child care during the event. Judge Tacoma requested a copy of the budget for all Task Force members to review so this could be voted on in May at the next full task force meeting.

Motion by Lani Forbes to table decision to fund Children's Summit until May 21, 2014 GTF Meeting.

Motion 2nd by Gary Anderson. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

7. Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force Report – C. Hackett Garagiola

There has been no change in the status of the implementation of the Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force since the last GTF meeting in December 2013. Legislation, HB 4493, that will eliminate the language in Erin's Law (2012 PA 593) that prohibits reimbursement of travel expenses for this task force remains pending. The appointments for this new task force will not be announced until this issue is resolved through passage of HB 4493 or similar legislation.

8. GTF Chair Report – Judge Tacoma

Judge Tacoma noted that this new Task Force is nearly a year old. Task Force Members were encouraged to do self- reflection and self- evaluation prior to the next full Task Force Meeting in May. Questions to ask include what progress have we made? What can we do better? What are our barriers? What are our successes?

9. GTF Future Meeting Schedule

It was reported the next meeting of the full task force will be May 21st, 2014 at 5:30pm at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa.

10. Public Comment

No public comment.

11. Adjourn

Motion by Betsy Boggs to adjourn the Full Task Force meeting.

Motion 2nd by Lori Budnik. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.