



**Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect
Friday, May 31, 2019
Michigan Hall of Justice**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Tana Bridge (chair), Dr. Shannon Lowder (vice-chair), Daniel Babin, Danita Echols, Fredrick Gruber, Hon. Cheryl Lohmeyer, Dr. Bethany Mohr, Colin Parks, Det./Sgt. Jennifer Pintar, Hon. Kelly Ramsey, Veda Thompkins

Members via Teleconference: Dr. Lisa Niergarth, Dr. Cynthia Smith

Members Absent: Lori Budnik, Julie Nakfoor-Pratt, Catherine Onsted, Hon. Lisa Sullivan, Rita Wieber, Mr. Christopher Wirth

Non-members Present: Ashley Babcock, Cheryl Babcock, Dave Babcock, Shawn Babcock, Kevin Bryan – MDHHS, Keith Clark – Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Whit Froehlich – University of Michigan Medical School, Elizabeth Henderson – SCAO, Julie Knop – Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan, Seth Persky – MDHHS, Kristin Kunes-Rodriguez - MDHHS

Public Comment: Public comment was made by Ashley Babcock, Cheryl Babcock, Dave Babcock, Shawn Babcock. **Shawn Babcock** indicated she was concerned regarding misinformation being included in CPS reports. Recently, her daughter had a negative interaction with CPS. The family attempted to address their concerns at the local level; however, they did not believe they were addressed appropriately. Information in the report was reported to be incorrect. As a result, **Shawn Babcock** believed CPS workers should be required to wear body cameras while completing interviews and field work.

The family recently contacted the Office of Family Advocate to address their concerns. The Office of Child Ombudsmen was reported to not address the families concerns as they indicated the concerns raised by the family did not match the information in the report. The family indicated they had video evidence to suggest the investigator erred; however, no one will view their information. The family indicated **Kevin Bryan** was helpful and informative and helped the family to address their concerns. During the open public comment, GTFCAN members asked clarifying questions. **Colin Parks** and **Seth Persky** agreed to meet with the family to address their concerns during the lunch break.

➤ **Welcome – Dr. Tana Bridge**

- Meeting called to order at 11:07am

➤ **Consideration of Minutes from 03/15/2019 – Dr. Tana Bridge**

- Motion by Daniel Babin to adopt the minutes which was seconded by Dr. Shannon Lowder. Motion unanimously carried.

➤ **Chair Report – Dr. Tana Bridge**

- Three members resigned this week. **Catherine Onsted** indicated she wanted to focus on community efforts but would continue to serve on the child advocacy committee. **Hon. Lisa Sullivan** indicated she would not be able to meet the time requirements to meet the needs of GTFCAN. **Rita Wieber** indicated she could not meet the attendance requirement required by GTFCAN.
- During the meeting, members were provided with note cards to provide any department/system acronyms and their meaning which were used during the meeting. **Dr. Tana Bridge** reported she would compile a glossary for GTFCAN members.
- A short discussion was held regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Open Meetings Act (OMA). GTFCAN will comply with all Open Meeting Act requirements such as public meetings which include a vote; however, committee meetings will remain private as no voting occurs. Anything listed on the Google Drive will be able to be obtained via FOIA.
- A short discussion was held regarding the Forensic Interview Protocol as Julie Knop and Keith Clark attended the meeting to provide the history of the protocol. The need to support the Forensic Interview Protocol was discussed.
- In the future, **Dr. Tana Bridge** indicated she wanted to submit a grant on behalf of the GTFCAN.
- GTFCAN will continue to operate under the Executive Order signed by Governor Snyder in 2017. GTFCAN may suggest language changes to the Executive Order in the future.
- **Dr. Tana Bridge** reported she was pleased with the new budget formatting guide prepared by MDHHS. There were items which had not hit their budget line such as SCAO payments. Other items need additional research; however, **Dr. Bridge** felt confident in the budget.
 - **Det./Sgt. Jennifer Pintar** indicated this was the best budget, both in format and detail, she had witnessed since being a member of GTFCAN.
 - **Dr. Tana Bridge** reported additional funds may be needed to fund training and development of a protocol regarding plans of safe care.

➤ **At 012:05pm, Dr. Tana Bridge called for a recess for lunch.**

➤ **At 12:31pm, Dr. Tana Bridge called the meeting back to order.**

➤ **MDHHS Report – Colin Parks**

- Discussion was held regarding safe sleep. **Colin Parks** urged the GTFCAN to become aware of activities and data linked to infant unsafe sleep deaths. **Colin Parks** will ensure GTFCAN members receive a copy of the statistics and data use in the departments work involving safe sleep awareness and response.
 - **Dr. Tana Bridge** suggested MDHHS utilize focus groups and utilize other channels as the public may not always trust MDHHS. **Colin Parks** indicated this work was occurring through the Michigan Public Health Institute. Parents who have a child die due to unsafe sleep usually often indicate they were aware of the dangers of unsafe sleep.
 - **Daniel Babin** suggested MDHHS partner with different stakeholders. Recently, Spectrum Hospital in Grand Rapids partnered with Grayco to

- provide car seats to stakeholders; however, those who obtained the car seats needed to complete training.
 - **Seth Persky** reported one of the largest barriers facing safe sleep is relatives as they do not help promote safe sleep.
 - **Colin Parks** indicated the Law and Policy Committee will be meeting with Children's Services Agency to discuss concerns regarding PSM 713-08. The committee will begin to work with the Children's Services Agency regarding creating a brief, easily readable handout regarding guardianships and Power of Attorneys.
 - This handout will be reviewed annually to determine any necessary changes.
 - **Det./Sgt. Jennifer Pintar** indicated GTFCAN needed to continually work on retention efforts regarding **Kevin Bryan**. She indicated concern regarding burnout due to long hours.
 - **Colin Parks** seconded this and indicated this will be monitored by MDHHS and GTFCAN.
 - **Kevin Bryan** indicated he did not have any plans to leave and will continue to ensure all work is completed on time. GTFCAN and MDHHS will be notified if burnout is occurring.
- **History of GTFCAN Protocols – Julie Knop**
- Discussion was held regarding the history of the protocols housed under GTFCAN. The committee was reminded the Forensic Interview Protocol is nationally and internationally respected. In the past, GTFCAN was extremely protective of their protocol and who was trained. In the next several years, Dr. Debra Poole, the author of the protocol will be retiring. As those who have advocated for the use of the protocol retire, there will be a need for GTFCAN members to understand their protocols and actively maintain and support them.
 - The GTFCAN Forensic Interview Protocol to ICE, the FBI, Homeland Security, Turkish Interpol Police, and multiple states. Currently, there is interest from Dubai Police to be trained in the Forensic Interview Protocol; however, this is in the preliminary stages. When revisions are made to the GTFCAN Forensic Interview Protocol, national protocols make the same changes shortly after Michigan does.
 - The protocols are designed to protect everyone's rights, from the children to the perpetrator.
- **Coordinator's Report – Kevin Bryan**
- Discussion was held regarding the new notebooks provided to all GTFCAN members. The notebooks will allow GTFCAN members to keep GTFCAN materials in one place. The notebooks will cover the life of the three-year goals submitted with the CJA grant.
 - The CJA grant was completed prior to May 1, 2019 and was sent to both the offices of Director Robert Gordon and Governor Whitmer for the appropriate signatures.
 - The Model Child Abuse revisions are being completed. A draft will be available in early July, and GTFCAN should be able to vote on the updates during the next GTFCAN meeting. The revision committee will meet one more time to finalize everything.

- **Mental Health/ Training Committee – Dr. Shannon Lowder and Dr. Lisa Niergarth**
 - The contract for the GTFCAN Summit has not been signed; however, November 14th and 15th 2019 were being held. The open GTFCAN meeting will be held on November 13th, 2019. The Summit will occur at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids and lodging will occur at the Amway Grand.
 - The Summit will feature six breakout sessions. Each breakout session will occur three times. Lunch will not be provided; however, light breakfast and snacks will be provided.
 - GTFCAN members were encouraged to start thinking of potential nominees for the Steve Yager Lifetime Achievement Award.

- **Citizen’s Review Panel – Det./Sgt. Jennifer Pintar**
 - The CRP has been working to address concerns regarding substance using parents with infant children. Soon, the CRP will be completing surveys and focus groups with various stakeholders.
 - Discussion was held regarding the questions on the survey and feedback was provided.
 - CRP hopes to have the focus groups completed prior to the end of September 2019.

- **Data Committee – Dr. Tana Bridge**
 - The data committee has been working with the CRP committee to address their research needs.
 - Other committees were encouraged to contact the data committee if they would like to complete research.

- **Law and Policy – Hon. Cheryl Lohmeyer**
 - A discussion occurred regarding Title IV-E money which was recently made available to states to address a variety of items.
 - The Law and Policy will work collaboratively with MDHHS to address potential areas which could fall under the newly released Title IV-E money. **Colin Parks** indicated MDHHS is committed to obtaining the money and has coordinated department efforts to obtain and utilize Families First Prevention Services Act. Multiple efforts are underway to access and utilize these funds in coordination with state and community partners with the goal of preventing families from entering into the foster care system and build kinship navigator programs.
 - This committee will continue working to address PSM 713-08. They have met with the legal department for MDHHS Children’s Services Agency and will be working with the Office of Family Advocate in the future.

- **Child Advocacy Committee - Fredrick Gruber**
 - The Child Advocacy Committee is looking to host another foster parent recruiting forum once the school year is completed.
 - Recently a forum was completed in Monroe County. Data was not readily available regarding the forum.

- **New Business**

- Discussion was held regarding potential new members. Guadalupe Laura was recommended by several GTFCAN members.
 - **Hon. Kelly Ramsey** recently won an award due to her work within the criminal justice system.
- **Next Meeting:**
- September 6, 2019 at 11:00am in Lansing at the Hall of Justice.