



Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

Friday, September 29, 2017

Hall of Justice
925 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48915

Proposed Draft Minutes

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

Members Absent: Dr. Tana Bridge

Non-members Present: Neila T. Johnson (coordinator), Elizabeth Henderson, Judge Karen Braxton, and Kelly Wagner.

Public: No comments.

➤ **Welcome (Judge Hohman)**

- Judge Hohman welcomed everyone present for the meeting and introduced new GTF members: Catherine Onsted, Dr. Bethany Mohr, and Christopher Wirth.

➤ **Consideration of Minutes from 5/24/17 (Judge Hohman)**

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

➤ **Revised 2017 Budget – (GTF)**

Judge Hohman recounted the problem that GTFCAN has had with the DHHS regarding “cost allocation.” He reminded the GTFCAN members that this issue first came to light just before the May GTFCAN meeting, when the GTFCAN Budget Committee was informed that the GTFCAN budget reflected an expenditure to DHHS in the amount of \$70,108 through six months for “direct cost allocation.” He further reported that he and the Budget Committee submitted a series of questions to DHHS staff on this issue. In addition to those questions, on June 19 he asked the DHHS to indicate the amount of “direct cost allocation” charged by DHHS to the GTFCAN. On Sept. 1, 2017 he received those figures. The report showed that the cost allocation

amounts were approximately eight percent. Through the first three quarters of this year, the allocated costs charged by DHHS were:

1st quarter: \$5,191
2nd quarter: \$31,920
3rd quarter: \$32,917

According to DHHS, these costs are approximately 12.5% of the GTFCAN expenditures for the year.

Judge Hohman reported that he made a request to MDHHS to cap the cost allocation charges to GTF at eight percent and the matter would be resolved. There was a conference call between Judge Hohman, Lani Forbes, Colin Parks, and Jeremy Phillips, supervisor at MDHHS Budget office this morning and MDHHS indicated that it will not agree to cap cost allocation at the level requested. MDHHS identified they will provide GTF quarterly updates on cost allocation and identify when the amount may be exceeding 8.3%. Mr. Phillips reported that the fourth quarter numbers would not be in until mid-October, at which time GTF will know the total cost allocation amounts.

Jennifer Pintar reported that there has always been an issue with the budget and that the GTF should consider whether MDHHS continue in the role of the task force's grant fiduciary.

Judge Allen presented that GTF make a resolution publicly that it will only accept eight percent cost allocation charges from MDHHS. **Judge Hohman** asked if the GTF should consider asking the Governor's Office to remove GTF from under MDHHS.

Dr. Bethany Mohr asked whether or not GTF is able to meet its' contractual obligations. **Dr. Shannon Lowder** reported that its contractual obligations are met and that usually GTF has money at the end of the year that it has to spend. **Kelly Wagner** reported that the State Court Administrators Office has always been paid yearly for its contract with MDHHS.

Colin Parks proposed that the GTFCAN extend an invitation for Jeremy Phillips to attend the December GTF meeting. Colin identified that the offer had been made to the GTF to meet with Mr. Phillips and/or include him in the meetings in the past. **Judge Hohman** wants to review the fourth quarter expenditures and cost allocation amount prior to inviting Mr. Phillips to a meeting.

➤ **Committee Reports (Judge Hohman)**

Judge Hohman asked the current chairs of the subcommittees if they wanted to continue to chair their respective subcommittees. No changes to the Chairs were made, except as noted below.

Since Judge Sykes is no longer on the GTF, there needs to be a new chair of the Legislative Committee. Judge Hohman indicated that he was changing the name of the Legislative Committee to the Law and Policy Committee. Judge Hohman asked Judge Lohmeyer if she would be willing to chair the Law and Policy Committee, and she accepted.

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

Report covered during the discussion of the revised 2017 budget.

➤ **Citizen's Review Panel Committee-** (Jennifer Pintar)

National CRP conference will be in MI in 2018. The planning committee is currently looking for sponsors and keynote speakers.

The CRP on CPS, FC, and Adoption is working with the MDHHS Quality Improvement Council on staff retention and developing a trauma sensitive work environment.

➤ **Legislative Committee- (Judge Hohman)**

- Name changed to Law and Policy Committee.
- Judge Lohmeyer accepted position as chair.
- **Christopher Wirth** asked whether GTF is able to support or oppose legislative bills?
- **Judge Allen** suggested that GTF members contact their legislators individually.
- **Colin Parks** reported that in the past GTF wrote legislative statements of support to the legislature.
- **Judge Lohmeyer** suggested that the policy committee obtain policy updates from MDHHS and identify statewide needs. Judge Lohmeyer reported that there has been a revision to Court Rule Appeals policy and parents can now appeal after the adjudication trial.
- **Colin Parks offered to provide child welfare policy updates to this committee as requested.**

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

- Workgroup for sex offenders continues to meet.

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

- The focus of the committee is to: 1) reduce barriers to retention of foster parents; 2) recruit foster parents; 3) educate foster youth; and 4) address the educational issues of foster youth.
- **Training Committee-** (Dr. Bridge)
 - **Judge Allen** reported in Dr. Bridge's absence. GTF received the 2017 summit actual budget and the expense report.
 - **Protocol Committee-** (Julie Nakfoor Pratt)
 - The revised Forensic Interview protocol has been completed and sent to MDHHS.
 - The other protocols will undergo revision and the next one will be the Model Child Abuse protocol.
 - **Data Committee-**
 - No report
 - **MDHHS Report-** (Colin Parks)
 - Colin Parks reported that he attended a national child death assessment and review conference in Colorado. The committee is reviewing ways to improve child death assessment and state reviews. Colin will follow up with GTF as their work proceeds.
 - MDHHS is having its 3rd annual Child Welfare Safety Conference on December 11th at the Kellogg Center. The brochure will be forwarded to GTF as it has been finalized.
 - 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.
 - The child death annual report, which should be online is provided to the legislature. MDHHS will provide the 2014-2015 report to the GTF once it has been finalized.
 - **Coordinator's Report (Neila Johnson)**

Neila Johnson informed the GTF that the invoice for Dr. Debra Poole who assisted with the revisions to the Forensic Interview protocol is \$3500. Requested approval to pay the invoice. She reported that there is money in the budget to pay the invoice. A motion was made and supported to pay the invoice. A show of hands vote was conducted, and the motion carried.

The invoice totaling \$2,291.96 was presented to pay for the printing of 1500 copies of the Forensic Interview protocol. A motion was made and

supported to pay the invoice. A show of hands vote was conducted, and the motion carried.

Judge Hohman asked how much money is left in the 2017 grant. The MDHHS Grant office will be consulted and an update provided.

➤ **Chair Report** (Judge Hohman)

- Judge Hohman is updating the new member orientation binder.
- The Governor's Office is considering whether or not to appoint a CASA representative. He asked for recommendations for the adult former child victim discipline.
- **Judge Ramsey** recommended attorney Maryanne Bruder as a new GTF Member.
- **Neila Johnson** recommended former Genesee County Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative President, Jameshia Shepherd as a new GTF Member.

➤ **New Business**

- No new business.

➤ **Next Meeting**

- Date changed from December 15th to December 8th. The meeting will take place at the Grand Tower Building located at 235 S. Grand Ave., Dempsey Room, Lansing, MI 48933.

➤ **Meeting was Adjourned**