

Office of the Child Advocate
Childhood Trauma Task Force Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16, 2024
1:00pm-2:30pm
Meeting held virtually

Task Force Members or Designees Present:

Beth Schatzel-Murphy (DYS)
Laura Brody (DCF)
Keesha LaTulipee (DPH)
Jimmy Quinn (Probation)
Mia Alvarado (CLM)
Thomas Capasso (Juvenile Court)

OCA Staff:

Audrey Smolkin (CCWT)
Joy Cohen (CCWT)
Arianna Turner
Daisy Perez
Bekah Thomas

Other:

Amy Whitehead-Pleaux (EEC)
Katherine Hughes (Parent Child Trauma Resources)
Carisa Pajak (MassHealth)
Jennifer Hallisey (MassHealth)
Ashley Constantine

Meeting Commenced: 1:02 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Smolkin welcomed the attendees to the Childhood Trauma Task Force (CTTF) meeting. She reviewed the agenda for the meeting and welcomed questions on the CTTF 2024 Annual Report. Ms. Smolkin noted that votes on the previous two meetings' minutes as well as the annual report would be taken at the end of the meeting.

Review of the CTTF 2024 Annual Report

Ms. Smolkin reviewed the CTTF annual report outline and then began presenting the information in the first section of the annual report: Towards a Trauma-Informed and Responsive Commonwealth, including:

- Center on Child Wellbeing and Trauma (CCWT) Work in 2024
 - Assessment and coaching
 - Schools
 - Systems transformation
- Collaboration with Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Department of Youth Services (DYS)

Ms. Smolkin welcomed questions on collaborations with DHS. None were raised.

Ms. Smolkin then presented information on CCWT work on Trauma-Informed and Responsive Services for Newcomers.

Ms. Smolkin welcomed questions on the work of CCWT in 2024. None were raised. Ms. Smolkin added that the Trauma-Informed and Responsive Services for Newcomers trainings will run again in 2025 and asked members to share the information about the trainings to their networks when it becomes available.

One member asked if any of the trainings addressed the trauma experienced by those who are a part of state systems. Ms. Smolkin shared that CCWT always acknowledges the trauma of state systems and that the goal when working with every child is to give them the tools they need to become resilient. She also shared that CCWT does work on protective factors.

One member asked if there are trainings on building skills and knowledge around internalized racism. Ms. Smolkin shared that the goal of the Trauma and Racial Equity Empowerment (TREE) Academy is to do a deep dive on issues such as internalized racism and how it affects work with children and families from diverse backgrounds.

Ms. Smolkin then welcomed Ms. Perez to present the information on Section 2 of the report: 2024-2025 Work Plan Focused On State Agencies' Trauma Training Requirements and Opportunities.

Ms. Perez introduced herself and began presenting the methodology of the project including:

- Virtual polling of CTTF members and regular attendees
- Analysis of available documentation (policies, regulations, agency training plans)
- Interviews with Massachusetts state agency stakeholders
- National scan of other states' training requirements and opportunities

Ms. Perez then shared information on the project research, including:

- CTTF Members and Attendees Feedback
 - Top 3 topics of interest

- Interest in related training opportunities
 - Training audience
- MA State Agencies Interviews (Ongoing)
 - Interview highlights
 - Priority training topics within agencies

Ms. Perez welcomed questions on the information presented.

One member asked if the leadership of congregate care placements had been interviewed. Ms. Smolkin shared that the interviews for this project have been concentrated at the state agency level.

Ms. Perez then continued presenting information on the National Scan of States' Approaches to Trauma and Resilience Training, including:

- Standardizing Content: California's Integrated Core Practice Model
- Broadening the Training Audience: Connecticut's Academy for Workforce Development
- Building Agencies' Capacity for Sustainable Change: Oklahoma's Blended Training Model

Members discussed the idea of being “hope-centered” and the benefits of this approach when working with children.

Ms. Perez then continued presenting, sharing information on Ensuring Oversight of State Trainings: New Jersey's Office of Training.

Ms. Perez shared the next steps of this project, which include continued information scoping from other states, and welcomed members to reach out to her with suggestions of additional resources that could inform the project.

Review and Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2024 Meeting

Ms. Smolkin held a formal vote on the approval of the June 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Laura Brody, Elizabeth Schatzel-Murphy, Keesha LaTulippe, Mia Alvarado, and Jimmy Quinn all voted in the affirmative. No one opposed.

The meeting minutes for June were approved.

Review and Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2024 Meeting

Ms. Smolkin held a formal vote on the approval of the September 9, 2024 meeting minutes. Laura Brody, Elizabeth Schatzel-Murphy, Keesha LaTulippe, Mia Alvarado, and Jimmy Quinn all voted in the affirmative. No one opposed.

The meeting minutes for September were approved.

Approval of the CTTF 2024 Annual Report

Ms. Smolkin held a formal vote on the approval of the CTTF 2024 annual report. Laura Brody, Elizabeth Schatzel-Murphy, Keesha LaTulippe, Mia Alvarado, and Jimmy Quinn all voted in the affirmative.

The CTTF 2024 Annual Report was approved.

Ms. Smolkin then shared additional information about hope and resilience, and members discussed different perspectives on instilling resilience in children. Ms. Smolkin stated she will send resources out to the group about the idea of hope.

Closing Comments

Ms. Smolkin shared that the next CTTF meeting will be held on Monday, March 10, 2024 from 1pm-2:30pm and adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment: 1:50 PM