

Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice

Friday, October 5, 2007, 12 Noon

Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa, Lansing, MI

Conference Room 1S-74BC

Minutes

Members Present: Justice Elizabeth Weaver, Sandra Amen-Bryan, Nancy Diehl, Shauna Dunnings, Don Duquette, Elias Escobedo, Gloria Gillespie, Bill Lansat, Sandy Lindsey, Christine McPherson, JoAnn Monaghan, Jolanda Murphy, Sue Parrish, Lawrence Richardson, Pat Sorenson, Lisa Sullivan, David Wolock, DHS: Ted Forrest, Mary Mehren, Colleen Nelson, SCAO: Carol Siemon

Members Absent: Wayne Beerbower, Sue Dobrich, Sydney Duncan, Nancy Francis, Pamela Gilbert-O'Sullivan, John Gravier, Linda Hallmark, Judy Hartsfield, Radwan Khoury, Kathy Kovalchik-Lacko, Judy Labovitz, Mark Liss, Ted Melinat, Eugene Moore, Bob O'Brien, Greg Pittman, Michael Reisch, Alice Thompson, Pat Wagner, Tracey Yokich, DHS: Jim Hennessey, Steve Yager

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of May 11, 2007 Task Force meeting

Motion by Nancy Diehl to approve minutes. Motion 2nd by David Wolock. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

3. DHS Report-Mary Mehren

- DHS has begun the planning for the federal Child and Family Services Review. DHS does not yet have the date for when the review will take place.
- Cases are being read as part of the Children's Rights Lawsuit.
- Maximus is reviewing cases to ensure all cases eligible for Title IVe funds are receiving those funds.
- DHS has received a grant from Casey Family Programs-the 2020 grant. Goal of the grant is to cut foster care caseloads in half by 2020. It will also focus on teens ageing out of the foster care system and the disproportionality of African American and Native American children in foster care. The grant provides money and intensive technical assistance.
- New DHS Director is Ismael Ahmad and the new Chief Deputy Director is Stan Stewart. Kathyne O'Grady is the Deputy Director of Children and Adult Policy.

4. Camera Purchase-Colleen Nelson

Cameras have been purchased and are with DIT Depot. Memory cards have not yet been received. Once the memory cards are received, DIT Depot will be mailing out the cameras, memory cards, and cases to the local DHS offices.

5. Committee Reports

A. Collaboration, Coordination, & Problem Solving-Sue Dobrich & Sandy Lindsey

(1) Domestic Violence Training

GTF previously approved up to \$30,000 in funding for DV training for CPS staff. This training was scheduled to be completed during FY 2007

by the Michigan DVPTB and CWI. The training was cancelled because it was determined to be non-essential for DHS staff. Motion by Sandra Lindsey to re-approve funding (up to \$30,000) for the DV training to be held during FY 2008, if DHS will make the training essential and mandatory for CPS workers. Motion 2nd by Elias Escobedo.

(2) Yellowbook Update

Addendum has been completed. An L-Letter went out to DHS staff regarding the availability of the Guidelines for Achieving Permanency in Child Protection Proceedings (Yellowbook) with addendum, through Children's Charter. Children's Charter received 100s of requests for the guide. The guides were, and will continue to be, distributed upon request. Requests should be made to Children's Charter.

SCAO, through the Court Improvement Project, will be conducting training on the Yellowbook on the following dates: 3/13/08-Grand Rapids, 4/17/08-Lansing, 5/2/08-Gaylord, and 5/27/08-Lavonia.

(3) MPHI Contract-Shannon Stotenbur-Wing

MPHI has developed a draft of the Michigan Child Death and Severe Injury Coordinated and Comprehensive Investigation Protocol. It is being reviewed at this time. MPHI has also updated the Child Death Scene Investigation tool. They are working on the formatting of this tool at this time.

(4) Request for Quote-Coordinated Investigation Protocol Project

A request for quote was released for a project that will provide for a statewide assessment of each county's coordinated investigative protocol to determine if it is current and updated regularly, readily available to all participants, currently being used, and being trained on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the Child Protection Law. One bid, from MPHI, was received. Bid was reviewed by Sandra Lindsey, Sue Dobrich and Colleen Nelson. More detailed information is needed from MPHI before making a reward recommendation.

(5) Request for Quote-Evidence Based Practice Grid

The committee had developed a statement of work (SOW) for the evidence-based practice grid, which is outlined in the GTF strategic plan. The SOW will be sent out the full committee for review. Comments are due 11/2/07. No comments from a member will mean the member approves the SOW, as is. Funding for this project, if approved by GTF, would be up to \$50,000. If there are national or Michigan vendors that members believe should be sent this bid, once approved, send the names to Colleen.

(6) Strategic Plan

The committee met with Chuck Jones and Stan Parker of DHS to refine the GTF strategic plan. The committee developed business plans for two of the strategic plan goals. The business plans will be sent to the full committee for review. Comments are due 11/2/07. No comments from a member will mean the member approves of the business plan.

B. Training-Bill Lansat

(1) Misc. Updates

- Bill attended a workgroup meeting for the development of guidelines to facilitate communication between FOC/CPS. Once the guidelines are complete, the workgroup may request funds to train the guidelines.
- The University of Michigan School of Social Work's Recruitment and Retention of Child Welfare Workers program requested up to \$8,000 in GTF funds to pay for travel expenses for CPS, DHS and private agency foster care, tribal social services workers to attend an advanced Indian Child Welfare Act training.

Motion by Bill Lansat to approve the request for funding of up to \$8,000 for travel reimbursement if the following two conditions are met:

1) DHS determines the training to be essential.

2) Carol Siemon reviews the curriculum and determines that it does not duplicate ICWA training already being done by PAAM and SCAO. Motion 2nd by Sandra Lindsey. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

- During FY 2007, GTF agreed to use CJA funds to reimburse DHS employees for travel expenses when attending GTF, SCAO, and PAAM funded trainings.

Motion by Sandra Lindsey to continue using CJA funds to reimburse DHS employee's and tribal social services worker's travel expenses when attending GTF, SCAO, and PAAM funded trainings if the following two conditions are met:

Travel cannot be reimbursed by another funding source.

DHS/tribal workers would not be able to attend the training if GTF did not fund travel reimbursement. Motion 2nd by Bill Lansat. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

(2) SCAO Update-Carol Siemon

Carol Siemon provided a written report of SCAO's FY 2007 activities under the Interagency Agreement. SCAO training schedule for FY 2008 and beyond can be found on the GTF Web site.

(3) PAAM Training Update-Colleen Nelson

GTF funded two ICWA trainings in July 2007 and 50 % of the Advanced CPS Investigation Training in August 2007. Both trainings were determined to be essential for DHS staff so DHS employees were able to attend. Trainings were very well received.

C. Citizens' Review Panel – Gloria Gillespie

a. Mandated Reporter Project

Panel has been looking at the issue of how to ensure mandated reporters report CA/N as required under the Child Protection Law. MSU submitted a proposal to the task force regarding this same issue. The panel reviewed and agreed not to fund MSU's project.

The panel learned that DHS has a Web site for mandated reporters. Panel will be looking at how to inform mandated reporters of the Web

site. The panel also wants to look at targeting certain groups of mandated reports such as the clergy. The panel will be looking at this issue further and coming up with a plan for action. This may include the development of a DVD.

Sandra Lindsey reported that the Governor's Offices has a position whose function is to develop partnerships with faith communities. Also, the Ezekiel Project is an interfaith community organization, which may be a good resource. Dave Wolock reported that most faith communities have publications. Don Duquette suggested working with a representative from a faith community on how to frame the message to clergy. Sue Parrish indicated via email that there is a Native American priest by the name of Henry Sands in Detroit and would be an excellent resource for this project. Sue will send his contact information.

Sandra Lindsey also reported that the State of Michigan Medicaid Payment Office sends lots of written communication to physicians. This may be a possible way to communicate with physicians.

b. Permanency Project

Legislation has been introduced to make changes to the statutes related to permanency for children (mainly Binsfeld legislation). Legislative Committee will be reviewing these bills and will make recommendations. CRP will no longer be looking at this issue.

D. Summit-Colleen Nelson for Linda Hallmark

Summit will be held April 25 and 25, 2008 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City.

E. Legislative Committee-Lisa Sullivan

(1) Senator Bill Hardiman met with the Executive Committee regarding the privatization of foster care services in Michigan. General discussion from the task force regarding Hardiman's bill and privatization of foster care and its potential consequences for MI.

(2) Legislation has been introduced (SBs 668-672) to make changes to the statutes related to permanency for children (mainly Binsfeld legislation). Legislative Committee will be reviewing these bills and will make recommendations.

(3) Don Duquette believes there is a section of Michigan's termination of parental rights statute that seems to have had unintended consequences in the child welfare cases. The section that Don is concerned about now gives the family court authority to terminate parental rights if:

(m) The parent's rights to another child were voluntarily terminated following initiation of proceedings under section 2(b) of this chapter or a similar law of another state.

The Legislative Committee will be reviewing this statute per Don's request.

F. Video Recording Legislation-Colleen Nelson for Steve Yager

HB 4038 (the vehicle bill for recording) is not dead yet. Other options are being explored for amending the video recording statutes without getting in to the CPL. With the budget issues, this is all on hold for now, and has been for some time.

6. Financial Report – Colleen Nelson

FY 2005 Grant (funds to be spent by 9/30/07)-approximately \$23,000 left. An exception to extend the deadline for use of the funds was requested and approved so the \$23,000 will be rolled over to FY 2006. FY 2006 Grant (funds to be spent by FY 08), including the rolled over funds is approximately \$600,000. About \$127,000 of that grant is unencumbered. We received our grant award for the FY 2007 grant and it is \$550,863.

7. Old Business-None

8. New Business

Don Duquette brought up an issue of due process in Child Protection Proceedings. The non-offending caretaker can plea to the petition allowing the court to take jurisdiction, thus giving the court authority to place orders on the “alleged perpetrator” without the “alleged perpetrator” being able to have a trial to prove the allegations. Don will write up this issue and Legislative Committee will review.

9. Announcements-None

10. Public Comment-None

11. Future Meetings Dates

Friday, January 11, 2007, Lansing, location TBA

Wednesday, April 23, 2008, Traverse City, MI (Day prior to Summit)

12. Adjourn

Meeting Minutes Prepared By:

C. Nelson

10/8/07