

**Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice  
Strategic Plan  
Adopted March 9, 2007**

**Vision Statement**

The GTF is a leading catalyst for positive change in the child welfare system.

**Mission Statement**

The GTF encourages innovative programs, develops protocols, provides training and education, and proposes legislation to enhance Michigan's response to child abuse and neglect.

**Values**

Accountability  
Collaboration  
Cultural Competency  
Excellence  
Innovation  
Integrity

**Goals & Initiatives**

Goal #1 – Ensure that abused & neglected children & their families have access to effective evidence-based programs and services.

Initiatives

1. Grid of programs/services  
Determine what local services are available and systematically update and disseminate the information.
2. Expand collaborative programs (e.g. wraparound programs, therapeutic court, mediation, diversion programs).

Goal #2 – Ensure all participants of the child welfare system are educated, prepared & committed through effective training opportunities.

Initiatives

1. Determine what trainings are available and systematically update and disseminate the information. (Note: end result would be to have a training "clearinghouse" web-site.)

2. Cross-training (DV, PS, Foster Care, judges, law enforcement, mental health, private agencies, private therapists).
3. Provide training on cultural competency.
4. Provide training on the Indian Child Welfare Act.
5. Develop, publish and distribute a best practices protocol for organizations and individuals who have or are mandated reporters the reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect.
6. Training for mandated reporters.
7. Promote compliance with Child Protection Law required protocols.

Goal #3 – Educate and influence policymakers at the national, state, and local level to promote positive outcomes for abused and neglected children.

#### Initiatives

1. Participate in the legislative process.
2. Communicate with legislators and policymakers on task force initiatives and issues.
3. Identify partners to support task force initiatives and issues.  
(Note: Begin to develop a relationship with DHS' legislative liaison, Ron Hicks.)

Goal #4: Promote innovative approaches to enhance the child welfare system.

#### Initiatives

1. Identify local, national, and international best practices and effectively promote their use in Michigan.
2. Grid of promising programs/services.
3. Fund and evaluate statewide research that will enhance the evidence-based handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

Goal #5: Engage communities in protecting children and supporting families.

#### Initiatives

1. Identify and train new community volunteers.
2. Recruit and identify foster families.
3. Increase awareness of the general public on the reporting of suspected CA/N.

- a. Public Service Announcements will be developed, i.e. “Your phone call could save a life”.
- b. Informational materials to be developed & distributed **to the general public.**