

Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

Friday, November 18, 2022 – 11:00 AM

Electronic Meeting: Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Alex Brace, Kimberly Clemons, Kyleen Gee, Jackie Igafo-Te'o, Dr. Alane Laws-Barker, Lynda McGhee, Hon. Chris Ninomiya, James Perlaki, Patricia Sabin, Suzanna Shkreli, Nichole Smithson, Hon. Yasmine Poles, Vice Chairperson Joseph Merritt, Chairperson Annie Harrison.

Members Absent: Ursula Ahart, Tonya Goetz, Egypt Otis, Demetrius Starling

Agency Representation: Mary Lou Mahoney, MDHHS; Tim Click, 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 11:04 a.m.

II. Welcome and web-based meeting procedures

- a. Chairperson Harrison welcomed task force members, agency representatives and members of the public
- b. Veronica Flores reviewed the web-based meeting procedures

III. Consideration of minutes from GTFCAN meeting on August 25, 2022

- a. A **MOTION** was made by Kyleen Gee to approve the August 25th, 2022 minutes without a reading. The motion was seconded. The motion carried. (Members Ursula Ahart, Alex Brace, Tonya Goetz, Egypt Otis, Suzanna Shkreli, Demetrius Sterling were not present for this vote.)

IV. Public comment was received.

V. Chairperson report: Detective Annie Harrison

- a. Chairperson Harrison welcomed new members Lynda McGhee, Nicole Smithson, and Patricia Sabin.
- b. Thanked Egypt Otis, outgoing member for her service and impact, particularly on the protocol committee. Recognized Joseph Merritt, outgoing member, for his tremendous contribution and leadership, as Vice Chair of the Task Force and Chair of the Training Subcommittee.
- c. The remainder of the 2023 committees and chairs will be announced once the governor's office completes appointments.

- d. Invited Task Force members to stay on at the conclusion of the meeting for a special presentation titled, “MiFamily, Stronger Together – Developing a Prevention-Oriented Child Well-Being System” by Mary Lou Mahoney.

VI. Vice Chairperson report: Detective Joseph Merritt

- a. Nothing to report at this time.

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

- a. Tim Click reported the CPS advisory summit was held in October in person.

VIII. Coordinator report: Veronica Flores

- a. Veronica Flores reviewed the provided financials and reported on potential new logos, shared with task force images of possible logos and asked for any feedback that task force members have.

IX. Report from Agency representatives:

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

- Shared about Adoption Day, an exciting event for the State court Administration office and the Michigan Supreme Court. The event centers around National Adoption Month.
- CWS is developing a juvenile court data dashboard. A public site sharing data about children in foster care. Allows for the tracking of specific data about kids in foster care. Goal to have this completed by the end of the year (2022).

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

- Annual conference will be moving to Detroit for the first time in its history.
- Communications will be coming out for training opportunities through CACMI in 2023

c. Other agency reports

- **OCO:**

- Suzanna Shkreli introduced new chief investigator Erin House.

X. Committee Activity (Written Reports submitted)

a. Executive Committee: Detective Annie Harrison

- Chairperson Harrison reported that 2023 GTF meeting dates were finalized and sent with the packet. Please mark your calendars.
- Request for input was sent to members regarding the 2024 International Conference.

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

- Dr. Alane Laws-Barker reported that the committee is meeting on the third Thursday of the month and reported that the ACE's Initiative is moving into Phase three. This committee has welcomed five new members and introduced Ursala Ahart/Kim Steed-Page/Portia Watkins as the DEI Advocates.

c. Protocol Subcommittee: Alex Brace

- Alex Brace reported the subcommittee will be moving to the broader review stage in the next month.

d. Summit Subcommittee: Detective Annie Harrison

- Chairperson Harrison reported that the committee is hard at work finalizing the Summit and shared this year's award recipients: Dorie Vazquez-Nolan who is receiving the Steve Yager Lifetime Achievement Award, and Amanda Wingelaar who is receiving the Helping and Leading Opportunities for Children (HALO) Award.

e. Training/Protocol Subcommittee: Detective Joseph Merritt

- Vice Chairperson Merritt shared recommendations to the task force for the next 2 phases of the project and announced that a new chair will be selected for this subcommittee, as he is not seeking re-appointment.
- Kate McPherson reports that the committee has reviewed 10 proposals for new and fresh training opportunities and have selected four to be implemented through SCAO during the 2023 fiscal year.

f. Legislative Subcommittee: Alex Brace

- The Legislative Subcommittee will commence in 2023.
- Welcome Alex Brace, the new Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee. Will need some time to establish the team and will be working with

MDHHS to coordinate that. This will start in a few months while he completes his work in another committee.

XI. Public comment

- a. No comment received.

XII. Adjournment of meeting

- a. Hearing no further business, Chairperson Harrison adjourned the meeting at 12:38pm

Next meeting is Set for Thursday, February 23rd, 2023 from 11am to 1pm (Virtual)

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

The Executive Committee met on Oct 28th and discussed:

- The 2023 meeting dates discussed and finalized (see attached.)
- Discussion on 2024 Summit collaboration.
- Legislative Committee. Discussion was had on support staff and subcommittee duties.
- Welcome to the newly appointed members, Lynda McGhee, Patricia Sabin, and Nichole Smithson!

Respectfully Submitted,

Annie Harrison

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

The Summit is set for Dec 1 and 2 at Fort Pontchartrain in Detroit. The subcommittee is hard at work finalizing for this outstanding training event. The event flyer and [website](#) features the plenary speakers, registration, agenda and more. This year's award recipients are: Dorie Vazquez-Nolan who is receiving the Steve Yager Lifetime Achievement Award, and Amanda Wingelaar who is receiving the Helping and Leading Opportunities for Children (HALO) Award.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annie Harrison

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

The Training/Protocol Subcommittee has been formed to address GTFCAN's Child Death Investigation Protocol that has not been reviewed/updated since 2008. This subcommittee was formed based off an MDT principle that includes current GTFCAN members as well as other MDT professionals from around the stat that are experts in their respective fields.

We as a subcommittee have devised a three-phase approach to developing this new protocol. Those phases are:

Phase I -

- Review Child Death Investigation Protocols from around the nation.

- Determine if there is a suitable format from an existing protocol.
- Locate material from other protocols reviewed to use in our protocol.
- Develop a Table of Contents
- Identify the person(s) who would be targeted to draft content and assemble the new protocol.

Phase II –

- Develop content as a subcommittee.
- Draft content into the deliverables to be placed into Michigan's new protocol.
- Finalize new protocol as a subcommittee.
- Address GTFCAN with proposed new protocol once completed.

Phase III –

Work with MPHI as current stakeholder and make current Child Death Investigation Training consistent with new Michigan Protocol on Child Death Investigation.

Phase I of this agenda will be completed by this current subcommittee by the November 18th GTFCAN meeting.

During the November 18th meeting, I plan to give a subcommittee recommendation to the task force as a whole regarding this project and these next two phases since there will be a new chair for this subcommittee as I have not sought reappointment to GTFCAN.

Additionally, this subcommittee has reviewed ten abstracts regarding our Request For Proposal (RFP) process developed three years ago to offer new and fresh training opportunities for our audiences of professionals in each of their respective fields. This subcommittee not only reviewed those abstracts but also selected four proposals from expert instructors to be delivered through our Interagency-Agreement with SCAO for the entire fiscal year of 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

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.

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 teamsthroughout 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- Educating Parents and Mandated Reporters on ACES

Social Media Education Portal

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

We plan to hold a virtual ribbon cutting to unveil the site.

Organizations that circulated the survey will be engaged to circulate the website.

Welcome New Committee Members:

Kim Steed-Page: Director of Student Parent Resource Center.

Steven King: Clinical MSW

Amanda Davis-Scott: LPC, Substance abuse counseling

Kyleen Gee: Executive Director for child abuse council in Muskegon County

Ursula Ahart: Executive Director Federation of Youth Services in Detroit

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The following committee members will serve as our DEI Representatives

Ursula Ahart/Kim Steed-Page/Portia Watkins

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.

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

The Protocol Committee is finalizing an initial draft of the 5th Edition of the Forensic Interviewing Protocol. The committee has met twice virtually since the retreat in August to continue revisions and make changes. Last month, the committee invited Crimson Barocca, Forensic Interviewer for the Baltimore Child Abuse Center to discuss her work with forensic interviewing, tele-forensic interviewing, and involvement in field research. Committee members are reviewing the protocol now for fine edits before we move to the next phase of broader review.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alex Brace