

Governor's Task force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Thursday, August 25th, 2022
Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI 48915
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Ursula Ahart, Alex Brace, Kimberly Clemons, Kyleen Gee, Jackie Igafo-Teo, Dr. Alane Laws-Barker, Ivana Maplanka, Hon. Christopher Ninomiya, James Perlaki, Hon. Yasmine Poles, Suzanna Shkreli, Demetrius Starling, Vice Chairperson Joseph Merritt, Chairperson Annie Harrison,

Members Absent: Tonya Goetz, Egypt Otis

Agency Representation: Kate McPherson, SCAO; Steven King, CACMI; Josh Bissell, CACMI; Jessica Holtrop, MDHHS; Pamela Maas, PAAM; Tim Click, MDHHS; Maggie Delvin, MDVS.

I. Call to Order

- a. Attendance was taken by roll call.
- b. Chairperson Harrison called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

II. Welcome: Chairperson Harrison welcomed task force members, agency representatives and members of the public.

III. Consideration of Minutes from GTFCAN Meeting on May 26th, 2022

- a. A **MOTION** was made by Vice Chairperson Joseph Merritt to approve the May 26, 2022 minutes without a reading. The motion was seconded. The motion carried. (Members: Kimberly Clemons, Dr. Alane Laws-Barker and Demetrius Starling were not present for this vote.)
- b. **Public Comment:** None.

IV. Chairperson Report: Detective Annie Harrison welcomed everyone to the first in-person meeting since February 2020 and thanked all in attendance for their service and commitment.

V. Vice Chairperson Report: None.

VI. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Report: Director Starling highlighted current department initiatives, including more inclusive language, prevention-based practices, CPS redesign and addressing the placement crisis.

VII. GTF Coordinator Report: Veronica Flores reviewed the provided financials.

- a. A **MOTION** was made by Jackie Igafo-Te'o to approve the FY23 Spend Plan as presented. The motion was seconded. The motion carried. (Member Kimberly Clemons was not present for this vote.)

VIII. Report from Agency Representatives

- a. **State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Services:** Kate McPherson provided a quarterly verbal update on the usage of the subgrant award, including overview of trainings provided, MI Judicial Council Strategic Planning, and Foster Care Review Board.
- b. **Children's Advocacy Centers of Michigan:** Josh Bissell provided a quarterly verbal update on the usage of the subgrant award, including overview of CACMI annual conference, MDT Training Event (out of the work from the Citizen Review Panel), and the forensic interview protocol revision retreat. CACMI welcomes Julie Bird as the new Executive Director.

IX. Committee Activity (written reports submitted)

- a. **Executive Committee:** Chairperson Harrison reported on the CAC Funding crisis and asked for the Task Force. A **MOTION** was made by Jackie Igafo-Te'o to issue a letter of support of a funding solution to MDHHS. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.
- b. **Citizens Review Panel:** The panel did not meet for the summer and will resume in August. Any member interested in joining the panel may contact Dr. Laws-Barker.
- c. **Protocol Subcommittee:** Alex Brace reported the revision of the forensic interview protocol is progressing.
- d. **Summit Subcommittee:** Chairperson Harrison reported the Summit will be held Dec 1 and 2 at the Fort Pontchartrain Hotel in Detroit. CACMI is assisting with call for proposals and registration. Registration will commence in October.
- e. **Training/Protocol Subcommittee:** Vice Chairperson Merritt reported the committee has been assembled and is scheduled to meeting five times beginning August 29, 2022. Kate McPherson reported on the successful Child Sexual Abuse Investigation Two-Day Continuum Conference held June 2022. There is an upcoming webinar on Human Trafficking set for September 12, 2022. FY22 trained 4,762 attendees on GTF funded trainings!

- f. **Legislative Subcommittee:** This subcommittee cannot start until there are volunteer(s) to chair. Anyone interested in Chairing or co-chairing, please contact Chairperson Harrison or Veronica Flores.
 - g. **New GTF Logo:** GTF has partnered with M3 Group for a logo re-design. Initial mock-ups were discussed.
- X. Public Comment:** None.
- XI. Adjournment of Meeting:** Hearing no further business, Chairperson Harrison adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Next meeting is set for Thursday, November 18th, 2022 from 11am – 1pm via zoom.

Minutes Submitted by,

Steven King

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

The Executive Committee did not meet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annie Harrison

**Governor’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Summit Committee Report**

The Summit Subcommittee is planning for the 26th Annual Governor’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Summit. The Summit is tentatively scheduled for Dec 1 and 2 at Fort Pontchartrain in Detroit. The subcommittee has 15 members and is meeting monthly to plan and execute the two-day training conference. This year’s theme is “Centering Hope.” A call for papers will be coming soon and we hope that task force members will submit to present breakout sessions at the conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annie Harrison

**Governor’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Training Committee Report**

The Training Committee did not meet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Merritt

**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 Response Received and Reviewed

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. In progress.

Project 2022: ACES-Next Steps

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

There is opportunity for the CRP Committee to impact change.

- **Training/ Tool kit for Mandatory Reporters**
- Education and information children and families
- Prevention is key.

We received 4596 completed surveys from 81 counties from the following professions

- Medical field
- Educational Systems
- Any child-serving organization
- Law enforcement
- CPS
- Prosecutors

Goal:

- Take a deeper look at the survey responses
- Utilize the information we received
- Fill gaps in knowledge by developing:
 - Trainings
 - Resources
 - Implementation
 - Policy

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

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

The Protocol Committee reconvened on May 10th, 2022 to review and revise the Forensic Interviewing Protocol last updated in 2017. This revision marks the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Forensic Interviewing Protocol.

Co-chairs Annie Harrison and Alex Brace have brought together a multidisciplinary committee consisting of prosecutors, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, children's advocacy center staff, medical professionals, researchers and DHHS representatives to look at new research and trends in the field of forensic interviewing. Our committee members have sent out surveys to their networks to get feedback on what changes they would like to see in the protocol.

Our committee has met twice since May, providing feedback, looking at additions, and updating content.

On August 16th, our committee will participate in a one-day retreat in Grand Rapids where we will meet in-person and collaborate on a revised draft of the protocol.

Our goal is to have a completed draft to present to the Governor's Task Force in the Fall of this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Brace