

**Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect**

Friday, December 9, 2016  
Hall of Justice  
925 Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI

**Members Present:** Judge John Hohman (chair), Judge Dorene Allen via telephone, Dr. Tana Bridge, Lori Budnik, Melinda Deel, Lani Forbes, Susan Hull, Dr. Shannon Lowder, Julie Nakfoor Pratt, Betsy Boggs, Danita Echols, Fred Gruber via telephone, Judge Robert Sykes, and Jennifer Pintar.

**Members Absent:** Colin Parks, Judge Kelly Ramsey, Robin Eagleson, and Veda Thompkins

**Nonmembers Present:** Tonya Randall, Elizabeth Henderson, and Carol Hackett Garagiola via telephone

**Public:** No one present from the public

- **Welcome**

Chair Judge Hohman welcomed everyone present for today's meeting.

- **Roll Call**

Completed.

- **Public Comment**

No Comments were received.

- **Consideration of Minutes for September 29, 2016**

Judge Robert Sykes motioned for the minutes to be approved; Julie Nakfoor Pratt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Recognition Judge Robert Sykes**

Judge Sykes honored as Jurist of the Year 2016.

- **Recognition Judge Kelly Ramsey**

Judge Ramsey was elected Circuit Court Judge for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit on November 8, 2016. Congratulations were extended to her.

- **Recognition Robin Eagleson**

Robin has submitted her resignation to the Task Force effective 12/31/2016. Her service to the Task Force was recognized.

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

Educational training offered with SCAO was a success. Elizabeth Henderson, from SCAO was thanked instrumental role in its success. Exploring options for the training be offered again.

The committee will be meeting to review committee goals and constructing a mission statement.

- **Budget and Funding Project Committee-** (L. Forbes)

Proposed budget provided to all Task Members for 2017 Full Task Force and 2017 Annual Summit.

Summit budget contains all costs associated with the Summit including travel and speaker fees, as these fees will no longer be expended from the travel line item.

Full Task Force budget for 2017 reviewed.

Lani Forbes motioned for the Full Task Force Budget to be approved with additions to the Summit budget. Susan Hull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Budget and Funding Project Committee will create a funding request cycle for outside entities to request funds.

A request from SCAO was received to fund a two-year project for evaluation of mediation in child welfare. The Task Force is not able to fund due to the amount requested, and limited funding available.

- **Citizen's Review Panel Committee-** (J. Pintar)

Committee met with Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHHS) to discuss Panel findings and recommendations. It was determined narrowing the scope to one area would allow for more focus. The area of focus will encompass child welfare worker support.

The committee is making progress in completing their response to MDHHS Executive Response to the Citizen's Review Panel recommendations.

The committee is utilizing knowledge from the National Citizen's Review Panel Conference.

- **Adoption Committee-** (B. Boggs)

Ms. Boggs requested that the Adoption Committee is disbanded and announced her resignation as Chair of the committee.

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

The committee reviewed the Sexual Abuse Protocol recommendations. It was determined legislatively it is too large for the Task Force to spearhead. In the event a larger entity undertakes the legislative recommendations, the committee could provide a supportive role.

The committee has the capability to review court rules and administrative rules that affect child welfare, in addition to legislative matters.

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

An additional 420 users were added to the Relias Contract for contracted therapists to have access to the training site.

David Mandel's Safe and Together domestic violence model will be added to Relias.

The committee is currently working with an association to ensure therapists have specialized training in the treatment of sexual offenders.

A goal was added for the committee. To advocate for Licensing and Regulatory Affairs mandate training of child welfare to all licensed therapists.

Dr. Tana Bridge and UAW 6000 will be asked to the next meeting to discuss mandated counseling for workers who are assigned child death cases.

- **Training Committee-** (Judge Allen)

The 2017 Summit includes diverse topic areas to pull in diverse participants. Topic areas include:

- Poverty
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Infant Mental Health
- Working with parents with cognitive disabilities

- Panel discussion on Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Domestic Violence
- Kinship Care
- Homeless Youth
- Domestic Violence

The judges' training presented in December was well received.

- **Protocol Committee-** (J. Nakfoor Pratt)

The Committee's work group for updating the Forensic Interviewing Protocol is currently in the final stages of updating.

Upon completion of updating the Forensic Interviewing Protocol, the committee's focus will revert to the education of Child Abuse and Neglect Model Protocols.

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

The Data Committee is a newly formed committee that is currently seeking members for participation.

The committee will be looking to other states to see how they handle data.

All data requests from members should be routed through the Data Committee.

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

Colin Parks was not present. No report provided.

- **Retreat Follow Up-** (J. Hohman)

Documents provided from Lindsay Gross, facilitator for Retreat.

Reminder each committee is to have formed a mission statement, goals, and benchmarks prior to the next GTF meeting on February 17, 2017. These should be provided to Tonya prior to February 10, 2017 for distribution to the full Task Force.

A standing agenda item will be added to review the Task Force's strategic plan.

- **New Business**

No new business.

- **Next Meeting**

Full Task Force Meeting scheduled February 17, 2017 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Hall of Justice, 925 Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI

- **Meeting was Adjourned**