Office of the Child Advocate

Juvenile Justice Policy and Data Board

Childhood Trauma Task Force

Wednesday April 1, 2020

10am-12pm

Meeting held virtually due to COVID 19 emergency response

Subcommittee Members or Designees Present:

Maria Mossaides (OCA)

Claudia Dunne (CPCS)

David Melly (Rep. Dykema's office)

Michael Glennon (Suffolk DA's office)

Andrea Goncalves-Oliveira (DMH)

Kathryn Cohen (Children's League)

Stacy Cabral (DESE)

Maggie Randall (Sen. Boncore's office)

Yvonne Sparling (DYS)

Rachel Wallack (Juvenile Court)

Nicole Daley (DPH)

Laura Brody (DCF)

Kate Lowenstein (CFJJ)

John Millet (Probation)

Other Attendees:

Melissa Threadgill (OCA)

Kristi Polizzano (OCA)

Alix Riviere (OCA)

Christine Palladino- Downs (OCA)

Members of the public

Meeting Commenced: 10:04am

Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Threadgill welcomed the attendees to the Childhood Trauma Task Force meeting. The nature of this meeting is different due to COVID-19 emergency response shifting the meeting to a virtual WebEx platform. Ms. Threadgill explained some general guidelines for the virtual meeting and then introduced all the individuals in the WebEx video conference. Individuals on the phone introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes from March Meeting:

Ms. Threadgill held a formal vote on the approval of the previous Childhood Trauma Task Force (CTTF) meeting minutes.

The meeting minutes for March were approved.

Framework for Trauma-Informed and Responsive Practice in Massachusetts:

Ms. Threadgill explained the edits to the introduction of the TIR Framework and the addition of a "key terms" callout box. Ms. Threadgill welcomed any thoughts or additions to the "cultural competence" definition from Georgetown's National Cultural Competence Center.

Ms. Threadgill continued to discuss the technical edits and feedback to the TIR framework feedback she received since the previous meeting:

Principle #1—Safety additions included:

- Adding safety protocols for staff
- Including staff and other key stakeholders in the development of policies and procedures that impact them

Principle #2 Transparency and Trust:

- Power imbalances within the family can exist that influence (dis)trust in an organization
- Providing additional edits around communication and providing information to youth
- A suggestion to add "voice and video messages" as a form of messaging in this section

Principle #3 Empowerment, Voice and Choice:

- Additional notes on ways to empower children and their caregivers

- Question and discussion on if "cultural differences" are the only differences? The group added "background, upbringing, experiences or culture" to this section
- There was a discussion around the phrase "teaching youth and families how to advocate for themselves" and suggestions to change to "empower, support, capacity build" instead.

Principle #4 Equity, Anti-Bias Efforts and Cultural Inclusivity:

- Ms. Threadgill discussed changes to the section around examples of ways to actively resist re-traumatization by addressing discrimination, promoting equity and practicing cultural inclusivity.

Principle #5 Healthy Relationships and Interactions:

- Ms. Threadgill explained most edits were primarily in examples of respect, effective communication, and validation and compassion.
- Language modifications to the section around adults with longer term relationships with children and families.
- The group discussed the differences between phrases to use like "reflective supervision" or "trauma stewardships"
- It was suggested that after public commenting, the group should re-visit the document and ensure that all aspects of their jobs/organizations can respond to this framework.

Domain #1 Organizational Leadership:

Ms. Threadgill moved on to the "domains" portion of the document. In addition to technical edits she provided the following feedback she received to the group:

- A conversation was needed to discuss how detailed the "fiscal" suggestion for this domain needed to be. The group commented that sufficient resources are needed for training, reducing turnover, funding programs, etc. The group agreed that poverty can impact an organization's ability to be TIR.

Domain #2 Training and Workforce Development:

- The group suggested using the term "resilience" more, and would think about where to include that throughout the Framework.

Domain #3 Policy and Decision -Making

- There was no feedback in this domain that needed discussion.

Domain #4 Physical Environment:

- Asked the group for a best resource to link this section to that recommends specifics on how to make physical environment TIR. The group had previously decided not to provide too many details in this section.
- The group recommended adding the same terms to "culture" as earlier in the document to include "background, upbringing, experiences or culture"
- The group changed one recommendation to include "clean and inviting" to "healthy atmosphere"

Domain #5 Continuous Quality Improvement:

- Ms. Threadgill will follow up with DPH over their comment to change/add to the title

Ms. Threadgill asked the group if there was any other feedback on any section or the document overall. The group agreed, that in light of the COVID-19 response, the race category of "Asian" should be named in the race/ethnic categories listed here that experience (or have experienced) historic, intergenerational and community trauma.

There were no other big picture comments at this time.

Approval of Draft TIR Framework to share for public comment:

Ms. Threadgill proposed to make technical edits from today's meeting and vote to adopt this is the draft framework to share with public and outside folks. The plan would entail bringing the draft framework back to the group in June or July after public commenting period. The group voted to approve the draft framework unanimously with no abstentions.

The draft TIR Framework was approved for a public commenting period.

Closing Comments:

Ms. Threadgill thanked the group for their patience during the WebEx meeting and technical difficulties. The OCA will follow up with the subcommittee to figure out how to meet with the agencies the members of this group represent.

Ms. Threadgill noted the next meeting will be held on May 4, 2020 from 1-3:00pm. The location is to be determined based on the COVID-19 emergency response status. The meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned: 11:22am