

# **Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children**

## **MEETING MINUTES December 9, 2014**

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**\*\*\*APPROVED\*\*\***

### **Members Present:**

Dr. Johanna Buzolits  
Deborah Carley  
Thomas Cottrell  
Jerry Dorsey, IV  
Kathy Hagenian  
Dr. Angie Kennedy  
Thomas Knapp  
Mary Lovik  
Hon. Cheryl Matthews  
Phyllis Van Order  
Dorie Vasquez-Nolan  
Carol Hackett Garagiola, Chair

### **Members Absent:**

Sgt. Mark Boody  
Kristen Clark

### **DHS Staff Present:**

Kelcey McArthur  
Danielle Marek

### **Guests Present**

Orlene Hawks, Michigan Children's Ombudsman  
Jim Peden, Deputy Children's Ombudsman  
Teresa Huizar, Executive Director, National Children's Alliance

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair C. Hackett Garagiola convened the sixth meeting of the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children, at the General Office Building, Conference Room B, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 7015 Harris Drive, Dimondale, MI 48813 on December 9, 2014 at 9:00 am, welcoming and thanking members and DHS staff for their participation. Guests, Orlene Hawks, Michigan Children's Ombudsman, and Jim Peden, Deputy Children's Ombudsman, also were welcomed to the meeting and thanked for their presence and participation. Task Force members and DHS staff introduced themselves.

## **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion: T. Cottrell to approve December 9, 2014 meeting agenda. Seconded by T. Knapp. Motion carried.**

## **Approval of November 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion: Dorie Vasquez Nolan to approve the November 6, 2014 meeting minutes. Seconded by Tom Cottrell. Motion carried.**

## **Administrative Matters**

Members were advised that the Governor's Office would be appointing new members to fill the vacancies for a school board representative and for individuals with expertise in education created by the retirements from the Task Force of members P. Fitzgerald and K. Clark. The Governor's Office was sensitive to the timeframe for completion of Task Force responsibilities and was working on an expedited basis to make the appointments to support the efforts of the Task Force.

## **Remarks by Michigan Children's Ombudsman Orlene Hawks**

Honored guest, Michigan Children's Ombudsman Orlene Hawks, informed Task Force members about the expanded statutory responsibilities of the Office of Children's Ombudsman (OCO) that include investigating and making recommendations regarding systemic challenges in the Michigan child welfare system. She provided an overview of the work of the OCO, and described her vision to enhance the prevention efforts of the OCO. She expressed her interest in and support for the work of the Task Force, as well as her interest in the presentation to be provided by Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of the National Children's Alliance, during the Task Force meeting. Members expressed gratitude for O. Hawks' personal appearance at the meeting, her vision for the OCO, and her support for Task Force work.

## **Information Gathering Status and Updates**

J. Buzolits reported on the progress of survey content and process. The survey will be released for response as soon as Task Force members handling survey liaison work with various organizations complete arrangements for providing the survey to their assigned organizations. Target date for survey release is mid-January.

Members discussed inclusion of faith-based organizations in the survey and/or in other information gathering efforts of the Task Force, and the most efficient and useful methods to accomplish such information gathering.

## **Report of Conversations**

Members were advised about the phone conversation that took place on November 21, 2014 with Bart Klika, who had been identified as an expert in child sexual abuse prevention by University of Michigan Law School Professor Frank Vandervort. Members had been invited to participate in the phone conversation as schedules

permitted. Members had been invited to participate in the call for purposes of receiving information only. Members had been advised that the phone call was not a meeting of the Task Force, and that no deliberations toward any Task Force decisions or recommendations would take place during the call. Members had been advised that information heard during the call would be reported to all Task Force members during the December 9, 2014 meeting.

Members were advised that participants in the November 21 phone conversation included Bart Klika, University of Montana School of Social Work and research consultant for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding issues related to prevention of child abuse and neglect; Frank Vandervort, University of Michigan School of Law, Child Advocacy Law Clinic, Juvenile Justice Clinic, and President of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children; Joshua B. Kay, University of Michigan School of Law, Child Advocacy Law Clinic, Juvenile Justice Clinic; Task Force members M. Lovik, and D. Carley; Task Force chair C. Hackett Garagiola, and Task Force DHS liaison D. Marek.

Members were advised that during the November 21 phone call, Bart Klika provided information about his work with the CDC regarding prerequisites for successful implementation of child abuse prevention programs, which prerequisites are relevant to child sexual abuse prevention programs, including: developing community partnerships; understanding and collecting state and community level data; understanding community norms; and having clear definitions for state and community stakeholders. He described work regarding “community norms” by Jeff Linkenbach, and work regarding community based child sexual abuse prevention by Jon Conte, and he recommended these for consideration. He discussed the “stages of change” model as applied to community readiness for child sexual abuse prevention. He discussed his review of literature regarding the effectiveness of child sexual abuse prevention programs, and noted the dearth of prevention programs specifically directed at perpetrators and potential perpetrators, other than some programming regarding “healthy relationships” and “boundaries.” He suggested investigating the work of Elizabeth Letournea regarding research involving juvenile perpetrators, and the work of Mark Chaffin regarding adolescent sex offender treatment programs. He discussed a public health model of prevention and recommended the work of David Finkelhorn (which work already has been recommended to our Task Force by member A. Kennedy.) He discussed variations among mandatory reporting laws in the U.S. He offered to provide continuing support and consultation for the work of the Task Force.

### **Mandated Reporter Law Discussion**

Members discussed the current provisions of Michigan law regarding mandated reporting of child sexual abuse, and their understandings of those provisions. In the interests of time, members agreed to continue to a future meeting conversation regarding Michigan’s mandated reporting law, comparison of Michigan law to other states’ laws, and the relative merits of these laws.

### **Member Leadership of Task Force Work**

Members discussed and reviewed Task Force member leadership roles in Task Force work.

Member D. Carley agreed to assume leadership responsibilities for investigating best and promising practices regarding criminal justice system and child welfare system responses to child sexual abuse. She agreed to contact national educational and policy organizations for prosecutors and provide this information to the Task Force. Member J. Dorsey IV agreed to work with member D. Carley in this effort.

Member M. Boody previously has agreed to contact national educational and policy organizations for law enforcement officers regarding best and promising practices in the response to child sexual abuse, and provide this information to the Task Force.

Member Hon. C. Matthews agreed to contact national educational organizations for judges to investigate best and promising practices regarding criminal justice system, child welfare system, domestic relations system and other court systems' responses to child sexual abuse, and provide this information to the Task Force.

Member P. Van Order agreed to assume leadership responsibilities for investigating best and promising practices regarding medical system responses to child sexual abuse, and provide this information to the Task Force.

Member D. Busley agreed to assume leadership responsibilities for investigating best and promising practices regarding child sexual abuse awareness and primary prevention programs, and provide this information to the Task Force.

Members J. Butzolits and A. Kennedy continue leadership responsibilities regarding data and research, and general information regarding prevention models.

Members K. Hagenian and T. Cottrell continue leadership responsibilities regarding outreach to survivors and their families, and perpetrators and their families, for information gathering purposes.

Prior to her retirement from the Task Force, former member K. Clark had been assuming leadership responsibilities regarding school-related Task Force matters. To the extent it is reasonable, newly appointed Task Force members with backgrounds in the field of education will be requested to continue those leadership responsibilities.

### **Presentation by Teresa Huizar, Executive Director, National Children's Alliance**

Through the efforts of member T. Knapp, Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of the National Children's Alliance (NCA), was present at the meeting and provided members with information about the work of the NCA and various child advocacy

centers (CACs) throughout the nation. She provided a brief history of the NCA, and gave members materials and data regarding NCA responsibilities. She discussed generally the accomplishments of communities with CACs compared with non-CAC communities, including: better coordinated investigations of child sexual abuse cases; shorter times to dispositions; financial savings per case; successful prosecution rates; provision of medical and mental health examinations and treatment; and satisfaction of victims' families with the CAC experience.

She discussed the role of CACs in some communities regarding the provision of prevention programming, including: general community awareness; mandated reporter training; body safety education; technical assistance to child- and family-serving organizations regarding policy development; caregiver and parent education regarding prevention; identification of "at risk" and "sexually reactive" children and youth, and early intervention to prevent perpetration; assistance to victims regarding minimization of potential "life span" vulnerability, including trauma-informed work with schools to assist educators to understand the experiences, behaviors and needs of these children and youth and to promote educational success for these children and youth. She advised that all CACs do not provide all of these services. She also advised that CAC personnel do not necessarily provide these services directly, but rather in partnership and cooperation with professionals and experts in the community served by the CAC. She described some efforts considered by the NCA to be exemplary, including CAC efforts in Omaha, Memphis, Charleston, and in the state of Tennessee.

She advised that no national standards exist for child sexual abuse educational curricula, but that NCA provides review of submitted curricula. She advised that the NCA also will approve forensic interviewing protocols and curricula submitted to the NCA, and that the NCA has approved Michigan's forensic interviewing protocol and the training curriculum provided via the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan.

T. Huizar responded to Task Force members' questions. Members thanked her for her appearance at the meeting and for the information she provided, as well as for the generosity of the NCA in covering all costs related to her appearance and presentation. Members thanked T. Knapp for his efforts to make this presentation possible.

### **Lunch**

Members participated in a lunch at their own expense, using no public funds.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

### **Thank you and next meeting**

C. Hackett Garagiola thanked members for the thoughtful discussion that took place during the meeting. She reminded members that D. Busley had arranged for the

appearance at the next Task Force meeting on January 15, 2015, of Rebecca Gordon, Executive Director of a public relations group working on child sexual abuse prevention efforts, and a technical assistance provider for the U.S. Department of Justice regarding child sexual abuse prevention efforts. D. Busley will cover all costs related to this appearance and presentation. Members expressed gratitude for the efforts of D. Busley.

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, January 15, 2015  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
General Office Building  
Conference Room B – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
7015 Harris Drive  
Dimondale, MI 48813

**Adjournment**

**Motion: J. Dorsey, IV to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by T. Cottrell.**

**Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Hackett Garagiola