



**Governor's Task force on Child Abuse and Neglect Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 2022
Meeting Minutes
Location: Virtual**

Members Present: Chairperson Annie Harrison, Vice Chairperson Joseph Merritt, Alane Laws-Barker, Alex Brace, Chris Ninomiya, Demetrius Starling, Ivana Maplanka, James Perlaki, Kimberly Clemons, Kyleen Gee, Suzanna Shkreli, Tonya Goetz, Ursula Ahart, Yasmine Poles.

Members Absent: Jackie Igafo-Te'o (excused, traveling from NCRP representing GTF), Egypt Otis

Agency Representation: Tim Click, MDHHS, Veronica Flores, MDHHS, Ann Lahaine, MDHHS, Erin House, SCAO, Kate McPherson, SCAO

Call to Order and Welcome

- Chairperson Harrison welcomed all in attendance.
- Attendance was taken by roll call.
- Meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m.
- Veronica Flores reviewed web-based meeting procedures.

Consideration of Minutes from GTFCAN Meeting on February 24, 2022

- Chairperson Harrison asked for consideration of minutes from February 24, 2022, for approval without reading.
- A **MOTION** was made by Alex Brace, seconded by Suzanna Shkreli. The motion carried.

Public Comment

- Public comment was received.

Chairperson Report: Chairperson Harrison reported the following:

1. Member Introductions
2. Report from Citizens Review Panel Conference attendees
3. Invitation for input for the next in-person meeting – ideas, training topics, speakers

Break – Return at 12:09

Vice Chairperson Report: No report.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Report: Director Starling reported the following:

We are in the midst of the CPS front-end redesign work and there is a lot of very good work being done by Tim Click and his team in In-Home Service Bureau. We are working with Evident Change (EC) regarding the Structured Decision Making Centralized Intake Assessment. EC is currently analyzing our inter-rater liability testing, testing the data for the final version of the Centralized Intake Assessment. Next phase of the project is IT development, and we are achieving our timeline goals and implementation is expected in January 2023. Also, some of the front-end prevention work at intake is currently underway. The Safety Assessment workgroups have completed their initial assessment and the initial phase of the development of the Structure Decision Making Safety Assessment Tool is currently under internal review. The final draft and will be provided for the GTF to review. Following up with stakeholder review and additional inter-rater liability testing with implementation is 2023. Central Registry reform packages have been pushed through and are effective on November 1st. Internal training will be provided by policy and In-Home Services Bureau and provide staff with updated training on what those packages entail. Work is being done around those changes and how it will affect the field. Also, some of the Structured Risk Assessment work is expected to begin on the next phase of the project. The next steps were pending approval on the Central Registry reform packages. Plan of Safe Care Protocol is currently in the ladder of approval. Planning around training and implementation is currently underway. Lastly there is a new RFP for the Mandated Reporter Training and Curriculum that has been posted. We have had a few barriers getting the Mandated Reporter Training rolling and finding someone who can write the training and move the training forward. The RFP is out and hopefully will have more concrete information in the future.

GTF Coordinator Report: Veronica Flores who is the GTF Coordinator reported on the budget spreadsheet and stated the CJA Grant, and Three-Year Assessment has been submitted to ACF and CJA on May 13th and we are waiting for follow up.

Report from State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Services: Erin House reported the following: Currently the Court Improvement Program (CIP) is working on the strategic plan for three key projects. Data project is developing a juvenile data report which will be a public dashboard and will include the most relevant data indicators on a web-based site. Once completed, we'll be able to identify courts needing assistance with things like time to permanency and we'll then work with them to devise strategies and provide consultation that will help improve their outcomes. Youth Advocacy Pilot is meant to increase meaningful involvement of youth in their own Foster Care cases. The Legal Representation Project includes ongoing assistance and quality legal representation projects that are in Wayne and Van Buren counties. Along with the MDHHS parent and child legal representation or CPLR grant and provide Title 4-E funding to the courts for parent and child legal representation. In addition to the three projects the CIP is also offering a Covid19 supplemental funding grant that comes from Congress and is a one-time supplemental funding to address the challenges facing juvenile courts from the Covid19 pandemic to ensure the safety and well-being needs of children in Foster Care are met in a timely matter. Currently nine courts have the supplemental funding grant. Reunification Day Event at the Hall of Justice is June 17th. Foster Care Review Board completed their annual report.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Chairperson Harrison reported the following: Meets three weeks prior to the task force meetings. Two orientations were held for incoming appointees. The orientation PowerPoint will be shared with everyone for informational purposes especially for registering for SIGMA and travel instructions. GTF will be sponsoring people to attend various conferences. Four people attended the National Citizens Review Panel Conference. Five people will be attending the National Child Alliance Leadership Conference. Veronica Flores and Mary Lou Mahoney attended the Children's Justice Act virtual conference. GTF will be sponsoring 30 people to attend the CACMI Conference. The position of Diversity Advocate is being created for each committee. The position of Diversity Advocate is to ensure we are using the DEI lens and Kim Reese, MDHHS Director has drafted language for this position and will be reviewed by the committee members for suggested edits.

Citizens Review Panel: Alane Laws-Barker submitted a written report, but the most significant work that will continue is the work on the ACES project. Will be putting together a practice guide on child safety and how to start conversations with children. Would like to welcome additional members to join the CRP committee. Three members attended the CRP Conference, and the conference was inspirational, motivating, and helpful. Communication and collaboration with other CRP committees and engage with others at the conference.

Protocol Subcommittee: Alex Brace reported Plans of Safe Care Protocol are in the final stages of approval. The revision of the Forensic Interviewing Protocol, which was last revised in 2017, has commenced. The kick-off was May 10th and the committee along with experts from Michigan and other states are contributing. The protocol will be evidence based and culturally competent. This is the 5th edition and the 25th anniversary of the protocol.

Summit Subcommittee: Chairperson Harrison reported: We have 18 members for this committee all which are needed as we are hosting an in-person event this year. The tentative date is December 1st and 2nd in Detroit. The virtual event sold out at 1000 registered participants, and we would like to allow as many to participate as possible. The budget for the event will hopefully be enough to cover 500 attendees. The summit is the GTF front-face event with CW professionals. Would like all members to attend, if possible, travel costs for appointees will be covered by GTF. Ideas for the plenary speakers are needed and shaping the conference theme around them. Welcome any help and appreciate the committee members suggestions. Hybrid model is cost prohibitive as live stream is expensive. May consider having speakers pre-record and share.

Training Subcommittee: Vice Chairperson Merritt reported: RFP has provided a platform for professionals and experts to teach and train on topics. Proposals and abstracts reviewed, proposals selected, and trainings held. To date 5792 CW professionals have attended training. Very excited and pleased that people in Michigan, US and Canada have participated in the training. The Child Neglect and Physical Abuse half day training had over 1000k registers and 746 attendees who gave a 4.9 rating on the training. An RFP flyer is coming in weeks and are welcome to share and submit a proposal if you are interested in speaking/training. The 8 Module two day in-person conference is in Grand Rapids June 22nd-23rd. There are opportunities for training to be covered for GTF members if members

are interested in attending. Child Death Investigation Protocol review has not been done in 14 years and it is time for an update. Michigan is on the cutting edge and the protocol should be updated and will start with a review and discussion with other states and agencies.

Legislative Sub-Committee: Discussion was had. Launch is anticipated to be Fall 2022.

Public Comment:

- Public comment was received.

Next Meeting: August 25th at 11:00 – In-Person Meeting

Adjournment of Meeting: The meeting adjourned at 1:07pm.

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

The Executive Committee met on May 11 in preparation for the full GTF quarterly meeting. The subcommittee chairs provided updates the written reports included in this document. In addition to discussion of subcommittee work, the following topics were discussed:

- Orientations: Two successful and informative orientations were held for incoming appointees.
- Legislative Committee: The Executive Committee supports the creation of this subcommittee to Kick0Off in the fall 2022. Incoming appointees are encouraged to join an existing subcommittee and to gain familiarity.
- GTF Conference Sponsorships:
 - Four people to attend the National Citizens Review Panel Conference (Dr. Alane Laws-Barker, Director Demetrius Starling, Jackie Igafo-Te'o, Portia Watkins)
 - Five people to attend the National Child Alliance Leadership Conference (Alex Brace, Veronica Flores, Joseph Merritt, Joshua Bissell, Annie Harrison)
 - 30 MDHHS Staff to attend the Children's Advocacy Center of Michigan Conference.
- Diversity Advocate Position: Executive Committee supports and recommends all Committees, Subcommittees and Panel of GTF create the position of Diversity Advocate. Written description of this position is forthcoming.

Respectfully Submitted,
Annie Harrison

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

The protocol committee's new assignment is a review and revision of the Michigan Forensic Interviewing Protocol, last updated in 2017. A kick-off meeting was hosted on May 10th with experts from across the state and country. We used this first meeting to learn about the history of the protocol and its creation, what has contributed to its successful creation, and what roadblocks have been encountered. Our committee spent time in small groups discussing essential elements included in the protocol such as being culturally competent and evidence based, before discussing specific content.

The meeting schedule has been set through early November and we are planning to host one in-person meeting with our committee as a "retreat style" all day meeting in August.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alex Brace and Annie Harrison

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

The Summit Subcommittee held the kick-off meeting for planning the 26th Annual Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Summit. While not finalized, the Summit is tentatively scheduled for Dec 1 and 2 in Detroit. The subcommittee has 18 members and will meet monthly to plan and execute two-day training conference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Annie Harrison

Governor's Task Force On Child Abuse and Neglect Citizen's Review Panel (CRP) Committee Report

Activities

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

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!**

Phase 2: Committee reviewed and analyzed the data.

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.

Submitted Goals for the 3-year report. 2022

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.

2022 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.

2022 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.

2022 Goal 3: Identify best practices regarding implementation of training for stakeholders about ACEs in a culturally competent way.

Project 2022:

Continuation of the ACES project and Training: Focus- Conversation Starters- Where do we begin?

National CRP Conference-May 23-25, 2022

Committee members attending -Jackie Igafa-Te'o, Portia Watkins, PhD, Alane Laws-Barker, MD

Panel Openings:

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Alane Laws-Barker, M.D.