

**Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect**  
**Friday, December 13 2013, 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, Gary Anderson, Robin Eagleson, Lani Forbes, Linda Hallmark, Susan Hull, Robert Sykes, Julie Nakfoor Pratt, Terrance Gilsonan, Shannon Lowder, Lori Budnik, Fred Gruber, Jennifer Pintar, and Betsy Boggs. DHS: Colin Parks, Terry Gilbert, Paul Gehm and Jenifer Vorce.

**Members Absent:** Dan Adams, Danielle Loupee and Lisa Wenger.

**1. Welcome**

Judge Tacoma welcomed the members and DHS representatives to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

**2. Consideration of the Minutes**

Motion by Fredrick Gruber for Task Force to approve minutes from GTF meeting on 09/13/13  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Sykes. 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 Task Force has successfully spent the total from the FY11 grant, and that expenditures in the amount of \$144,210 will be carried over to FY12 CJA grant funds, leaving a remaining balance in that grant of \$348,319 to be spent before September 30, 2014. A projected expenditure sheet was provided to members. There was a question about the payroll expenditure and it was reported that the increase in this expense is due to the department's pay rate guidelines.

Motion by Terrance Gilsonan to accept the budget report as received and filed.  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betsy Boggs. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

**4. DHS Update**

Colin Parks reported for DHS. The Human Trafficking protocol was recently printed. It is a first of its kind for Michigan and Michigan is front and center on development of this type of protocol. Its purpose is to enhance the investigation of human trafficking crimes in Michigan. Copies of the new protocol were made available to all Task Force members at this meeting.

As required by the MSA, DHS must locate and develop 300 therapeutic foster care homes. A member asked where DHS is with this goal, and C. Parks reported he will get this information to the Task Force as soon as he has it.

C. Parks reported DHS, in collaboration with other agencies, has created proposed safe sleep legislation. With increased media support for the safe sleep initiative the department was hoping to but is still not seeing a decrease in the number of deaths from unsafe sleep. 2013 has the highest number yet with 9 (last year it was 4) deaths attributed to unsafe sleep conditions. The department saw an increase in these types of deaths occurring in day care homes (private as opposed to facilities) and reported the 9 are still being reviewed to clarify the details but it appears that most are happening when infants are laid in adult beds to sleep.

Centralized Intake, as of January 2013, received 200,000 calls, 105,000 were for CPS and 25,000 were for Adult Protective Services. Centralized Intake averages 5400 calls per week, and the average wait time is 2 minutes, a decrease from this time last year. The department's goal is to have the wait time under 1 minute. The assignment of cases is down from last year to 59%.

MiSacwis is scheduled to begin at the end of the first quarter. The system is still being tested and trained.

CPS referrals can now be emailed to Centralized Intake. The email address for these referrals is:

[DHS/CPS/CIGROUP@Michigan.gov](mailto:DHS/CPS/CIGROUP@Michigan.gov)

Member J. Pinta explained that CPS in her county (Alpena) recently reported prevention workers are no longer offered in the county. She asked C. Parks why this has occurred. She reported counties in the northern part of the state are in need of these workers because there are not available services in more remote areas of the state. Prevention workers were a great help in many instances for families in her county. C. Parks explained the prevention positions are county funded and the counties decide how to spend. Member S. Hull reported there are similar concerns in her county (Oakland), as the money to fund these positions is just not there. C. Parks reported the loss of prevention workers is acknowledged at the administrative level however it's difficult to maintain all of the needed programming at any level with the amount of money the department is allocated. (These funding issues and priorities are being examined in the DHS Child Care Fund Task Force).

P. Gehm with the DHS legal department explained the Attorney General's Commission on Human Trafficking presented a report in November and a host of bills were sent through following that report (17 to 19 bills introduced to legislators). The bills deal with a number of topics related to human trafficking, and P. Gehm will assure the legislative committee receives the information that was provided in the report along with the bills for review. A Safe Harbor provision requires trafficking victims to be treated as victims rather than as criminals. The bills will also include stricter penalties for perpetrators and will allow wire-tapping to help with investigations. Another bill in this series will create a fund for services to assist victims (psychological and medical services) and will broaden the scope of child welfare to give DHS jurisdiction over child victims.

It was reported the Safe Sleep legislation, HB 4962, was sent to the Senate yesterday (Thursday December 12). HB 4893 will amend Central Registry to include expunction of individuals after 10 years. This will include anyone already on Central Registry,

unless they've committed an egregious crime against a child. Member J. Pintar asked why the department wants to enact this legislation and C. Parks reported the central registry was created by DHS to assure there was a central list of those found to have been perpetrators of child abuse and/or neglect. The list prohibits employment in some occupations for many parents, and parents are not permitted to attend school functions or work in classrooms if they are on the registry. Although the list is confidential, entities may request information and will be told if an individual is not on the list. C. Parks explained there is also an issue with the sheer volume of the list. Individuals are told if they are placed on the registry, but there are challenges when parents don't understand what this means. Member B. Boggs asked if there is an effort to look at foster parents who have been placed on the central registry, and expressed her concerns that they may be held to a higher standard of required care simply because of their choice to foster. C. Parks reported that the DHS structured decision-making tool is not statistically validated for foster parents or other alternative caregivers. The department is in contact with NCCD to evaluate if an existing risk assessment could be utilized for these types of caregivers (or if a tool could be developed).

Terri Gilbert reported on behalf of the DHS Children's Juvenile Justice (CJJ) unit. She thanked the GTF for their support with the recent juvenile justice summit and talked about the event. All 83 counties were represented at the summit, and 73 counties were able to send a team to participate. There was standing room only for a number of presentations, as so many were interested in being a part of the event. The summit hosted national and state experts discussing truancy issues, concerns about the effects of out-of-school expulsions, and similar topics. Counties were asked to complete their own local plans and submit a report about their county plan. They are due next week (the week of December 16). Some counties have already submitted their ideas and the work so far is interesting. The CJJ plans to summarize the information received and provide it to participants. It was reported Muskegon was offered a grant to work on the issues surrounding the school to prison pipeline. Legislation about defining truancy is being considered. There are issues about the varying definitions between excused and unexcused absences across the state, and the impact of counting truancy as a disciplinary absence is also a concern. The zero tolerance policy from the Michigan Department of Education is particularly interesting and affecting attendance for minor infractions such as insubordination or dress code violations, and therefore the CJJ unit is taking a look at the possibility of legislation around the zero tolerance policy. T. Gilbert reported that data shows even one suspension means a student will not attend college.

T. Gilbert also reported about the Child Care Fund (CCF) task force. This task force has representatives including judges, court administrators, private partners and others in the child welfare field. They were asked questions about the CCF, including what aspects they like about the CCF and what should be changed. The top 5 issues were identified and workgroups were established to address them. Next week the work groups will be giving recommendations to the CCF task force. The work group issues are:

1. Fixing accounting issues. This will include how the state should pay for and be able to reconcile with the state funds.
2. Addressing data issues that have become fractured because funds have been distributed differently depending upon the county.
3. Expanding CCF eligibility to include prevention. Currently services are only being provided if kids are involved in court and the idea is to offer services at the school or law enforcement levels to keep kids from making it that far into the system.
4. A business model for collaboration. This workgroup is researching the ability for counties to work together.

5. A 75/25 split, meaning counties will be reimbursed at 75% instead of 50/50 as it has been. This last issue will require a statutory change. From the reports of the work groups, the CCF task force will analyze the results and move forward from there, while keeping in mind the system should be as functional as possible for Michigan's children. The CCF task force will create a performance based funding model that will begin when a case is sent from CPS to foster care. Recommendations for this funding model will be made in February 2014 after the Child Care Fund recommendations are reviewed, giving a cost benefit analysis. A final report will be issued in March 2014 to the legislature. Private agencies will be included on the report to the legislature. Judge Tacoma reported these are big issues that judges believe they should have a say in. G. Anderson asked how other states look with regard to the issue of the child care fund. T. Gilbert explained no other states look like Michigan's (funding wise). Michigan plans to support positive outcomes in child welfare services. Judge Tacoma asked if there were any updates about the recent MSA report. C. Parks reported he will provide information about any MSA updates that would be a priority to the GTF.

## **5. Committee Reports**

### **Citizen Review Panel – Robin Eagleson**

The CRP project's first forum was originally scheduled for November but was changed to December 10<sup>th</sup>. The CRP will be meeting in Grand Rapids to discuss the issue of trauma (primary and secondary) in the child welfare system. B. Boggs and J. Nakfoor Pratt have offered to assist in the project discussion. The CRP invited MYOI representatives, 11 DHS staff plan to attend, and Dr. Simms has been invited, as has a representative from the Kent county CASA. There will be parent representatives and law enforcement representatives too. The pilot will give each person wishing to address the panel members 3 minutes to talk about experiences pertaining to trauma. There will be no media invited to the event - this is a private discussion and no statements will be made by panel members. Any discussion about the results of the pilot will be reviewed by the GTF and any comments made will come directly from Judge Tacoma. The questionnaires have been sent out to Barry county DHS staff and the Panel will assure the GTF has a copy of the questionnaire for review.

### **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. She explained the resort is able to accept the state rates for accommodations and meeting space requirements. The GTF meeting will be held on the evening of May 21<sup>st</sup>, at approximately 5:30 pm and the committee is deciding about how to arrange the meal for the task force members. While allowing for travel time, the summit presentations should begin around 11am on May 22. There is typically a welcome from the GTF chair, and the committee will be asking if Director Corrigan would be available to say a few words as well. Dr. Bruce Perry will be the keynote speaker and will begin his presentation at approximately 12:30. Dr. Perry spoke for the task force at a previous summit about child brain development and was very well received. He will talk about the effects of medication on the brains of children and his presentation will continue through the afternoon. That evening the guests and task force members will have dinner on their own, and the next morning (May 23) there will be a breakfast, followed by a DHS update and 2 more presenters with a follow up and evaluations before guests are dismissed. If members have names or lists of individuals to invite to the Summit, please get contact information to J. Vorce. Typically judges, defense attorneys, and LGALSs, prosecuting attorneys, legislators and

child welfare professionals are invited to the Summit. Some additional suggestions are pediatricians, schools, child psychologists or those who have relationships with children in foster care.

### **Legislative Committee – Judge Sykes**

The Legislative committee has not met but at the next full task force meeting will have reviewed quite a few legislation issues (presented to the task force at today's meeting) and be ready to discuss with GTF members.

### **Training Committee**

Judge Tacoma explained Training committee chair D. Adams elected not to seek reappointment to the task force, and member J. Nakfoor Pratt has agreed to serve as chair of the training committee. C. Hackett Garagiola is on the training committee as well so there will be 4 members in that committee (including Noah Bradow with SCAO and Julie Welch with PAAM). Thank you to all who are participating.

### **Mental Health Committee – Dr. Shannon Lowder**

The Mental Health committee had a great discussion today in their meeting. S. Lowder reported one of the issues the committee was working on – qualifications for therapists contracting with DHS – is being looked into by the department. She explained the committee hopes to encourage DHS to 'beef up' their criteria for mental health service providers. The department currently uses background checks but this does not necessarily eliminate poor services providers. Nor does the current system require specific or ongoing training for mental health professionals regarding the needs of children and families involved in the child welfare system.

A second issue the committee is tackling has to do with the current state therapist directory. They are deciding, with DHS, whether or not it would make more sense to update the current listing, or to completely replace it.

The current rate for a psychological evaluation is being decided. S. Lowder asked DHS about this, and was told the department submitted a request for review of the current rate. The committee reported that they believe rate increases should be offered based on evaluators' quality of work, and they will continue to discuss these topics with representatives from DHS.

The committee also believes it would be beneficial for DHS field workers to be trained about the appropriateness of requesting psychological evaluations, explaining that approximately 80% of the cases in one Michigan County receive psychological evaluations. Judge Tacoma recommended that the Mental Health committee coordinate with the GTF training committee about trainings for workers and for judges as well. Judge Sykes talked about the use of a default agreement in every case, to screen those who don't necessarily require an evaluation. There was extended conversation about this topic, including the necessity of training prosecutors as well, and having case workers use a checklist of items that, if found with the parent or child, would indicate the need for an evaluation.

### **Child Protection, Well Being and Permanency committee – Fred Gruber**

This committee's plan is 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 will 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.

### **Adoption Committee – Betsy Boggs**

The committee is attempting to identify data sources about distressed and dissolved adoptions. Dawn Ritter with DHS helped by giving the committee information about adoption subsidy programs. Committee member Cathe Hoover from DHS will be trying to get data for the committee to review from post adoptive resource centers. All committee members were given assignments at the meeting and they've discussed with G. Anderson the data available through MSU. The Adoption committee will meet again in January or February to decide where to go from here. At that time hopefully they will know whether or not they will have data to research, or whether or not there is any and how the committee will move forward.

### **Protocol Implementation Work Group – Julie Nakfoor Pratt**

Julie Welch from PAAM gave an overview about how the protocol trainings will occur. She explained the seminar advisory committee met with Director Corrigan and it appears the Model Protocol can be rolled out through the existing contract between DHS CPS Program Office and PAAM. She explained with the first Model Protocol PAAM went to individual counties to see who needed training then rolled it out across the state, dovetailing trainings elsewhere where it was requested. Trainings will begin in the prosecutor's offices, and will include everyone the prosecutors feel should be a part of their county team. J. Pintar asked if there is something that shows the differences between the previous and current protocols, and J. Welch explained in the past the GTF coordinator has been responsible to create that. She will send J. Vorce an example form created showing the differences for the Forensic interviewing protocol. J. Nakfoor Pratt reported she will ask her committee to meet soon to develop a comprehensive plan for statewide training and implementation of model protocols. The issue of whether or not to name the counties that are not using the protocol was discussed. PAAM is putting out a survey for prosecutors to let us know if the counties have and/or are using a protocol currently. J. Pintar volunteered to work with the Protocol Implementation committee. Judge Tacoma asked about the responsibility of the task force with regard to the human trafficking protocol, and C. Parks explained that the department is already looking into how to roll out and train this protocol. J. Nakfoor Pratt reported the training committee will review what DHS does with the Human Trafficking protocol, and see that the courts receive some sort of training on the new requirements.

## **6. New Business**

### **Funding Request for Clinton County CASA**

Discussion about funding requests for program specific projects. The members discussed creating policy for receiving funding requests. Members agreed that this funding request is not within the scope of the task force's authority to support with CJA funds as the use of CJA funds is specifically limited by the CJA grant.

Motion by Robert Sykes to inform Michigan CASA, with regret, that the task force cannot fund this project.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Susan Hull. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

## **Funding Request for Michigan CASA Organization**

Discussion centered around the fact that funding for these events does not fall within the scope of the authority of the task force to use CJA grant funds. Expenditure of federal dollars is limited to the requirements found in the CJA grant.

Motion by Fred Gruber to inform Michigan CASA, with regret that the task force cannot fund this project.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Hallmark. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

## **Open Meetings Act**

J. Vorce reported after reading the requirements for the open meetings act and checking in with DHS legal about their expectations, the meetings for the task force have been posted at the DHS building and on the Hall of Justice website for the rest of this year and for the meetings of 2014. Meetings have also been posted on the GTF website. Arrangements have been made with the Hall of Justice in case there are public visitors who wish to attend. Member T. Gilseman recommended also posting the agenda as well. And it was reported when the minutes are complete they too will be posted on the GTF website.

## **Final Grant Notification**

It was reported Michigan (through the Governor's Task Force work) was approved for the CJA grant funds for 2014. The amount awarded was \$485,000.

## **Status of New Term Appointments to GTF**

C. Hackett Garagiola reported the recommendations for GTF appointments have been submitted to the governor's office.

## **Report Request from Governor's Office**

Judge Tacoma explained C. Hackett Garagiola submitted a report, with his approval, before the Thanksgiving holiday to update the governor about the progress of the GTF. The report highlighted the work of the committees and progress to date. A copy of that report will be made available to the task force members for their information. Judge Tacoma thanked C. Hackett Garagiola for her work on this.

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

Legislation, HB 4493, was introduced and is pending that will eliminate the language in Erin's Law (2012 PA 593) that prohibits reimbursement of travel expenses for this task force. 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 reported that the executive committee will plan to meet at the Summit to review the charge of the task force. He also reported, for the information of the task

force, member Danielle Loupee resigned her position on the GTF. She sent a letter explaining that because of new employment, her required commitment and demands will preclude her from meaningfully participating on the GTF.

**9. GTF Future Meeting Schedule**

It was reported the next meeting of the full task force will be March 7, 2014 at the Hall of Justice. Meetings are now posted on the GTF website:

[http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-7119\\_50648\\_66367---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-7119_50648_66367---,00.html)

**10. Public Comment**

Noah Bradow with SCAO reported the calendar for the GTF funded trainings for 2014 is full and the annual conference planning is underway as well. He asked that if members have any input, suggestions, or concerns that they feel free to contact him. Noah provided a schedule of the coming trainings for each of the task force members at this meeting.

**11. Adjourn**

Motion by Robert Sykes to adjourn the Full Task Force meeting.

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Susan Hull. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.