

## **Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Thursday, February 23rd 2023 – 11:00 AM**

**Electronic Meeting: Zoom**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ursula Ahart, Kimberly Clemons, Kyleen Gee, Jackie Igafo-Te'o, Dr. Alane Laws-Barker, Ivana Maplanka, Lynda McGhee, Joseph Merritt, Hon. Christopher Ninomiya, James Perlaki, Patricia Sabin, Suzanna Shkreli, Nichole Smithson, Demetrius Starling, Vice Chairperson Alex Brace, Chairperson Annie Harrison

**Members Absent:** Hon. Yasmine Poles

**Agency Representation:** Veronica Flores, MDHHS; Steven King, CACMI; Josh Bissell, CACMI; Kate McPherson, SCAO

#### **I. Call to order**

- a. Attendance was taken by roll call.
- b. Chairperson Harrison called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

#### **II. Welcome and web-based meeting procedures**

- a. Chairperson Harrison welcomed task force members, agency representatives and members of the public
- b. Chairperson Harrison announced an update to the agenda (moved consideration of minutes to occur after the Chairperson report.)

#### **III. Public comment**

- a. None.

#### **IV. Chairperson report: Detective Annie Harrison**

- a. Announced the selection of Alex Brace as Vice Chairperson of the Governor's Task Force.
- b. The Governor's Office Appointments Division shared with Annie Harrison and Veronica Flores that appointments are delayed and the members seeking reappointment may continue to serve until the appointments are announced in the next month. Here are the members seeking reappointment whose terms are extended until appointments are made:
  - Annie Harrison, Chairperson
  - Alex Brace
  - Dr. Alane Laws-Barker
  - Kimberly Clemons

- Jackie Igafo-Te’o
  - Ivana Maplanka
  - Joseph Merritt
- c. For purposes of quorum and voting, the Executive Order states: A majority of the members serving shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the Task Force's business. The Task Force shall act by a majority vote of its members in attendance. Only members with current, not expired terms, will participate in voting. Those members are: Ursula Ahart, Kyleen Gee, Lynda McGhee, Hon. Christopher Ninomiya, James Perlaki, Hon. Yasmine Poles (absent), Patricia Sabin, Suzanna Shkreli, Nichole Smithson, Demetrius Starling
- d. 2023 Subcommittee and Chair Announcements:
- CRP: Chair Dr. Laws-Barker
  - Training/Protocol: Chair Suzanna Shkreli
  - Protocol: Co-chairs Alex Brace and Annie Harrison
  - Summit: Chair Annie Harrison: set to reconvene in approx. summer
  - Legislative: Chair Alex Brace
  - TBD Guideline: Annie Harrison
- e. Next meeting is in person and we will feature a speaker. Any recommendations, please send to Annie Harrison or Veronica Flores

**V. Consideration of minutes from GTFCAN meeting on November 18, 2022**

- a. A **MOTION** was made by Kyleen Gee to approve the November 18th, 2022 minutes without a reading. The motion was seconded. The motion carried. All in favor. (Members Kimberly Clemons, and Jackie Igafo-Te’o were not present for this vote.)

**VI. Vice Chairperson report: Alex Brace**

- a. Vice Chair Alex Brace thanked Chairperson Harrison for the selection and shared that he is excited to serve. Mr. Brace congratulated and commended the Summit Subcommittee on the success of the GTF Summit.

**VII. Department of Health and Human Services report: Children’s Services Administration Executive Director Demetrius Starling**

- a. Director Demetrius Starling provided an update from MDHHS.

**VIII. Coordinator report: Veronica Flores**

- a. Veronica Flores reviewed the provided financials and grants.

- b. The Children's Justice Act grant application is due May 31st.
- c. Correspondence will be sent approximately two weeks before the meeting for virtual GTF meetings. For in person meetings, you will receive correspondence two months before the meeting to help coordinate travel for those that need it as well as two weeks before the meeting with the meeting packet.

**IX. Report from Agency representatives:**

**a. State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Services: Kate McPherson**

- Shared about Adoption Day and Reunification Day. These special and exciting days will be hosted by the Michigan Supreme Court and SCAO-CWS.
- An update on training held in the last quarter was provided.

**b. Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan: Josh Bissell**

- CACMI was pleased to offer support for the GTF Summit in December.
- The 13th Annual Child Advocacy conference is coming up July 24th and 25<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Motor City Casino, Detroit. GTF will be presenting sponsor again this year. Registration will open on March 17th.
- CACMI continues to serve on and support subcommittees.
- Reported out on prior and upcoming training.

**c. Other agency reports**

- None.

**X. Committee Activity (Written Reports submitted)**

**a. Executive Committee: Detective Annie Harrison**

- Chairperson Harrison highlighted these points in her Chairperson report. Nothing additional to report at this time.

**b. Citizen Review Panel: Dr. Alane Laws-Barker**

- Dr. Laws-Barker shared that the subcommittee is in the creation phase of the CRP website. This project has a soft launch of September, 2023. Stay tuned for the virtual ribbon cutting on the website.

**c. Protocol Subcommittee: Alex Brace & Detective Annie Harrison**

- The final draft of the protocol revision is complete and was submitted in the packet.
- Alex Brace extends a special thank you to the protocol subcommittee for all of their hard work and dedication on this project. Chairperson Harrison recognized the members of the subcommittee and thanked the task force for the input in the revision.
- A **MOTION** was made by Hon. Christopher Ninomiya to approve the Forensic Interviewing Protocol Revision, 5th edition, to present to MDHHS for finalization. The motion was seconded. The motion carried. (Demetrius Starling was not present for this vote.)

**d. Summit Subcommittee: Detective Annie Harrison**

- Veronica Flores provided an after-action summary of the event.
- Chairperson Harrison announced the date of the next conference is July 24-25, 2024 at Huntington Place, Detroit. The Save the Date website will be circulated. The Summit is merging with the CACMI conference.

**e. Training/Protocol Subcommittee: Suzanna Shkreli**

- Suzanna Shkreli, announced her selection of Erin House as her co-chair.
- The training and protocol subcommittee is continuing its work on the updating of the Child Fatality Investigation Protocol efforts in 2023, with a shift to Phase 2, protocol development.
- The subcommittee has welcomed new members and continuing members. The first subcommittee meeting will be held on February 27, 2023. Recurring monthly meetings will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month.
- The week of February 27, the task force is sending two members to the International Homicide Investigators Association, Child and Infant Death Investigation Training to support the work of the subcommittee.

**f. Legislative Subcommittee: Alex Brace**

- Alex Brace reported that the Legislative Subcommittee is in the pre-launch planning phase. A planning session was held with MDHHS In-Home bureau. The subcommittee is in active formation. Please express your interest to join directly to Alex Brace [abrace@smalltalkcac.org](mailto:abrace@smalltalkcac.org). The anticipated first subcommittee meeting date is April 2023 and the topic is Child Protection Law.

**XI. Public comment**

- Public comment was received.

## **XII. Adjournment of meeting**

- a. Hearing no further business, Chairperson Harrison adjourned the meeting at 12:56pm

**Next meeting is Set for Thursday, May 25th, 2023**

**11am to 4:00 p.m. (In person)**

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

**(or web-based through remote electronic access.)**

## **Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Executive Committee Report**

The Executive Committee met on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> and discussed:

- The Governor's Office Appointments Division shared with Annie Harrison and Veronica Flores that appointments are delayed due to staffing changes and work volume. The Appointments Division advised the members seeking reappointment may continue to serve until the appointments are announced in the next month. Here are the members seeking reappointment whose terms are extended until appointments are made:
  - Annie Harrison – Chairperson, representing Law Enforcement
  - Alex Brace – representing Mental Health Professionals
  - Dr. Alane Laws-Barker - representing Health Professionals
  - Kimberly Clemons– representing Law Enforcement
  - Jackie Igafo-Te'o– representing Individuals experienced in working with children with disabilities
  - Ivana Maplanka– representing Child Protective Services
  - Joseph Merritt – representing Law Enforcement
  
- Annie Harrison announced the selection of Alex Brace to serve as Vice Chairperson of the Task Force. Congratulations to Mr. Brace and thanks for his willingness to serve in this capacity.
  
- Discussion was had on the logos provided by MP3 group and the feedback received by Task Force members. The Executive Committee recommends the task force not move forward on any of the logos and instead select another company for the logo redesign.
  
- Veronica Flores shared she has begun the Children's Justice Act annual grant application, which is due for approval stages in April.
  
- Subcommittee Chairs provided the below written reports as to subcommittee activity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annie Harrison

## **Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Summit Subcommittee Report**

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Task Force Summit was held on December 1 and 2, 2022 at the Fort Pontchartrain Hotel in Detroit, MI. The event was hosted by our task force, with staff support from Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan. The event saw nearly 300 attendees, offered 20 sessions for learning, providing an opportunity for networking and a space to support small businesses in our vendor section. A tremendous thank you to the subcommittee, MDHHS in-home bureau team, and CACMI staff whose work ensured a successful event. Thank you to the Task Force members for supporting, attending and assisting with this event. This subcommittee has concluded. A new subcommittee will reconvene in the summer/fall. Save the date for July 23-25, 2024 for the next event.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annie Harrison

## **Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Training Subcommittee Report**

The training and protocol subcommittee is continuing its work on the updating of the Child Fatality Investigation Protocol efforts in 2023, with a shift to Phase 2, protocol development.

As the new chair and co-chair, we've rounded out subcommittee membership by welcoming new subcommittee members, including the Children's Services Agency Director and GTFCAN member, Demetrius Starling, and re-welcoming the previous Subcommittee Chair, Det. Joseph Merritt. The subcommittee also welcomes new subcommittee members of varying disciplines. Our first subcommittee meeting will be held on February 27, 2023. Recurring monthly meetings will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month.

The week of February 27, the task force is sending two members to International Homicide Investigators Association, Child and Infant Death Investigation Training in Florida which will no doubt impact the work of the subcommittee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanna Shkreli

## **Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen's Review Panel (CRP) Subcommittee Report**

### **Activities**

Monthly committee meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month 4-6pm

#### **Welcome New Committee Members:**

Anne Leiby-McMahon- Community Outreach Program Specialist, Michigan State University

Cheryl Williams Hecksel- LMSW-Clinical, Coordinator Evidence Based Trauma Treatment Certificate Coordinator NCWWI University Partnerships Team

**Attended Annual Summit:** Alane Laws-Barker M.D, Steven King,

Veronica Flores, Jackie Igafo-Te'o, Alex Brace, Ursula Ahart

#### **Annual Report submitted 2021 Committee Project:**

**ACES Initiative Identifying Opportunities-** The Michigan Ace Initiative (<https://www.miace.org/>) plans through 2024 include a widespread effort to train as many people as possible.

**Phase 1:** Dissemination of a self-reflective survey that citizens participated in. This survey helped generate some important information regarding the understanding of ACES across the state. We received 4596 Completed Surveys! COMPLETED

**Phase 2:** Committee reviewed and analyzed the data. COMPLETED

We are now in Phase 3 of this project.

**Phase 3:** Creation! The committee suggested recommendations to MDHHS, for education, training and use of ACES in a manner that is child-centered, trauma-informed, forensic, and equitable.

#### **Project 2023:**

##### **Continuation of the ACES project and Training: Focus- Educating Parents and Mandated Reporters on ACES**

Social Media Education Portal

-In collaboration with CACMI our committee is building and educational space.

The work on this project is well underway. We anticipate a soft opening



by August with a full site unveiling in September.

-The feedback we received from survey respondents is the foundation for this project.

- Information on the site will include: How to talk with children about sexual abuse, ACES, parent resources, impact of pornography, training information.

Our committee is committed to providing a site that houses comprehensive information to support families and those that do this work.

The committee is reviewing our 2022 work and developing recommendations to MDHHS that builds on the work that has been completed.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

The following committee members serve as our DEI

Representatives Ursula Ahart/Kim Steed-Page/Portia

Watkins

**Purpose:** Strengthening the Michigan child welfare system through citizen participation and review, to effect positive change. The Citizen's Review Panel will review service networks, procedures, policies, research, surveys, to improve child safety, permanency and well-being for Michigan children and families.

**2023 Goal 1:** Continue to work collaboratively with the other Citizen Review Panels, multidisciplinary teams throughout the state (through trainings), and MDHHS, to strengthen the child welfare system.

**2023 Goal 2:** Work collaboratively with the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse, Adoption and Neglect and contract provider(s) regarding training focused on Adverse Childhood Events and Trauma Informed Care.

**2023 Goal 3:** Identify best practices regarding implementation of training for stakeholders about ACEs in a culturally competent way.

Panel Openings:

If you are interested in the work of the CRP, please contact Dr. Laws-Barker, Steven King or Veronica Flores. We are welcoming new panel members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alane Laws-Barker, M.D.

**Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Protocol Subcommittee Report**

The Protocol Committee has completed a draft of the Forensic Interviewing Protocol. The draft has been shared for broader review among MDHHS stakeholders. We have collected and will be reviewing the feedback before presenting the final draft to the task force for approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Brace

**Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect  
Legislative Subcommittee Report**

The Legislative Subcommittee is in the pre-launch planning phase. A planning session was held with MDHHS in-home bureau. The subcommittee is in active formation. Please express your interest to join directly to Alex Brace [abrace@smalltalkcac.org](mailto:abrace@smalltalkcac.org). The anticipated first subcommittee meeting date is April 2022 and the topic is Child Protection Law.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Brace