

Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

Thursday, November 16, 2023 – 11:00 AM

Held Virtually, via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Ursula Ahart, Alex Brace, Kimberly Clemons, Kyleen Gee, Stacey Goodson, Jackie Igafo-Teo, Dr. Alane Laws-Barker, Jametta Lilly, Ivana Maplanka, Lynda McGhee, Hon. Chris Ninomiya, James Perlaki, Hon. Yasmine Poles, Patricia Sabin, Suzanna Shkreli, Nichole L. Smithson, Director Demetrius Starling, Matthew Way.

Members Absent: Annie Harrison, Joseph Merritt

Agency Representation: Steven King, CACMI; Josh Bissell, CACMI; Katy Todd, SCAO; Mary Lou Mahoney, MDHHS; Veronica Flores, MDHHS; Ryan Speidel, OCO.

I. Call to order

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

II. Welcome

- a. Vice Chairperson Alex Brace presided over the meeting in the absence of Chairperson Harrison. Attendees were welcomed.

III. Consideration of minutes from GTFCAN meeting on May 25, 2023

- a. A **MOTION** was made by Kyleen Gee to approve the August 24, 2023 minutes without a reading. The motion was seconded by Hon. Christopher Ninomiya. The motion carried. Kimberly Clemons, Dr. Alane Laws-Barker, and Hon. Yasmine Poles were not present for the vote.

IV. Public comment

- a. Public Comment was received.

V. Chairperson report: Annie Harrison (This report was verbally given between agenda items XI and XII)

- a. Vice Chairperson Alex Brace shared on behalf of Chairperson Harrison. The Governor's Task Force sent four delegates to attend the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) Congress in September.

VI. Vice Chairperson report: Alex Brace

- a. Encouraged all members to join a committee, stressing the importance of collective support and expertise for meaningful changes for children in the state.

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

a. Director Starling gave an update for ongoing initiatives and achievements.

- Efforts to enhance services in the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) clearinghouse, foundation collaborations to bring about services and supports for families to address poverty and neglect challenges.
- Family Resource Specialists were highlighted with an overview of the position.
- Work on Quality Legal Representation to assist in breaking down barriers that sometimes prevent reunification.
- The implementation of FFPSA in all counties, 42 counties with motivational interviewing.
- Residential Collaboration and Technical Assistance Unit (RCTAU) work with care facilities, and updates on the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) were shared.
- Congratulated Children's Services Administration Anti-Racism Transformation Team (CSA ARTT) on a successful conference that was well attended.

VIII. Coordinator report: Veronica Flores

- a. The Children's Justice Act grant application was approved, confirming receipt of funding for the upcoming year.
- b. Reviewed the financials as presented.

IX. Report from Agency representatives:

a. State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Services: Katy Todd

- The Resiliency Court Conference on September 13, 2023, received positive feedback.
- The 20th Annual Adoption Day is scheduled for November 21, where judges from Ingham County will finalize adoptions in the Supreme Court chambers.
- Child Welfare Services (CWS) plans to host the Legal Representation Summit on February 1, 2024, and Fundamentals

of Appellate Advocacy on March 19, 2024, details on both to come.

- GTF Training and Protocol Subcommittee received eight proposals through annual Request for Proposals (RFP) process for GTF trainings in fiscal year 2024. A Workgroup reviewed each proposal in October and selected presentation proposals for the coming year.
- Child Protective Legal Representation Task Force is studying Michigan's current system of providing legal representation to children and parents involved in protective proceedings.
- A collaboration with MDHHS on a reunification forum in Lansing on November 28 was mentioned, aiming to improve the percentage of cases achieving permanency within 12 months, an area where Michigan currently falls below the federal standard.

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

- Shared on upcoming trainings and subcommittee support.
- Highlighted a partnership with regional Children's Advocacy Centers and the National Native Children's Trauma Center to develop new programming for native children.
- Shared about upcoming virtual training sessions on interviewing child survivors of trafficking to be held in January and courtroom testimony training to be held in March.

c. Other agency reports

- No additional agency reports.

X. Committee Activity (Written Reports submitted)

a. Executive Committee: Annie Harrison

- Alex Brace provided a report on behalf of Annie Harrison.
- The Executive Committee, met on November 3, 2023 and a written report was provided.
- The Executive Committee supports the Legislative Committee's intent to seek a bill sponsor.

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

- The CRP report highlighted primary activity, website, soft launch

happening now. Next steps: review/feedback, make modifications, with full launch hopefully, in January.

- Exploring upcoming 2024 projects, focusing on mental health support for families and emphasizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in this space.

c. Protocol Subcommittee: Alex Brace

- The committee is in the final stages of preparing to distribute the Forensic Interview Protocol to state professionals. They've developed a video and a crosswalk document to accompany the updated protocol and are in the process of finalizing the cover.

d. Conference Subcommittee: Annie Harrison

- Veronica Flores shared on behalf of Annie Harrison. The committee's first meeting was on November 14th and planning is underway. The conference is set for July 24 and 25, 2024 at MotorCity in Detroit. A Save the date flyer will be released soon.

e. Legislative Subcommittee: Alex Brace

- The Legislative Subcommittee is ready to seek a bill sponsor. Mary Lou Mahoney provided information as it relates to the origin and need for this change including an update on the work to recommend the amendment of child protection law to modify the current category system used by CPS.
- A **MOTION** was made by Matt Way to support the legislative subcommittee seeking a bill sponsor for the proposed legislative amendment. The motion was seconded by Suzanna Shkreli. The motion carried.

f. Training/Protocol Subcommittee: Suzanna Shkreli

- The Training Subcommittee met on August 28, September 25, and October 23 to advance the child fatality protocol. A preliminary outline is finalized, and seven workgroups are developing specific sections. Workgroups aim to produce rough drafts by December 15, with consolidation in January or February. Formatting is scheduled for March or April, presenting the completed protocol to GTFCAN in May. Workgroups will collaborate independently. The RFP workgroup reviewed proposals for the 2024 GTFCAN training on October 30.

g. Child Eyewitness ID: Joseph Merritt

- Alex Brace shared on behalf of Joseph Merritt. The Child/Witness Identification Subcommittee has been formed and membership consists of content experts from local, state, and national organizations. The kick-off meeting was held in November.

XI. Public comment

- a. No Public Comment was received.

XII. Adjournment of meeting

- a. Vice Chairperson Brace announced the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 22, at 11 am, which will be held virtually. He opened the floor for any final business, hearing none the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.

Next meeting is set for Thursday, February 22, 2024

11am to 1pm

(web-based through remote electronic access.)

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

The Executive Committee met on 11/3/23. The Executive Committee recommends GTF:

- Approve the logo as presented.
- Support seeking a bill sponsor for the recommended amendment to MCL 722.628d.

Discussion was had on future CRP topics.

All chairs provided below written reports on subcommittee activity in the last quarter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annie Harrison

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

The Training Subcommittee met August 28, September 25, and October 23 to continue to build upon the development of the child fatality protocol. The subcommittee finalized the preliminary outline of the protocol, and created 7 workgroups to piece off the protocol to build out the contents of the following sections:

1. Introduction
2. Nature of Child Fatality Case
3. Beginning the Investigation
4. Investigation
5. Interview
6. Family Supports
7. Resources

We determined that the workgroups will produce rough drafts of their respective sections by December 15. We will then combine the sections during January or February with the potential of meeting in person with the entire subcommittee to put the document together. Formatting to occur in March or April, with the intent to present the entire protocol to the GTFCAN during the May meeting. Each individual workgroup will meet amongst themselves as necessary with the December 15 deadline in mind.

Additionally, the RFP workgroup led by SCAO met on October 30 to discuss and deliberate the ratings for each proposal for the 2024 GTFCAN training.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanna Shkreli

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

The Forensic Interview Protocol release video, crosswalk and cover are being finalized. Once complete, the protocols will go to print and a release date will be announced.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Brace, MA LPC

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

The current task of the Legislative Committee is to research and recommend an amendment to MCL 722.628d. The Legislative Committee has been working for the last few months on a document to seek a bill sponsor. We are currently seeking the support of the Task Force to proceed with finding a bill sponsor to amend MCL 722.628d. The document is attached to the meeting packet to help inform you on the work done thus far and an accompanying presentation to update you on our progress will be offered at the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Brace, MA LPC

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

The subcommittee kick-off is set for November 14th. The subcommittee will meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month with the task of assisting in the planning and execution of the 2024 Michigan Justice for Children Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annie Harrison

**Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Child Eyewitness Identification Guideline/Protocol Subcommittee Report**

The Child/Witness Identification Subcommittee has been formed and consists of 14 content area experts from local, state, and national organizations. This subcommittee is

currently in the final stages of cementing meeting dates and will kick off work on this project with an initial meeting on either November 7th or November 8th, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Merritt

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

Committee in collaboration with CACMI has completed the educational webpage

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**

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 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.

Soft opening November 16 at the GTFCAN. Anticipated grand opening and virtual ribbon cutting January 2024.

-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 2023 work and developing recommendations to MDHHS that builds on the work that has been completed.

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.

CRP Chair, 2023