

Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Wednesday May 20th, 2015, 4:30 p.m.
Grand Traverse Resort and Spa
100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd, Acme, MI 49610

MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Kenneth Tacoma, Carol Hackett Garagiola, Designee for Director Lyon, Shannon Lowder, Susan Hull, Jennifer Pintar, Danita Echols, Lani Forbes, Linda Hallmark, Julie Nakfoor Pratt, Gary Anderson, Lori Budnik, Betsy Boggs. DHS: Sheldon Kinney, Jessica Kincaid, Bruce Noll. SCAO: John Hohman, Jr., Noah Bradow. PAAM: Julie Welch.

Members Absent: Larry Watkins, Robin Eagleson, Robert Sykes, Kelly Ramsey, Fred Gruber.

1. Welcome

Judge Tacoma called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

3. Consideration of the Minutes

Motion by Lani Forbes for Task Force to approve minutes from GTF meeting on 03/13/2015.

Motion 2nd by Susan Hull. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

4. Financial Report- Lani Forbes

A written report was submitted by Lani Forbes. A request was made by Lani Forbes for a full Task Force approval for the new financial reporting process.

Motion by Jennifer Pintar to approve the financial report.

Motion 2nd by Betsy Boggs. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

5. Committee Reports

Project Funding Evaluation Committee – Lani Forbes

A new GTF funding request application was submitted by Lani Forbes for approval. Use of this application form will be required for all funding request made to the GTF.

Funding request for the current fiscal year must be submitted no later than July 1, 2015. Funding request received by that deadline will be reviewed and presented by the Committee to the full Task Force for an approval vote at the July 10, 2015 meeting.

Motion by Jennifer Nakfoor Pratt to approve the funding proposal application.

Motion 2nd by Susan Hull. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

Gary Anderson suggested considering the addition of a requirement for outcomes and metrics in future revisions of the GTF funding request form. He also suggested considering creation of a GTFCAN Strategic Plan. Gary will assist with this. The Project Funding Committee will evaluate these requests and present them to the full GTFCAN.

Citizen Review Panel – Jennifer Pintar

Following the forum held at Soaring Eagle, the committee chose to add Wayne County to the list of forums. This forum will be held on June 18, 2015. Sheldon will email the invitation to interested parties.

Summit Committee – Linda Hallmark

Special thanks were given to Gary Anderson and Sheldon Kinney for their work with the Summit Committee. The quality of the presenters and the joint session with the School Justice Partnership were noted as highlights of this year's Summit.

Legislative Committee –

Robert Sykes was not present and will be offering a full report at the July meeting.

Training Committee – Julie Nakfoor Pratt

A written update from this committee was accepted outlining proposed revisions for a three year interagency agreement with SCAO-CWS. These proposed revisions, which did not include a dollar amount for the interagency agreement, were approved. Noah Bradow advised that the requested amount of funding from SCAO-CWS has been decreased from \$300,000.00 to \$260,000.00 per year starting with FY 2016.

Mental Health Committee – Dr. Shannon Lowder

The committee has been working with DHHS on developing a contract for mental health professionals who provide evaluations for DHHS children and families in the child welfare system. Mary Chaliman is the DHHS contact. The contract will include standards for conducting these evaluations. Because the compensation rate for these evaluations was set in 1969, DHHS is using a bidding process, which should be completed by December 2015, to establish the compensation rate under the new contracts. The bidding process will be handled through www.bidformichigan.gov. Each bid will include what the bidder would charge for evaluations. DHHS will then take the average of bids they receive and will raise the rate based on this information.

Child Protection, Well Being and Permanency committee –

Fred Gruber was not present. A full report will be provided at the July 10, 2015 meeting.

Adoption Committee – Betsy Boggs

Data has been received from DHHS. A written report was provided to the full Task Force and the committee will determine how they will move forward from this point. The Fostering Adoptions Act was discussed and the State of Michigan will begin

tracking adoption data. Each state must begin tracking disrupted adoptions. Carol Hackett Garagiola requested to be added to all correspondence from GTF committees with DHHS in order to facilitate GTF communication with DHHS, and DHHS response to GTF request.

Protocol Committee – Julie Nakfoor Pratt

The letters inviting broad state level leadership and support for the Protocol Initiative are in the process of being prepared for signature by Director Lyon and GTFCAN Chair Kenneth Tacoma, and then the signed letters will be mailed to those identified state level leaders.

New Business – Judge Tacoma

John Hohman Jr., State Court Administrator, attended the meeting on behalf the Supreme Court to express the Court's appreciation for the continuation of the long-standing relationship between SCAO and the Task Force. He reviewed the value of the training programs funded by the Task Force for the participants in the Judicial branch of government, and mentioned a couple of initiatives that SCAO Child Welfare Services trainings will be incorporating, including quality assurance metrics.

Shannon Lowder discussed minimum standards for training for therapist who receive contracts from DHHS to work with children and families in the child welfare system. At the present time, no specific training for working with this population is required or provided by DHHS. The complex and special needs of these children and families require interventions from mental health professionals who have specific training and expertise to work with these children and families. A number of the therapists who enter into contracts with DHHS are relatively inexperienced and willing to accept the low fee that DHHS provides for their services. Dr. Lowder has researched the availability of on-line training for therapists that could be available statewide, and could provide consistent and key information that these therapists need to work with this population. The trainings would be interactive and include topic areas selected from the 80 available trainings considered essential for these therapists by DHHS and the Committee. There also is an option to develop and inset into the on-line training curricula training topics identified and customized by DHHS for its therapists. Dr. Lowder and the committee propose that GTF fund the online training so that it is available without cost to these therapists, and that DHHS include in its contract with these therapists a requirement to participate in these trainings. Dr. Lowder and Carol Hackett Garagiola will communicate with DHHS to determine DHHS willingness and ability to include such training requirements in its contracts with therapists. A vote on the funding request to establish and maintain this on-line training resource for therapists will be addressed at the July 2015 meeting.

There are approximately 500 therapists with COUN contracts with DHHS to provide mental health services to these children and families. An additional concern is a potential decrease in the number of therapists willing to enter into contracts with DHHS due to the state requirement for therapists to obtain cyber insurance, which is expensive. Dr. Lowder suggested working with DHHS to address this concern through a solution such as an umbrella policy provided by the state.

Julie Nakfoor Pratt discussed establishment of a web based catalog and calendar of all trainings for child welfare system stakeholders that are provided by the major training organizations in the state. (SCAO, Noah Bradow provided a written report). A decision is required about who should host the web site, whether it should be GTF, DHHS, or

the State Bar of Michigan Children's Law Section. Julie stated the providers would meet once a year to discuss the web site.

Motion by Lani Forbes to approve the Children's Law Section to house the web site .

Motion 2nd by Gary Anderson. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

Funding for the SCAO Interagency Agreement. Funding currently stands at \$300,000.00 per year. The budget provided by Noah Bradow reduces this amount to \$260,000.00 per year starting with FY 2016. This agreement would be for the three years. The Interagency Agreement now being written for 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Motion by Lani Forbes to approve the funding of \$260,000.00 for each of the three years.

Motion 2nd by Linda Hallmark. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

Kenneth Tacoma requested volunteers to sit on a "Three Year Assessment Committee" to assist with writing the report due at the same time the 2016 Children's Justice Act Grant is due.

Motion by Gary Anderson to approve all Committee Chairs to sit on the Three Year Assessment Committee.

Motion 2nd by Jennifer Pintar. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

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

The report is due June 17, 2015. The report will be sent to Sheldon and forwarded onto the full Task Force.

7. GTF Chair Report – Judge Tacoma

The Governor's office has requested Sheldon send an attendance report to them following each of the meetings tracking the attendance of all appointees.

Sheldon and the Chair are required to attend the CJA Grantee conference June 9, 2015. The topic this year seems to center around human trafficking.

There still has not been a report provided with regard to the vacant Task Force position.

8. Future Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held on 07/10/2015 at the SCAO office.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Linda Hallmark to adjourn the meeting.

Motion 2nd by Jennifer Pintar. Full Task Force motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.