

**Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect**  
**Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Grand Tower**  
**235 S. Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48909**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** *Chair Kenneth Tacoma, Carol Hackett Garagiola, Designee for Director Lyon, Shannon Lowder, Susan Hull, Robert Sykes, Jennifer Pintar, Danita Echols, Kelly Ramsey, Fred Gruber, Lani Forbes, Director Nick Lyon. DHS: Colin Parks, Sheldon Kinney, Erika Engel, Kelcy McArthur, Lois StJohn. BCAL: Colleen Nelson. Bruce Noll. PAAM: Jennifer Doerr. Children's Law Section: Christine Piatkowski.*

**Members Absent:** *Hon. Linda Hallmark, Larry Watkins, Robin Eagleson, Julie Nakfoor Pratt, Gary Anderson, Lori Budnik, Betsy Boggs.*

**1. Welcome**

Judge Tacoma called the meeting to order at 11:13 am congratulating the Members who had been reappointed: Danita Echols, Dr. Shannon Lowder, Julie Nakfoor Pratt, Jennifer Pintar, and Judge Robert Sykes. In addition, Judge Tacoma welcomed and congratulated newly appointed member Kelly Ann Ramsey.

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**3. Consideration of the Minutes**

**Motion by Judge Robert Sykes for Task Force to approve minutes from GTF meeting on 10/24/2014.**

**Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Shannon Lowder. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.**

**4. Financial Report**

L. Forbes, S. Kinney, and Lois StJohn reported.

There is currently \$947,143 in the budget. Funding from the 2013 CJA grant (\$464,993) must be liquidated by December 31, 2015. DHS accounting (L. StJohn) has developed a spending plan for the GTF as is required by the State Budget Office. However, this is only a plan and funds can be utilized as the GTF sees fit so long as it meets criteria of CJA grant. The Project Funding Evaluation Committee will put together a Request for Bid (RFB) form for funding proposals. It is the hope that this can be linked to the GTF website. The committee plans to have a process for funding requests so that they are filtered through the coordinator and the committee before being brought to the entire GTF for a vote. A request was made for a representative from SCAO Accounting to attend the next meeting. S. Kinney will ensure that this is arranged.

#### **4. DHS Update**

##### **DHS Report (Colin Parks)**

HR 4980 (The Preventing Sex Trafficking & Protecting Families Act) Amends the Social Security Act, and requires that all states develop programs, policies and processes to increase awareness and responsiveness (including services provision) in human trafficking cases. Stacie Bladen (Deputy Director of CSA) has been leading the department's response to these federal requirements for DHHS to ensure compliance with state and federal human trafficking requirements.

DHHS currently has entered into a statewide contract with drug testing provider Forensic Fluids. The testing process has been piloted in some of the larger counties (feedback from frontline staff has been positive) and the intent is for this contract to be statewide by the end of 2015.

MiSACWIS continues to be updated and changed, and is becoming more user friendly. This is a large data system and the conversion has not been without struggles for frontline staff. The MiSACWIS team is doing extraordinary work and is doing everything they can to make the system more accessible. There are improvements on a consistent schedule as obstacles are identified. The Department is confident that system use will continue to improve ensuring for a well-designed system that meets the needs of staff, clients and federal requirements.

In February 2015 there was only one unsafe sleep related death reported in Wayne County. This is significant as Wayne County (Detroit) has a significant number of unsafe sleep related deaths each year.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

##### **Citizen Review Panel – J. Pintar**

The final Citizens Review Panel meeting will be held at Soaring Eagle Hotel in Mt. Pleasant on 3/21/2015. The intent is to include tribal partners involved. It was requested that GTF members pass on the information about this meeting to any contacts/partners that might be interested in attending.

##### **Summit Committee – Gary Anderson**

The Summit will take place May 21-23 at Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, MI. There will be a short meeting Wednesday, 5/20/2015 for the GTF and then a meet and greet with the participants in the School – Justice Partnership conference who are also convening at the Resort. The GTF Summit will include keynote speaker Dr. Anda (ACES Study) and several workshops. The Save the Date has been sent out to GTF members; please forward this on to your contacts. Registration will be open in the next few weeks. Due to the limited time available, SCAO's online registration will not be utilized. The same format for registration will be utilized as in years past (print out the form and fax/mail to the GTF coordinator).

##### **Legislative Committee – Judge R. Sykes**

The CJA grant funding source does allow GTF to take a position on legislative matters so long as the legislation fits within the charge of the Task Force. There are two current

issues that the committee is watching: Putative Father Registry and Private Agencies denying cases based on religious beliefs. If GTF members have additional legislative matters they want reviewed, forward those to Judge Sykes.

**DHS/DCH Merger Vision – (DHS Director Nick Lyon)**

The goals of the Departments are to protect children and adults, get families to a place where they can be self-sufficient, and have improved overall health. The intent of the merging of DCH/DHS is to have the ability to tailor services to fit each individual's needs. Transition teams within the Departments have been developed to assist with the merging process. Following the completion of the DHS/DCH merger, next goals are to determine which federal requirements make it difficult for Michigan to streamline programs, and address these.

**Protocol/Training Committee – Julie Nakfoor Pratt**

A written update from this committee was accepted and no oral update was provided.

**Mental Health Committee – Dr. Shannon Lowder**

The committee is interested in ensuring all therapists who receive DHS contracts to work with children and families involved in the child welfare system have consistent and specialized training. The committee has explored on-line training providers for this purpose and has learned that it will cost \$34,000.00 to develop a site that provides unlimited access to online training for these therapists. After the site is developed, the annual cost for maintaining the site and updating the training is \$30,000.00. The committee will get an updated quote and then submit a request for funding to the Project Funding Evaluation Committee.

**Child Protection, Well Being and Permanency committee – Fred Gruber**

The committee is working on a document which would include recommendations for communication, training, and data collection. The committee has been in contact with the Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia which is very supportive of the committee's current activities. A report will be available for the next meeting.

The working paper on improving communication between child welfare, juvenile justice, and school systems has been completed and has been sent out to partners that assisted in drafting the paper for review. Once that feedback is received and updates are made, the paper will be presented to the GTF. It is anticipated that this will occur by the time of the July 2015 GTF meeting.

**Adoption Committee (K. Tacoma)**

This committee has continued to struggle to obtain data that will assist in meeting the defined goals of the committee. At the next meeting, B. Boggs can discuss this in more detail.

**05. Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force Report – C. Hackett Garagiola**

This Task Force has been meeting once per month and is charged with making recommendations regarding prevention of sexual abuse of children. Surveys have been sent out to obtain comment/input from the public and from professionals throughout Michigan involved in work to prevent or respond to child sexual abuse. At this time survey results are being analyzed by TF members. The final report is due to the Governor and the legislature by 6/17/2015. If anyone from the GTF has any input or wants anything to be considered by this TF please advise Carol ASAP. If any members are interested in seeing the rough draft of the final report, please contact Carol as well.

**06. GTF Chair Report – Judge Tacoma**

No updates.

**07. GTF Coordinator Report (S. Kinney)**

The annual meeting for CJA Grant Recipients will be 6/11 and 6/12 in Washington, D.C. The coordinator and Chair of the GTF are required to attend. The CJA Grant Application is due by 5/29/2015. Chairs of all committees please send updates on what your committee has accomplished in the last year to S. Kinney so this can be incorporated into the grant application.

**08. Future Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting will be held on 05/21/2015 at the Summit at Grand Traverse Resort.

**09. Adjourn**

**Motion by Lani Forbes to adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judge R. Sykes. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.**