

Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 9, 2016, 11:00 AM
Michigan Hall of Justice
925 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI 48915

Members Present: *Chair John Hohman, Colin Parks (Member Designee for Director Lyon), Jennifer Pintar, Hon. Robert Sykes, Jr., Shannon Lowder, Susan Hull, Betsy Boggs, Kelly Ramsey, Melinda Deel, Hon. Dorene Allen, Tana Bridge, Lani Forbes, Lori Budnik, Julie Nakfoor Pratt, and Robin Eagleson.*

Nonmembers: *Carol Hackett Garagiola, Julie Knop, Elizabeth Henderson, Seth Persky, Janet Kaley, Robert Harvey, Cassie Wolfe, Kelly Wagner, and Tonya Randall.*

Members Absent: *Fred Gruber, Jennifer Pintar, Danita Echols, and Veda Thompkins.*

Public: *There was no one from the public present.*

- **Welcome**

Judge Hohman called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Colin Parks introduced Tonya Randall, who is currently filling in for Sheldon Mayer.

- **Public Comment**

There was no one present from the public to make comment.

- **Consideration of Minutes from GTF Meeting on February 19, 2016**

One typographical error was noted for correction. Motion by Judge Allen , supported by Judge Sykes to approve minutes of the GTF meeting held on 2/19/2016. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Discussion of Proposed Plan for GTFCAN Roles in Implementing Recommendations of the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children (TFPSAC). Special Guest Judge Carol Gariagiola.**

Discussion was facilitated by Carol Hackett Gariagiola. The recommendations from TFPSAC were presented. It was noted that there is data generated by governmental agencies (i. e. Michigan State Police and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) that pertains to child sexual abuse, but is not analyzed. Additional organizations have pertinent information but do not have the means to pull the data. MDHHS was inquired what data is available via the MISACWIS system. If GTFCAN provides a list of what data is needed, a meeting can be established with DMU to see if the data is able to be extrapolated from

the system. It was suggested that if GTFCAN desires to have annual data updates that adding it to MDHHS boilerplates via P.A. 84 would ensure annual compliance through legislative order. MDHHS is currently preparing the responses to TFPSAC and will provide a summary to GTFCAN one week prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. All committees of GTFCAN are currently evaluating what aspects of the recommendations would be feasible to pursue.

- **Financial Report (L. Forbes)**

The financial report was provided to the Task Force. The expenditures of \$6001.03 that was previously not accounted for have been located. It was reported that approximately \$140,000.00 is not obligated at this time. GTFCAN will seek funding proposals through its previously established process of submission of application. The grant application has been updated, and will be ready for disbursement. The deadline for the application to be returned will be 9/23/2016 at 4:00p.m. The Funding and Projects Committee will review the applications, and make recommendations for the full Task Force to vote on the submissions prior to the 9/30/2016 deadline for obligation of funds. A motion by Judge Sykes, seconded by Lani Forbes to allow PAAM to expend \$42,768.00 of their preapproved line item. The motion was unanimously approved.

Additional funding projects were discussed. After discussion of the budget and frustrations with accounting and lack of data, a motion was made by Betsy Boggs, seconded by Judge Sykes for the GTFCAN Chair to send a communication the appropriate person within the DHHS to expression frustrations with the lack of accurate information concerning the GTFCAN budget. The motion carried.

- **MDHHS Report (C. Parks)**

MDHHS report presented by Tonya Randall. Answers were provided that had been asked by Task Force Members. Questions and answers are attached to meeting minutes. MDHHS introduced Robert Harvey and Janet Kaley, the new Human Trafficking Analyst and Supervisor. The Human Trafficking Protocol is in the final stages of being completed. The Task Force was requested to adopt the Human Trafficking Protocol and combine with the Model Child Abuse and Neglect Protocol. The Task Force will wait until the protocol is finalized, to determine its next course of action.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Citizen Review Panel (CRP) (R. Eagleson)**

The Adoption Committee is meeting jointly with the Citizen Review Panel Committee to better utilize resources and information. Lani Forbes and Jennifer Pintar participated in the National Citizen Review Panel Conference, and will provide summaries to the Task Force. The committee received the Executive Summary from MDHHS on their recommendations. The committee is preparing a response to the

summary, as more specific information is being requested for some of the recommendations. The committee would like their recommendations published on the GTFCAN website.

- **Summit Committee** (T. Bridge)

The Summit will be held May 25 and 26th, 2017 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. The Summit Committee has been meeting with the Training Committee, and request the two committees be combined. Evaluations from the 2016 Summit were reviewed. The committee has reviewed the evaluations of the 2016 Summit. The committee will revise the evaluations to gather more information that is relevant to the Summit.

- **Legislative Committee** (R. Sykes)

The committee reviewed the TFPSAC briefly, and will be meeting to formulate more formal recommendations as it pertains to the TFPSAC to the Task Force. It was requested that the GTFCAN Chair provide clarification the role of the Legislative Committee.

- **Training Committee** (D. Allen)

The Training Committee and Summit Committee are currently seeking a plenary speaker from Harvard on the trauma of neglect on infants and children.

The Training Clearinghouse is currently adding MSU and other training providers. In addition the Training Committee is working with Carol Hackett Garagiola to extract tangible items from the TFPSAC report that could be feasible for the Training Committee to undertake.

- **E. Mental Health Standards Committee** (S. Lowder)

The Mental Health Standards Committee reviewed the TFPSAC recommendations, and believe that they would be able to undertake recommendations A-E, and have formulated a plan on how to meet those recommendations. Dr. Lowder reported that she was informed earlier in the year that there may be additional therapists that would be eligible for the Relias Contract. Tonya Randall will pursue locating the number of eligible therapists, and estimate to add them as subscribers.

- **F. Child Protection, Well-Being, and Permanency Committee** (F. Gruber)

A report was provided prior to the Task Force prior to meeting, as Mr. Gruber would not be in attendance. It was reported the training “Advocating for Foster Students in the Schools” sold out with a waiting list. The training was moved to accommodate the additional

participants. Program materials and outline are almost finalized. His committee is grateful for the support of the GTF and SCAO, especially Ms. Henderson.

G. Adoption Committee (B. Boggs)

The Adoption Committee is currently partnering with the Citizen's Review Panel Committee to gain information from the panels that participated. The Adoption Committee is currently waiting to hear back from MDHHS on data regarding dissolved and disrupted adoptions to formulate their further course of action.

H. Protocol Implementation Committee (J. Nakfoor Pratt)

The Protocol Implementation Committee continues to work as a work group. They continue to work on the Forensic Interviewing Protocol updates, progress is reported as going well. Deb Poole is a pioneer in the Forensic Interviewing Protocol and is assisting with the updates. The Protocol Implementation Committee will meet and will give formal recommendations on the TFPSAC to the Task Force.

- **Schedule meeting dates for 2017**

The Task Force scheduled a meeting on 9/29/2016 from 9:00am to 10:30am, with the agenda focusing on financial items. The last meeting for 2016 will be on 12/09/2016 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Hall of Justice.

The meetings for 2017 are as follows:

02/17/2016 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Hall of Justice

05/24/2017 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

07/28/2017 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Hall of Justice

09/29/2017 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Hall of Justice

12/08/2017 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Hall of Justice

- **Grid for Committee Meetings**

Chair Hohman and Ms. Randall asked DHHS legal department whether GTFCAN committees and subcommittees are subject to the Open Meetings Act. It was the opinion of the legal department that they are. Chair Hohman introduced grids for the committee's to try when holding meetings. The grid allows the committee to track goals and progress through a standardized means through all the committees. It was requested the committees try the grids before January 2017 to provide feedback in February 2017 at the full Task Force Meeting.

- **New Business**

A member questioned what constituted a quorum of the GTFCAN or one of its committees. Chair Hohman said that it was his understanding that a quorum was defined as the majority of the members appointed to a committee.

A motion was made by Lani Forbes, seconded by Shannon Lowder, for GTFCAN to approve the application process to be utilized for grants totaling \$97,532.00 in remaining fiscal 2014 grant funds that pertain to the criteria set forth by GTFCAN. The motion unanimously carried.

- **GTF Chair Report**

No additional items.

- **GTF Coordinator Report- (T. Randall)**

No additional items.

- **GTF Future Meeting Schedule**

- 09/29/2016 from 9:00am to 10:30am room to be announced, and teleconference number to be provided. The 09/29/2016 meeting is being held in lieu of the 10/14/2016 meeting.

- **Adjourn**

Questions for MDHHS
Governor's Task Force 09/09/2016

- **If and when MDHHS intends to integrate adoptive and foster parents into their policy groups and policy review committees? How they intend to compensate them for their expertise?**

Response: Adoptive and foster parents participate in the Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Council. They attend Adoptive Oversight Committee and policy is discussed. Adoptive and Foster Parents are able to bring updates and concerns to local offices, as well as central office. At this time there is not funding available to compensate adoption and foster parents for participation on committees.

- **What other ways MDHHS is partnering with parents to improve the system for children?**

Response: MDHHS is partnering with parents by incorporating and implementing the MITEAM Family Engagement Model, utilizing parent representation in groups as well as through service provisions as mentors to families that are currently working with MDHHS (CMH).

- **What is the time line for collecting data required on disrupted and dissolved per the Fostering Connections Act? How will the data be collected? Federal requirements for when the data is going to be available?**

Response: Upon review of the Foster Connections Act, through the Children's Bureau there are no federal requirements for reporting on disrupted and dissolved adoptions. Methods of collection is still being ascertained. Data collection is under way.

- **Is there data about the number of placement changes for foster children, and reasons why?**

Response: This data is not available.

- **What were the substantive changes to the MSA?**

In May 2015 the State and Children's Rights came together to renegotiate the MSA. In February 2016 the Implementation, Sustainability, and Exit Plan (ISEP) was approved by the Federal Courts. No new requirements were put into place. As the Department shows compliance with the previous outlined requirements, the Department will no longer be monitored on that requirements. The full document is located at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Dwayne_B_Implementation_signed_by_Judge_512787_7.pdf

- **Family Speak responses to issues was that there was DHHS policy to address these issues. It is not believed that front line workers were following policies, what can families do to discover the actual policy, and to address it with their caseworker(s) or who should they call or email? If you have any updates to your responses regarding this issue, that would also be appreciated.**

Response: If a family does not feel that policy is being followed or has questions that they do not believe that the front line is answering sufficiently the family should contact their local county, and speak to supervision, program manager, or if necessary the director. Links were provided for contact information for all county offices, child welfare forms and publications, child welfare policy manuals and bulletins, contact information for the Office of Children's Ombudsman, and contact information for the Office of Family Advocate.

Public Forms and Publications for Child Welfare: http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7119_25045---,00.html

MDHHS Policy Manuals that includes policy as well as bulletin updates: <https://dhhs.michigan.gov/olmweb/ex/html/>

MDHHS County Contact information: http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_5461---,00.html

Office of Children's Ombudsman: <http://www.michigan.gov/oco>

Office of Family Advocate: telephone (517) 373-2101

