



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

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Club Room  
100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd., Acme, MI

### **Draft Minutes**

**Members Present:** Judge John Hohman (chair), Judge Dorene Allen, Dr. Tana Bridge, Lori Budnik, Lani Forbes, Susan Heilner, Dr. Shannon Lowder, Jennifer Pintar, Julie Nakfoor Pratt, Danita Echols, Judge Cheryl Lohmeyer, Colin Parks (designee of Director Nick Lyon), Veda Thompkins, and Judge Kelly Ramsey.

**Members Absent:** Judge Robert Sykes, Catherine Onsted, and Freb Gruber

**Non-members Present:** Neila T. Johnson (coordinator), Elizabeth Henderson, David Mandel, and David Garvin.

**Public:** TaSheema Jones-Murray and Philip Corp

#### ➤ **Welcome**

- Judge Hohman welcomed everyone present for the meeting and introduced Judge Lohmeyer.

#### ➤ **Public Comment**

- No comments were received.

#### ➤ **Consideration of Minutes from 2/17/17**

- Judge Hohman made a motion that the minutes to be approved; Lani Forbes seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ➤ **Budget and Funding Project Committee-** (Lani Forbes)

- Lani Forbes reported that on May 18, 2017, at approximately 5:30 PM, the Budget and Project Funding Committee a budget report from Neila Johnson. This report was sent to the Committee in preparation for their May 19, 2017 meeting. The report listed an expense entitled "direct cost allocation" in the amount of \$70,108 through May 10, 2017.. Tiffany Clark later reported that the total amount of this expense for

the year will likely be approximately \$120,000. Ms. Forbes further reported that over the past three years, no member of the GTF can recall ever receiving a budget report listing this type of expense. The budget adopted by the GTF in 2016 did not account for this expense, and no one from the DHHS ever alerted the GTF that this expense should be anticipated. The GTF made financial commitments to various providers. If the GTF is obligated to pay DHHS for direct cost allocation in the amount indicated, it will not be able to honor its other commitments.

- After hearing Ms. Forbes report, several members of the Task Force expressed their concerns with the amount of the new line item for direct cost allocation, as well the process by which it was added to the expenses of the Task Force.
- Colin Parks reported that MDHHS is working expeditiously to answer all of the questions regarding the budget from GTF members. He reported that Jeremy Phillips, MDHHS Budget Office is willing to participate in a teleconference with the GTF the week of May 29th.
- **Citizen's Review Panel Committee-** (Jennifer Pintar)
  - Ms. Pintar reported that she and Lani Forbes attended the National CRP conference in Alaska, which was very beneficial. She learned a lot about what CRP's are doing in other states.
  - Ms. Pintar reported that she wants to request annual reports from other states in order to identify national trends. She also wants to identify solutions that are specific to some of the issues that have been identified in MI to try to make some improvements.
  - Dr. Shannon Lowder informed Ms. Pintar about the CRP listserv.
  - Neila Johnson volunteered to request the reports from other states via the CRP listserv.
  - Ms. Pintar would like to schedule a meeting with the Quality Improvement Council and discuss staff retention.
  - Michigan is hosting the 2018 National CRP conference.
- **Legislative Committee-**
  - There were no updates.
- **Mental Health Standards Committee-** (Dr. Shannon Lowder)
  - This subcommittee is currently remunerating the rates for mental health professionals with MDHHS.
  - There was a teleconference with MDHHS Office of Workforce Development and Training (Laura Schneider, Logistics Division Manager), Colin Parks and Carol Hackett Garagiola regarding developing training modules that could be used on Relias.

- MDHHS OWDT would not charge the subcommittee to assist with developing the story board for the training modules, which would save GTF \$120,000.
  - There has been a developer from MDHHS OWDT assigned to develop the story board.
  - This workgroup meets weekly.
- **Child Protection, Permanency, and Well-Being Committee** (Danita Echols)
- Fred Gruber would like to change the name of this subcommittee to Child Well-Being.
  - The subcommittee is reviewing retention rates of MDHHS staff and foster parents.
  - The subcommittee is looking into how to better advocate for foster youth within various school districts.
- **Training Committee-** (Judge Allen)
- This subcommittee would like feedback on the Summit.
  - There will be pre and post evaluations for the plenary sessions.
- **Protocol Committee-** (Julie Nakfoor Pratt)
- The updated Forensic Interview Protocol has been finalized.
  - There was discussion about distributing the updated Forensic Interview protocol electronically, having it available on the website, and printing a limited number of booklets.
  - Ms. Nakfoor Pratt stated that she would like hard copies available for new employees.
  - There was discussion about developing a one page document with the changes for seasoned staff.
  - Julie Walsh emailed Colin Parks about printing and distribution.
- **Data Committee-** (Dr. Bridge)
- The data subcommittee has a meeting scheduled with Fred Gruber.
- **MDHHS Report-** (Colin Parks)
- There is a discussion paper circulating at MDHHS Program Office on how people are placed on the registry. There is a proposed change to central registry placement and removal.
  - Central registry placement would be limited to for cases when abuse neglect is confirmed by the department under the “egregious circumstances listed under section 18 of the Child Protection Law.
  - These changes will affect the CPL, case worker practice, and licensing rules.

- The Office of the Auditor General is in the midst of an audit of CPS Investigation Reports. The audit should be concluded sometime in FY 2018. There will probably be 20 or more findings when the audit is complete.
- Senator O'Brien and Senator Jones, "Plan of Safe Care" bill requires MDHHS, and medical professionals/providers to address the health and safety needs of the newborn infant who is exposed to drugs. The bill ensures that cases are assigned when required. In the public health field, there will be visiting nurses and home visitation programs, among others who will assist homes with drug exposed infants and engage the families. This "Plan of Safe Care" will be included in the CPL and changes will be made to policy.

➤ **David Mandel**

- Mr. Mandel presented about the Safe and Together Model and some of the measureable results in Florida. He stated that though the model is being used nationally and internationally, it is difficult to measure the progress/impact as most jurisdictions do not have domestic violence listed as a maltreatment.
- Mr. Mandel reported that he worked with MDHHS to certify trainers on the Safe and Together Model in MI and that the program has been rolled out.
- He reported that there is a barrier when training mental health professionals and service providers on domestic violence. The focus has been on removing the perpetrator from the home and having the victim obtain a PPO, not holding the perpetrator accountable.
- He stated that there needs to be more training on domestic violence with the courts and attorneys.
- He stated that in some states, workers do not document accurately the impact of domestic violence on children.
- The workers' attitude towards domestic violence impacts the outcome/safety of the children.
- The Safe and Together Institute has not measured PTSD in children who have experienced domestic violence in the home.

➤ **Coordinator's Report (Neila Johnson)**

- The 2017 grant application went to the Governor's Office on May 19th.
- For the 2018 grant, the following areas need to be strengthened:
  - Outline of the statewide need, goals and objectives in each area: Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.
  - Include more experimental, model, and testing innovative approaches and techniques in the 2018 grant application.
  - Reform of Michigan's laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children.

- Be able to clearly show how the trainings of the Court Improvement Program and GTF are coordinated as well as different.
  - We want to show that there is stronger coordination with the programs that are receiving federal CAPTA grant money; while demonstrating how our work in different from the work other groups are doing in the State.
  - For the upcoming meetings we might want to invite specific individuals/agencies who are doing work in the areas the federal government is prioritizing such as Dir. of Native American Affairs (Stacey Tadgerson).
    - Individuals who work on the Child and Family Services Plan so that we can be aware of their plan for MDHHS to better coordinate/collaborate recommendations.
- **Chair Report** (Judge Hohman)
- Judge Hohman is updating the new member orientation binder.
- **New Business**
- Judge Allen presented information on the Juvenile Justice Initiative in Midland County.
  - There was a reduction in juvenile delinquency by 80 percent.
  - There were three self-reported surveys completed by 3500 children between the ages of 10 and 11-years-old.
  - The results indicated that the children used substances at lower rates than the adults in the county.
  - Judge Allen stated that the entire community embraced the program, which she feels contributed to its success.
  - Children are not being placed in residential facilities in Midland at the rate they were prior to this program.
  - Midland County worked with MDHHS and the Legacy Center on the juvenile delinquency model.
  - Judge Allen would like to develop a similar model for neglect/abuse cases since the number of neglect/abuse cases have remained constant.
  - Judge Lohmeyer stated that in Monroe County there is a Child Stability Workgroup that includes court personnel and MDHHS staff.
  - Colin Parks offered assistance from CPS Program Office with obtaining data for development of a model for neglect/abuse cases.
  - There was discussion about reprinting the book, "It's Good To Tell the Truth."
- **Next Meeting**
- Full Task Force Meeting scheduled July 28, 2017 from 11am-2pm at Hall of Justice, 925 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI.

➤ **Meeting was Adjourned**