



Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

Friday, December 8, 2017
MDHHS
235 S. Grand Ave. Lansing, MI 48933

Proposed Draft Minutes

Members Present: Judge John Hohman (chair), Dr. Tana Bridge, Lori Budnik, Lani Forbes, Dr. Shannon Lowder, Jennifer Pintar, Julie Nakfoor Pratt, Judge Cheryl Lohmeyer, Colin Parks (designee of Director Nick Lyon), and Christopher Wirth.

Members via Teleconference: Judge Dorene Allen

Members Absent: Danita Echols, Susan Heilner, Dr. Bethany Mohr, Catherine Onsted, Judge Kelly Ramsey, and Veda Thompkins.

Non-members Present: Neila T. Johnson (coordinator).

Public: Michael Roberts, Delta Township Fire Department.

➤ **Welcome (Judge Hohman)**

- Judge Hohman welcomed everyone present for the meeting.

➤ **Consideration of Minutes from 9/29/17**

- **Judge Lohmeyer** requested that the proposed minutes be amended.
- A motion to approve the minutes and add: *"Judge Lohmeyer reported that there has been a revision to the Michigan Court Rule regarding parents' appeals after the adjudication trial in child protective proceedings"* passed unanimously.

➤ **Chair Report – (Judge Hohman)**

Vice Chair Position

- Judge Hohman reported that since Judge Sykes resigned from the task force there is not a vice chair. According to the Executive Order 2017-4, the Chair can appoint a vice chair; he appointed Dr. Tana Bridge as the vice chair of the task force, which she accepted.

GTF Budget

- The GTF members were updated about the meeting between Judge Hohman, and, Lani Forbes with Children Services Agency Director, Dr. McCall and Budget Director Ms. Kangas. MDHHS had not agreed to cap the cost allocation amount to eight percent for fiscal 2017, stating that the books are closed on 2017.

- Judge Hohman referred to the FY 2016 and FY 2017 year-end expenditure reports provided by Neila Johnson. For FY 2016, the cost allocation amount was \$32,355 and for FY 2017 it was \$108,924.
- He reported that as of October 1st, the task force had \$74,000 remaining in the 2016 grant and received the 2017 grant funds in the amount of \$470,707.

Task Force Grant Fiduciary

- The task force grant administering agency structure was discussed. Judge Hohman reported that other states use entities other than an Executive Department as the fiduciary (court system or university). He asked the task force membership if they would be interested in exploring moving the task force to another agency, since the DHHS costs were roughly \$250,000 in fiscal 2017.
- **Dr. Tana Bridge** made a motion to direct the Chair, Judge Hohman; Budget and Funding Committee Chair, Lani Forbes and any other volunteer task force members to explore options that would ensure that the task force maximize funds directed to the values, goals, and expectations outlined in the CJA grant, and report back to the GTFCAN one week prior to the next meeting [February 16, 2018] with a specific recommendation. Other members that will serve on this Exploratory Committee are: Vice Chair, Tana Bridge and Christopher Wirth. The motion carried.
- **Judge Hohman** reported that a decision will be made by the Governor's Office later this month as to the CASA Representative and Adult Former Child Victim positions.
- He reported that he would have the New Member's Handbook completed by January 2018.
- **GTFCAN Strategic Plan**
 - **Jennifer Pintar** reported that the task force developed a strategic plan in December 2016 and she thought it was a great time to revisit it to refocus the task force.
 - **Judge Hohman** stated that he will meet with the coordinator on December 11th to outline some goals for the task force. He stated that he would like for the task force to develop action steps by May 2018.
- **Budget and Funding Committee- (Lani Forbes)**
 - Report covered during the discussion by the Chair.
- **Citizen's Review Panel Committee- (Jennifer Pintar)**

National CRP Conference

- National CRP conference will be in Michigan in 2018. The planning committee changed the location from Detroit to Mackinac Island and the new dates are June 5-7, 2018. She asked for permission for the CRP on CPS, FC, and Adoption members to attend this conference and will inform the task force of the costs once she obtains that information.

Development of Secondary Trauma Training Program

- The CRP on CPS, FC, and Adoption had a productive meeting today with Mr. Douglas Williams, BSC #2 Director; and is working well with MDHHS. She stated that in some other states, the CRP does not have a relationship with the public child welfare agency.
- This CRP was asked by Mr. Williams to give feedback to MDHHS and Dr. Henry regarding the development of Secondary Trauma training programs.

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

Forensic Interview Protocol Printing Quote

- **Neila Johnson** informed the GTF of the need to print 5000 copies of the Forensic Interview protocol, which will cost \$3,901.50 instead of the \$2,291.96 that the task force approved on September 29th.
- **Dr. Tana Bridge** asked why aren't the FI Protocols made available online and why is the task force paying to supply professionals with this information. She stated that in the future, the Protocol Committee should consider distributing/printing the protocol during the revision process in the future.
- **Julie Nakfoor Pratt** stated that the task force created the FI Protocols and the committee who revised it did not get compensated for their time or work to do so. She stated that there are benefits to printing hard copies of the FI Protocol and having hard copies available for all the staff that uses the protocol.
- **Colin Parks** reported on the number of CPS staff currently employed at MDHHS and how many staff carry the FI Protocol in their field kits.
- **Jennifer Pintar** stated that it might be difficult for law enforcement to read the FI Protocol on their cell phones. She stated that the law enforcement community would benefit from printing the FI protocol.
- **Julie Nakfoor Pratt** made a motion to approve paying for the printing the FI Protocol. The motion was approved.

SIGMA VSS Registration

- **Judge Hohman** asked Neila Johnson to resend information on registering with SIGMA VSS. He asked task force members to respond all by Wednesday, December 13th if they were having difficulty registering with SIGMA VSS and Neila will decide the next steps at that point.

➤ **Law and Policy Committee- (Judge Lohmeyer)**

- **Judge Lohmeyer** reported on the committee's first meeting via teleconference on November 20th and provided the task force with copies of the minutes. She listed the following priorities of this committee:
 - **MDHHS 3200** – The form needs to be updated to meet the needs of the Mandated Reporter and CPS investigator.
 - **PSM 713-08** – There are issues with this policy, specifically, MDHHS staff assisting families with preparing guardianship paperwork.
 - **EPIC Guardianships** – Committee will look at the law and determine what if anything needs to be changed in MDHHS policy.
 - **Fred Gruber** – There is misuse and/or overuse of guardianships in Wayne County.
 - **Mandatory Reporter Training** – addressing the need to reach out to communities and provide training as opposed to mandated reporters having to request it.
 - **Julie Nakfoor Pratt** stated that in Barry County there is a team who provide Mandated Reporter Training and she is willing to share this information with Judge Lohmeyer.
 - **Colin Parks** reported that MDHHS has a Mandated Reporter workgroup and that each county has identified individuals who provide Mandated Reporter training in their county.
- **Christopher Wirth** discussed the lack of training that attorneys must complete to be placed on the child protective proceedings docket. He would like to develop a mandatory training/best practice model for LGAL's.

➤ **Mental Health Standards Committee- (Dr. Shannon Lowder)**

Online Training for Therapists who work with Sex Offenders

- Online training is being develop for therapists who work with sex offenders.
- The workgroup will send content information to MDHHS OWDT. The workgroup is working on getting the training approved through the agency that monitors the sex offender registry.
- The contracts for therapists who complete trauma assessments were

completed in June 2017.

Psychiatric Evaluations

- This committee has been working since 2013 to get contracts for therapists who provide psychiatric evaluations. In January 2018, bidding will start for the psychiatric evaluation contracts. This will hopefully make the information provided in the psychiatric evaluations more uniformed. This committee feels that the best way for MDHHS to communicate to therapists who provide psychiatric evaluations in through the local counties.

➤ **Child Advocacy Committee (Fred Gruber)**

- The focus of the committee is to: 1) increase the number of licensed foster parents throughout the state and 2) recruit foster parents.
- There was a foster parent forum in Wayne County that was well attended. Foster Parent forums will be upcoming in Washtenaw and Monroe counties.
- This committee would like to use the task force, Exchange Club, and the courts to assist with the recruitment efforts.

➤ **Training Committee- (Dr. Bridge)**

- **Dr. Bridge** gave an overview of the training committee's mission and goals.

2018 Summit

- Brenda Jones-Harden has been secured as the keynote speaker for the 2018 summit, which will be held on October 25-26, 2018 at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. Neila will work with Duke on improving the quality of the food.
- The theme has not been decided but this committee is discussing potential themes: "No Longer Invisible" or "Invisible No More". Next year's summit to address the needs of marginalized populations and implicit bias.

GTF Training Schedule and Evaluation

- Elizabeth Henderson works with over 17 organizations to look at the trainings that are provided statewide and develop the GTF training schedule.
- The training evaluation tool is sufficient in meeting the needs of the CJA grant. Moving forward, SCAO will be requiring all training participants to sign-in and out of the training and complete an electronic survey at the end of the trainings. The training committee will look at the response rate of evaluation completion and adjust as needed to meet the CJA grant requirements.

➤ **Protocol Committee- (Julie Nakfoor Pratt)**

- This committee is in a holding pattern currently.
- **Data Committee- Dr. Bridge**
 - This committee is ensuring compliance with CJA grant requirements.
- **MDHHS Report- (Colin Parks)**
 - MDHHS is having its 3rd annual Child Welfare Safety Conference on December 11th at the Kellogg Center. The task force members were advised that they can still register if they wanted to attend.
 - The CPS program has been under audit by the Office of the Auditor General for over a year. MDHHS expects 25-30 findings to possibly come out of the audit.
 - There are some policy changes to:
 - Substance Exposed Infants – Plans of Safe Care are required by the federal government of child welfare and public health agencies. MDHHS is working with the Michigan Public Health Institute on how to better utilize home visitation programs that can now provide 27 additional visits to a family.
 - Families where child(ren) are returned home after removal, eight days or less will no longer be monitored by CPS. Foster care will now monitor those cases and safety plan with the family. There will be training with foster care staff in Safety Planning and Assessment.
- **New Business**
 - No new business.
- **Next Meeting**
 - February 16, 2018 at the Hall of Justice, Lansing, MI.
- **Meeting was Adjourned**